

What underpins a soldier's conduct on the battlefield? How do you make sense of warfare?

MMI Patron, General Sir Richard Dannatt, testifies to the importance of the love of Christ in a soldier's life.

It has been a real privilege over the years to have been a supporter of what is now Military Ministries International. From the early days of ACCTS under Geoff Skippage, and as the work developed under the guidance of the late Ian Durie, it is very exciting to see where MMI is now. It is an even greater privilege and honour to have been invited to be MMI's Patron.

I am convinced that the task of spreading the Gospel of Christ widely amongst the military of many nations is a most noble and worthy cause. In times of conflict, it is members of the military who have to make life and death decisions in situations of great pressure and therefore it is terribly important that soldiers, sailors and airmen have the opportunity to know for themselves that there is a God who loves and cares for them, and whose purposes are good.

Quite properly, armies, navies and air forces in many countries have spent time in developing core values to guide their people's behaviour both in training and on operations. While core values – such as, courage, discipline, loyalty, integrity, discipline and respect for others – provide a sound moral baseline, I believe there needs to be something more. And that "something more" is a spiritual dimension to life. Everyone needs to decide for themselves in whom or what they choose to believe. In times of pressure even the toughest of people will reach out for something bigger than themselves. In my experience there is nothing to compare with the promises and truth of the Christian Gospel. Jesus' life is a perfect example for us to follow, but His death and resurrection opened up the way to eternal life for those who believe and trust in Him. In a world filled



MMI Patron - General Sir Richard Dannatt

with despair and disappointment, Christ offers hope and fulfilment for those who choose to follow Him. That is the essence of the challenge and opportunity for MMI – to spread the life-changing truth of Jesus Christ amongst the members of the military of many nations. In our professional lives we seek to bring peace to trouble spots around the world, but in our personal lives we need to know the peace of God in our hearts in order to make sense of all that we are doing.

MMI Share in International Military Ministry

Full story on back page



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Entebbe, Uganda

Building their lives on the 'Rock' who is Jesus Christ

By Homfray Vines, Regional Team Leader for East and Southern Africa

Uganda-hosted Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) Conference "Building on a sure foundation (Luke 6:46-49)" provided the basis for mission to the armed forces of East Africa.

In prayer, in worship and from the talks, delegates were encouraged to build their lives on the 'Rock' who is Jesus Christ. They, from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles and South Sudan as well as Uganda and the wider AMCF family, were called upon to obey the command of Jesus to go out into their armed forces and disciple those around them (Mat 28:16-20). Over 200 delegates from private to general came from the host nation, Uganda.

Delegates rose before dawn to pray; by breakfast worship had started and continued during the day. Bishop Zac Niringiye focussed on the need to build life on Jesus, our firm foundation, whilst Reverend Dr Joel Elowsky challenged the idea that Christianity was a white man's religion. He showed that much early church thinking was done in North Africa. Kenyan military bishop,

Bishop Simiyu spoke about the need for a military chaplaincy, which created a lot of interest for those countries that do not have one. Key note addresses were given by Ugandan Minister of State Finance, The Honourable Fred Omach and the Ugandan MCF President, Lieutenant General Elli Tunwine, whilst AMCF Vice President (VP) for South Asia General Srilal Weerasooriya showed how prayer by large numbers of Christians played a major role in bringing to an end the recent civil war in Sri Lanka. The address at the closing Holy Communion was given by the Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi, Archbishop of Uganda, who called on the delegates to work for Jesus: "You are my friends if you do what I command." (John 15:14). Delegates summing up the value of the conference re-

flected that:

"This Conference was so good. The Ugandan People's Defence Force has received an experience of the work of chaplains in the military and how to conduct an MCF."

Major Kalyouma (Uganda)
"The Conference was a turning point for Uganda and the armed forces."

Capt James Serunjogi (Uganda).

"The challenge to build the spiritual lives of officers and soldiers in the region was most valuable. I hope there will be more in the future."

Lt Moses Maiku (Uganda)
"Love has been shown and encouraged by talks, worship and fellowship of a large number of military Christians."

Sgt Fina Nyakasiki (Uganda)
"The Conference was a blessing and an assurance that what is built on a firm foundation cannot be destroyed. It was an assurance to the military that we have a recognized and noble role to transform the world hinged on Christ as the strong foundation."



