

Cadets and Young Officers assemble for the IX International Bible Camp in Lithuania

MMI Trustee, Major David Baldwin and European Staff Member, Rainer Thorun join them as teachers and mentors

This key event invests in the future military leaders of Europe through forming long-standing friendships across national frontiers, as well as providing a platform for Christian fellowship in the Armed Forces of NATO. To some it was an opportunity to contemplate or grapple seriously with their faith; to others a strengthening of the path already being trod – but for all, an opportunity to engage freely in a relaxed environment with their chaplains and ‘elders’, and just as important, to talk amongst themselves and their foreign colleagues, without the inhibition of the Academy walls, all feeling free to explore widely. No subject was off limits! The theme of the Conference is always the same, *The challenge of being a Christian serving in the Armed Forces*. Forty five delegates attended. The Conference was organised with outstanding efficiency and hospitality by the Chaplaincy of the Lithuanian Armed Forces and the Lithuanian Vice Minister of National Defence, the Com-

mandant of the Military Academy and the Military Chief Chaplain were present at the formal opening ceremony. (Lower picture) There were delegates from Germany, Czech Republic and Romania as well as Lithuania. The common working language was English, of which there was a high and impressive level of proficiency, enabling complex subjects to be tackled. It was also a truly multi-confessional gathering with Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox participating. An outstanding and thought provoking talk on ‘Virtuous Leadership’ was given by the newly appointed Military Ordinary, Bishop Grusas, and a practical and wise talk on ‘Christian Values in the Army – SNCO Perception’ by Lithuanian Army Command Sergeant Major Darius Masiulis. Dick Barnes from ACCTS USA, joined Rainer Thorun and David Baldwin, and had brought Chaplain Lou Deltufo from US Army Command in Heidelberg.



✚ “This has given me so much encouragement to share experiences with other young people, and to realise that our Christian faith is indeed world-wide, and involving young people.”

✚ “There have been many difficult subjects talked about involving our faith, of which the answers have been very helpful.”

✚ “This has helped me understand how my profession as a soldier can sit with my faith.”



AMCF Regional Conferences in 2011

Southern Africa
Manzini, Swaziland
26-30 September 2011

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness.*

Psalm 29: 2



South Asia
Colombo, Sri Lanka
18-20 November 2011
The Battle is the Lord's



A warm welcome for MMI in Croatia

MMI Regional Team Leader (Europe), Grozdan Stoevski and staff member, Colonel Igor Sawicki visit Croatia to introduce MMI

“Igor and I met and prayed in front of the Military Ordinariat (Chaplaincy) – a very impressive building in the Catholic style in the upper part of Zagreb.” begins Grozdan’s report on this first MMI visit to Croatia.

Inside they were received by the Chief Chaplain, Monsignor Juraj Jezerinac. “We had a very positive meeting,” said Grozdan. “We discussed MMI’s multi-confessional character and various opportunities for participation of Croat cadets and officers, such as the Skiing Retreat, Cadet Bible Camp and the Sailing Retreat.” The Chief Chaplain’s secretary, Mr. Nikolic, asked specifically about the Military Christian Fellowship concept and Grozdan and Igor were able to explain this and more specifically the difference between MCF and Chaplaincy and encourage the formation of a Croat MCF, reflecting the Catholic tradition. Igor told Bishop Jezerinac about the Sailing Retreat and provided him with invitations for their cadets. Since the visit

Email exchanges have confirmed the desire to send 4 Croat cadets on this year’s Sailing Retreat. Bishop Jezerinac asked to be provided with dates of MMI activities in 2012 by September so that he could plan Croat participation in MMI events and include them in the chaplaincy budget. They also discussed the opportunity to co-operate on a seminar on military ethics. There is much to follow up and we look forward to further involvement with the Bishop and the Croat Chaplaincy. The next evening Grozdan spoke at a meeting run by EQUIP (a leadership NGO he works with) and gave a presentation about Leadership Training in Bulgaria, Serbia and Macedonia including a short brief on MMI to introduce the work and invite the leaders to talk to Igor and him after the meeting. Through that invitation three significant new contacts were made and we look forward to developing them in due course.



L to R: Bishop Jezerinac, Igor Sawicki & Grozdan Stoevski

Follow Up in Serbia

Stop Press news from Regional Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski



Grozdan and Mike meet with Serbian MOD representatives

Grozdan sent a message as he and Mike Terry departed from Serbia after a wonderful visit:

“The Lord blessed us with an outstanding meeting at the MOD! Praise the Lord! The meeting lasted nearly 2 hours. The bottom line is that the Serbian MOD is open to all ideas and/or activities of co-operation which will help them in establishing a Chaplaincy. “They were particularly interested in chaplains’ basic training expertise, Eu-

roseminars and participation in MMI events such as Skiing, Sailing, Cadet Bible Camp etc.

“We spent the night at the Kovilj monastery and were invited to worship with the Brotherhood. Vladika (Bishop) Porfirije gave his blessings to the Euroseminar idea.”