(LtoR): Archbishop Orombi, Ugandan Chief of Defence Staff, Bishop Simiyu (Kenya)

We have a recognized and noble role to transform the world hinged on Christ as the strong foundation

Maj Alex Serubuga (Rwanda)

Christians in the Army make a positive impact for Christ in Burkina Faso

Reporting on MMI CE/TL, Jos McCabe's recent journey to Francophone Africa

There have been five military coups and at least one attempted one since Burkina Faso became independent in 1960. The current President was a former soldier and came to power in 1987 and whilst the army is not seen as an oppressive organisation it is still clearly a major influence in the country. This is the kind of situation into which MMI is bringing the influence of Christ.

Heat, dust, donkeys, mopeds and very friendly people were all first impressions of Burkina Faso when Jos McCabe visited Gaston Gnoumou, the AMCF Vice President for Francophone West Africa, in April. Burkina Faso, "land of honest people" in local languages, is a poor, land locked country in Francophone Africa.

Gaston has worked prayerfully and hard to build up a base of military Christians who can make a difference in their homeland and in the region. In this country, which is just over 50% Moslem and 40% traditional religions, Christians in the military can make a real difference. Jos was privileged to speak to the MCF leaders in the two principal cities of Burkina Faso.

ina, to bring encouragement and to pray and listen to their views on military ministry in the Francophone region. He says, "It was encouraging to meet some high ranking Christian officers in the army and gendarmerie and to be able to pray with the Chief of Defence staff in his office."

Politically, Burkina Faso is relatively stable and serves as a strategic cross roads for the region. Its neighbours, Mali and Niger face a growing militant Islamic threat and the Ivory Coast has a tense internal peace between North and South. Whilst Christians are in a minority in Burkina Faso, they hold some important positions and the MCF of Burkina Faso may have a vital role to play as a lighthouse MCF to

the region as a whole. Jos was also asked to speak at the Military Church in Ouagadougou (the capital) and was introduced to the Chief Protestant Chaplain. There are some military Chapels but they are not all well equipped or fully complete. In Bobo Dioulasso (the country's 2nd city) church offices for the Chaplain are still not completed because of a lack of funds but MMI is looking to use funds remaining from a similar project to help with this.



Burkina Faso CDS and MMI CE/TL Jos McCabe

MCF announced in Cameroon

During their trip to Burkina Faso, Jos and Gaston heard that an MCF had just been formed in Cameroon. MMI helped sponsor a delegate from Cameroon to attend the 2008 AMCF Pan African Conference. Jos and Gaston hope to visit Cameroon in the near future to encourage this new fellowship.

Travelling to encourage new MCFs in West Africa

Jos McCabe hopes to join Ishaku Komo, the AMCF Regional Vice President for Anglophone West Africa, and his deputy, Reuben Mele on a trip to encourage 3 of the youngest MCFs in West Africa this July. They intend to visit The Gam-

bia, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde Islands. Ishaku last visited these countries in 2008 and helped to form the MCFs then. In all of them the MCFs are small, struggling and contact has not been easy. They need strengthening and encouraging

and to know that they are not alone.

The trip needs to be planned carefully and visas need to be obtained by Jos for 2 of them, which may not prove straightforward. Prayer is needed for the door to be opened to obtain the visas, as travel cannot be effectively planned without them.

Middle East

The Sacrifice of Service Brigadier-General Christo Simon Fataki

By Richard Sandy

"I always wondered why I joined the Army but now I can see that God had prepared me for this special purpose", so said Brigadier-General Christo on taking up the chairmanship of the Sudan MCF based in Khartoum.

Christo remembers vividly the 25th December 1966 as the day that changed his life forever, when as a 6 year old boy, he was taken by a friend of similar age into a church for the very first time in his life. He said that as soon as he entered the church he felt it was a special place and that something amazing happened to him. From that day his love for the church began, developing into a growing love for Jesus. As he grew up he became more and more involved in the life of the Roman Catholic church, as choir boy, altar boy, regular member and teacher. His expectation, and of those

who knew him, was that he would join the church and become a priest. And yet, in 1981, at the age of 21, Christo found himself joining the Sudanese Army's Military Training College in Omdurman, Khartoum. He still does not know how this came about or what made him apply to join the Army!

"I had promised to serve God for the rest of my life and so I stayed true to my faith."

After two years he graduated as a Second Lieutenant into the Infantry and was posted to a unit based at that time in Darfur. Here, as a young officer and the only Christian in the unit, he came under great pressure to convert to Islam. "However", he says, "I had promised to serve God for the rest of my life and so I stayed true to my faith." He achieved

fairly rapid promotion but the military authorities ensured he was kept away from service near the border with South Sudan because he was known as a Christian and with family links in the south.