Prayer is needed for the follow-up. Prayer and only prayer has opened this door and provided these opportunities for MMI and we praise God.

The ENCLU Story *European Navies Christian Link-Up*

ENCLU Founder, Commander Chris Mather OBE RN (Retd) tells the story of ENCLU as it approaches its 20th anniversary

The Cold War had ended and the Gulf War (1) was just over," recalls Commander Chris Mather, founder of ENCLU. "Mary and I felt it was the right time to launch ENCLU," he continues. "While serving in Norfolk, Virginia we had already started an NCLU for the US Navy and felt we could do the same in Europe." Chris and Mary had been Secretaries for the Naval Christian Fellowship since 1985 and this was a natural extension to their ministry.

Meetings in Toulon with the UMcF (French Military Christian Fellowship) and French chaplains were very helpful to Chris and Mary. "The Senior Protestant Chaplain for the French Armed Forces, Pastor Yves Gounelle not only gave

his blessing to our Anglo-French co-operation with a Christian link-up but said what would really help would be a Europe wide link-up," recounts Christopher.

"At our NCF conference in 1992," he continues, "we remembered William Carey who in 1792 founded the Baptist Missionary Society. His address was based on Isaiah 54:2&3 'Enlarge the place of your tent... do not hold back.'" What an encouragement and confirmation of the vision! Fellowship was developed with the Dutch, Italian, Spanish, German and Polish Navies. When the Russian submarine *Kursk* was lost in August 2000 a link was established with the Russian navy. Hospitality in Christ is the foundation of

ENCLU and a high example of this was the invitation from British submarine families in Scotland to *Kursk* orphans to visit them.

ENCLU weekends have been held in most of the participating countries and now an invitation has been received to hold one in St Petersburg.

Rev Mike Terry, MMI staff member and ENCLU member, attended the last weekend in

Lübbecke, Germany in May and said, "German, Dutch, Russian and UK representatives met for a fruitful time of fellowship, encouragement and exploring the future. Psalm 1 was important as we thought about bearing fruit, being generous and giving freely to all, but the fruit must die to bring more fruit," he continued "so in ENCLU we need to discern the most effective way forward."



ENCLU Weekend
Lubbecke
May 2011

UMCF is 25 Years Old

Rainer Thorun and MMI Trustee, General Arnvid Løvbukten attended the French MCF's celebrations

Our French friends repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the international delegates," said Rainer as he reported back on the Union des Militaires Chrétiens de France (UMCF) 25th anniversary celebrations.

Worship was led by Pascal and Sharon Marcel, Pastor Jean-Jacques Avis provided excellent Bible studies on unity and there was plenty of time for prayer. In the business part of the meeting Michael Jacquet was appointed UMCF President. Michael is very keen to work closely with MMI in Francophone Africa as far as duties will allow and we are very excited about this.

Padre Frank Bourgeois, the Protestant Chief Chaplain (designate), spoke about the relationship between the MCF and

UMCF. Rainer said, "He expressed the importance of and his openness to a close cooperation between MCF and the Chaplaincy." Rainer continued, "He explained his view that they are complementary partners." Padre Frank set out the different characteristics of an MCF and a Chaplaincy:

- MCF -
- ✚ Openness to all Christians.
 - ✚ Evangelical.
 - ✚ Includes active and convinced Christians.
 - ✚ Fellowship orientated.
- Protestant Chaplaincy -
- ✚ Serving everybody - including evangelical and liberal theological opinions.
 - ✚ Having problems to identify the Protestant Christians.
 - ✚ Organisation orientated.



UMCF members and MMI friends gather

Feeding the Heart of the Zambian MCF

Homfray Vines, MMI Regional Team Leader (East and Southern Africa and, Captain Peter Louwrens, AMCF Vice President for Southern Africa, team up to support the Zambian MCF

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:7-8

On arrival in Lusaka, Zambia Peter Louwrens and Homfray Vines learned from members of the Zambian MCF the difficulties they faced encouraging military Christians to meet together at work to pray and study the Bible. “The members have a heart that is crying out for the Christians to be the ‘Salt and Light’ where they are. They want to make a difference for Christ in their armed forces!” said Homfray. Peter and Homfray were invited to offer teaching and encouragement during the two-day meeting. The Chief Chaplain, the leader of the MCF, his wife and 30 members

from around the country attended. They based their teaching on the words to Joshua, which also provide the theme for the World Conference in 2014 (See Page 8).

The members have a heart that is crying out for the Christians to be the ‘Salt and Light’ where they are

Members were greatly encouraged as they were asked to pray about the gifts that the MCF had to offer the armed

forces of their country. They were also able to learn about how MCFs meet together, the pray and plan technique, conversational prayer and inductive Bible study.

Please pray for the new Chief Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Mwenya, MCF Leader Major Paul Sapezo, his wife Constance and the leadership of the Zambian MCF as they digest the teaching. Please pray that by God’s grace they may have discernment, wisdom, vision and energy to move forward to set up a vibrant Zambian MCF that will bring Glory to our great God. Please also pray that MMI will

know how and when to help them.