After service as battalion commander and deputy Brigade Commander Christo attended the Command and Staff College in Khartoum and subsequently the Higher Military War College. Following graduation from Sudan's highest military training course he was posted to the College as an instructor. It was from this post that he was suddenly and unexpectedly retired from the Army last year, which came as a great surprise to him and to his fellow officers.

Christo is convinced he was retired because he was known to be a practising Christian. The majority of officers having completed the Higher Staff



Brigadier General Christo

course in Khartoum go on to senior rank or are given posts as Ministers in Provinces in the north of Sudan. Christo is sure that the Lord has guided his life thus far and given him military experience in order that he could take on the leadership of the MCF in Sudan. He says his life now is to devote himself to establishing and growing the MCF in Sudan, in both the north and south.

Colonel Richard Sandy is the MMI Regional Team Leader for The Middle East. As a former UK Defence Attaché in Jordan he is an expert in the region.

Isolated but mutually encouraged by each other's faith - A letter from the desk of Netivah Soldiers Israel

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:11-12

Life in the army is very different from life as a civilian, as a young soldier I remember the more I connected to my fellow comrades and the new environment in the army the more I felt distant from my home church. This feeling is natural because what is happening is a change of culture around the military life and it becomes very hard to connect to your home church and vice versa. So what to do? The Church needs to be active and support the whole body (Ephesians 4), this is why in the other coun-

tries, there are chaplains and Christian ministries involved in the army keeping the individual Christian in the army in fellowship with other Christians. Thus they are in community. In the Israeli Defence Force this is not possible. The Spiritual fellowship of the believer can only be met outside the military environment at weekend events or other activities. So in truth the soldier has no fellowship whatsoever within the army environment. Then outside the army, when he needs spiritual support from a

brother or sister, there is no one at the home church to relate to. They don't understand him. This is why we see the importance of building friendship with other Believing soldiers, who can understand and support one another by praying for each other. Netivah can organize events outside the military bases for worship and studying together God's word in relation to military service. This is very popular with the 300 Believers in the IDF who feel isolated both in and outside the barracks and who are "... mutually encouraged by each other's faith."

Blessings

Michael Relf
Netivah Centre



Believers at a Netivah event

Indonesian officer cadets declare their faith in the face of resurgent militant Islamism

From MMI Associate, Colonel Ivar Hellberg

The real challenge to the activities of the Indonesian Military Christian Fellowship (IMCF) is resurgent militant Islamism. It is a constant threat and the subject of continuous prayer, both for safety and courage in the face of persecution. It takes great personal courage to do all this in the face of the forces of Islamisation. This makes it all the more challenging that earlier this year many young Christian officer cadets signed a declaration of faith in Christ and committed themselves to maintaining Christian values in leadership and integrity as

they fulfilled their military duties. IMCF gives priority to the young officer training establishments, especially at the services' 3 military academies. At Magalan, the Army's Officer Military Training Academy IMCF led a fellowship meeting with about 70 young Christian cadets and recruited many more members. IMCF, originally set up in 1996, has expanded its activities to provide regional chapters for the Army, Navy, Marines and Airforce in 9 of Indonesia's provinces. The IMCF is in need of both

more teachers and teaching material on Christian leadership and ethics and MMI has a real role to play here in supporting and encouraging the Fellowship as well as advising on the teaching material and suitable teachers.



Nepal fellowship grows despite worship services in Kathmadu being stopped but ...

Chris West's latest news from South Asia

... many soldiers are coming to us for counselling and to know more about Jesus Christ.

The worship services held by Binod Tamang on the Base in Kathmandu have been stopped since February until



the official opening of the 'Chapel Area' of the base. But the good news is that Binod, in his role as unofficial Chaplain, has been provided with a motor bike through donations arranged by Korean missionary, Dr Lee. Alan Acharya, who is serving in the Nepalgunj area, has been very active. He writes, "...last month of the last year we distributed more than fifteen hundred Bibles to the soldiers including officers and junior ranks and we are getting

good responses. "Even though some are strongly protesting against us, many soldiers are coming to us for counselling and to know more about Jesus Christ." In the West of Nepal a new group (the 6th in the country) has started with 125 members. NMCF is still only a very young fellowship and when the members celebrate their 5th anniversary on 18th November, this year, we are encouraging them to invite delegates from Bhutan.

Europe

“I want to hear you speak from the Bible”

Bob Elliott encounters the hunger in the Latvian armed forces for Jesus Christ

Monday

In Riga speaking to the security guards in the Latvian Parliament. I spoke on Joseph and his brothers in Egypt. Their comment was, “*We need a Joseph here in Latvia due to the economic climate*”. Then in Alūksne 250k away speaking in the forest on values and standards of the British Army, using the Bible to answer many questions from the recruits.

Wednesday

In Liepaja with Elmars Plavins,

Chief Chaplain. Very lively meetings on board two Navy ships, with the privilege of preaching a clear Gospel message from John 3:16. *The Navy personnel were hard men but kept me answering questions for an hour.*

Thursday

At Parliament again speaking to the security guards on Matthew 6:25-34. The head security boss came to every meeting and as I left he shook my hand saying, “*Please come again*”.

Friday

In Adazi speaking on Matthew 6:25-34 – then a break – and I spoke again on 2 Timothy 2:1-4. They were so eager they wanted more from the Bible. One young lady said, “*I want to hear you speak from the Bible – please come next year.*”

I have seen how much hunger there is among the Latvian people for Jesus Christ and to learn lessons of the reality of living the Christian life in a harsh environment.

Bob Elliott has visited Latvia each year for 4 years. His visit is sponsored by MMI and supported by the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association of UK.



Developing future Christian military leaders

Young Christian leaders in the military need to the way of Christ as it applies to their military profession. The MMI Skiing and Sailing Retreat programmes are tailored to meet this need. As is the Lithuanian Cadet Bible Camp (see page 7). The initial focus is on the participants' personal walk with Christ. Where are they on their Christian journey? Then topics such

as, *Being a Christian in the barracks* or *What makes the difference between an Christian Commander and others?* and *How can a committed Christian be a serviceman?* focus on helping to understand the application of faith in the military life. The 2010 Sailing Retreat is in August and needs prayerful support.



Skiing Retreat participants 2008



Camp Trakai, Lithuania

Trakai graduates return from operations to pass on lessons.

By Rainer Thorun, MMI Regional Team Leader - Europe

How does your Christian faith show through on operations? The Lithuanian Cadet Bible Camp is in its eighth year and the impact on graduates is evident. The programme this year included talks from young officers recently returned from Afghanistan testifying to the pride they felt in their faith on operations. This is the first time graduates have returned to share their faith – an example

of the spiritual seeds bearing fruit. As in previous years the Camp was devoted to equipping young officers to apply their faith in the military profession. There was a mixture of talks on being a Christian in the armed forces, Bible study and physical activity as well as recreation. A significant highlight was a talk by Captain Danute Lapenaite, one of three psy-

chologists in the Lithuanian armed forces, on the topic, "Does death give a sense to life?" The session also included several practical exercises.



MMI Trustee, David Baldwin (ex-RM) chairs a discussion

Did you know -

In Russia the Orthodox Church has grown rapidly in the last 20 years. In 1988 there were only 6,893 parishes and 14 monasteries. In 2010 there are 30,142 parishes and more than 750 monasteries

Russia

Russian military Christians

From reports by MMI Regional Staff Member, Mark Hibbert-Hingston (HH)

For seven days in a very snowy March, Mark HH and Igor Sawicki, both MMI staff members travelled, met with, discussed with and prayed with Christians involved in the Russian armed forces.

There continue to be two

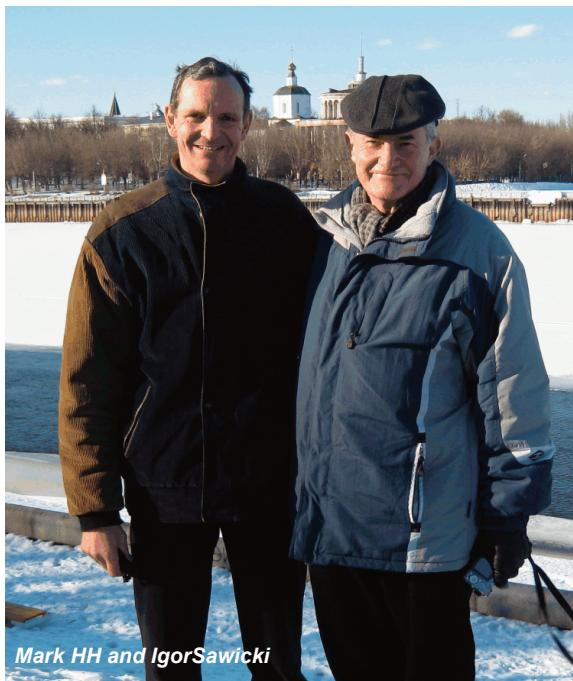
groupings, one for Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) believers and one for Protestant believers. Part of the discussions related to the establishment of a chaplaincy. "When I asked whether the commanders valued their Chaplains," reported Mark, "Father Konstantin became enthusiastic, saying that the incidence of drunkenness, domestic problems and divorce had all dropped where there were Chaplains, and that commanders were keen to have them." Mark reflected, "I wondered whether people were coming to Christ and growing in their faith, but then how many of our Chaplains are experiencing this in their communities?"

The Protestant Russian Military

Christian Union has been re-organized and held a conference of all members and contacts, Russia-wide, in June close to Moscow. Mark HH was there along with AFCU Director, Mark Leakey.

There is much to be encouraged about in both ROC and Protestant military Christian groups. Both need our prayers and value our support which follows the line: 'How may we help?' rather than 'Do it this way'.

We look forward to further reports from Mark as he paints a vivid picture of life as a Christian in the Russian armed forces and offers MMI help to the fellowships.



Mark HH and Igor Sawicki

MMI Share in International Military Ministry

By Jos McCabe, MMI CE/TL

MMI Programme 2010

June

- 1-5 Sharing in International Military Ministry (SIMM) (UK)
- 3-7 Russian Military Christian Union Conference (Russia)
- 5 Prayer Day (Camberley, UK)
- 6-11 EMEA Week Alpha
- 17-20 RIMP (France)(Thorun)
- 21-28 Military Evangelism Observation (Korea)
- 24 Day of Prayer for Armed Forces (UK)

July

- Mission Trip to West Africa (Gambia, Guinea-Bissau & Cape Verde)
- 24-10/8 New Wine Conference (UK)

August

- 1-6 Sailing Retreat (Holland)

September

- 20-24 ACCTS Staff & Board meetings (USA)
- Mission trip to South Asia (detail to be confirmed)

October

- 8-17 Table Mountain Top Interaction (South Africa)
- 16-25 3rd World Congress Lausanne Movement (South Africa)
- 25-3/11 Mission Trip Southern Africa (Zambia & Swaziland)

November

- Mission trip to South Asia (Nepal & Bangladesh)

... and finally - Give it away!

The MMI Annual Report to the Charity Commission is enclosed with this Newsletter. It offers an excellent summary of our activities in the

past year and explains our ministry in a succinct and simple document. Do use it to tell your friends of our work and ask for more copies to give away.

In MMI we need to learn from those we work with hence SIMM Week which provided sharing between MMI and four African participants is a valuable addition to our programme. Partnering the event with Alpha for Forces and the Alpha International conference is an added attraction to participants who are able to stay. An added attraction to MMI is the participants sharing in our Prayer Day. We need to learn to work more closely together and share in needs and abilities. Participants were from Nigeria, Sudan and South Africa and appointments ranged from Army Protestant Chief Chaplain (Reverend Danfulani - Nigeria) to a recently retired Roman Catholic Brigadier (Brigadier-General Christo - Khartoum, Sudan). Presentations and briefings were given on chaplaincy in the UK by serving chaplains from all three Services. Visits to see Chaplains work at first hand in HM Naval Base Portsmouth and at the Army Training Regiment in Pirbright were much appreciated. Delegates also had the opportunity

to visit and to learn more about the work of the UK military Christian organisations from briefings in Havelock House. In return the participants shared information on the work of chaplaincies and MCFs in their home countries. The emphasis here is very much on sharing as the need is to grow closer together and learn more about being "All one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).



SIMM Week participants (L to R): Richard Cobbold (MMI), Brigadier Christo, Colonel Henry Ladele, Revd Danfulani and Captain Klaas Steyn.

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HIGHER RATE TAX PAYERS FILING YOUR 2010 TAX RETURN

You will know that if you make Gift Aided donations the recipient charity can claim the tax paid at the basic rate (20%). You will also know that if you pay tax at the higher rate you receive the tax relief on the balance (20%). But did you know that you can instruct HMRC to pay your portion to a charity.

To do this and to donate any overpaid tax to Accts MMI enter the unique code:

DAS12NG

when you complete your self-assessment tax return:

Only one charity can be nominated to receive all your tax relief at the higher rate and overpaid tax but you can change it each year.

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