Since returning Homfray has received the following message from Paul Sapezo:

“Hey brother, you inspired us all and your presence was worth while and at the right time. You both were in Zambia for a divine purpose and fulfillment to the glory of the LORD.

I just wanted to send special greetings from the MCF Zambia, and wish you God’s favour and protection all the days of your life.”

African Regional Pray and Plan Group needs new Members and a Chairperson

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”

(Matthew 7:7)

In MMI we believe that prayer is the motor which drives and helps direct our work. As part of this, Regional Pray and Plan groups (RPPG) play a vital role in helping to support the MMI regional team leaders. We currently need some new members to join the African RPPG and someone to chair it. The RPPG meets about 3 or 4 times a year in Aldershot for about 2 hours to pray for MMI’s work in Africa and to seek the Lord’s guid-

ance. Currently the chairing task falls to Jos McCabe but it would be good to have someone who is not on the MMI Executive to organise and chair the group. In the other RPPGs we have found that this adds real value and God can use different perspectives in a marvellous way. Please do consider if the Lord is calling you to this work. Our office or Jos would be delighted to let you have more detail.



Homfray Vines greets the Zambian MCF



Peter Louwrens with Zambian MCF Leader Paul Sapezo and his wife Constance

West African Association of Military Christian Fellowships Vice Presidents persevere in turbulent times

Sometimes we take for granted the relative stability and freedom we enjoy and forget that life is different for many of our brothers and sisters.

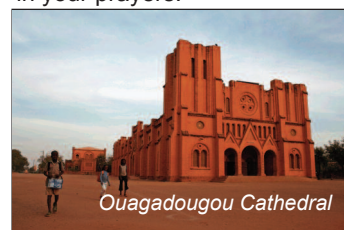
Keen news watchers will know that the April presidential elections in Nigeria, were widely hailed as some of the fairest that have been held there. Sadly, the elections did not pass entirely peaceably in all parts of the country. In Kaduna, hometown of West African AMCF VP Air Commodore Ishaku Komo, a 3-day 24-hour curfew was imposed after severe rioting and damage to church property. The deployment of the armed forces

appears to have brought some stability to the town. Ishaku Komo said, "My family and I were safe despite rioting in our neighbourhood."



Not so prominently reported in the UK news was the instability amongst the armed forces that caused rioting in Burkina Faso, the home of the AMCF VP for Francophone Africa, Colonel Gaston Gnoumou. The capital, Ouagadougou was placed under curfew as the President replaced the Prime Minister and some senior military officers after members of the armed forces mutinied over pay and conditions. Jos McCabe spoke

to Gaston who reported that both he and his family were safe and that the situation was returning slowly back to normal. Please do remember these AMCF VPs and their countries in your prayers.



Ouagadougou Cathedral

Global Alpha Training in South Africa

MMI partners, Alpha for Forces trains Alpha course leaders in South Africa

By Eric Martin, Alpha for Forces International Coordinator

The vision of the South African Military Christian Fellowship is the re-evangelisation of the South African Defence Forces; and the Alpha Course is the tool that will be used. In February and March 2011 over 90 delegates from 47 different military bases throughout South Africa were trained on how to run the Alpha Course in a military context. This was achieved through a partnership with the Military Christian Fellowship and the Chaplain General's Office. An international, ex-military team joined the local team for the two Global Alpha Training (GAT) events hosted at the Naval Base, Saldanha Bay, and the Military Base, Potchefstroom. Rev Paul Cowley, Director of Alpha for Forces and an MMI Trustee, and Eric Martin, International Coordinator of Alpha for Forces, were part of the team. Billy Gilvear and Andy Shilling travelled in from

Guernsey. Peter Sutton, from Alpha South Africa, saw the events as the "start of big things" and we join him in hoping that many courses will be starting up as a result within the next few months. A special thanks to Capt. Klaas Steyn (SA Navy) and his wife, Linda, for all the hard work and logistical arrangements they put into making the event a success. The GATs were both organised with military precision and the team said, "All they had to do was tell the jokes and do the

talks!"

They trained approximately 45 chaplains and ministers at each location and witnessed a real hunger during the courses as people started to get the vision and wanted to be set loose to start running Alpha courses. Some even started planning their own GATs to other bases in SA.

The GAT in Potchefstroom was sponsored by a local munitions factory and part of the team were accommodated in a nature reserve adjacent to the factory.

As well as the military training the team also visited Polsmoor prison and Mannenberg Township.

There's a huge need for more training all over the world so if you think you can be part of a team, tell a good joke and do an Alpha talk then sign up! You need to raise your own funds and have a week free. For some of the team it was their first GAT and they said it was a great experience!

Contact:
Eric.Martin@alpha.org

The GAT Team with Delegates in Potchefstroom



ALPHA<for>FORCES

South Asia

Service opportunity in Indonesia with MMI

MMI Associate, Colonel Ivar Hellberg is looking for someone younger to take on his mantle

The Indonesian Military Christian Fellowship (IMCF) was originally set up in this 80% Muslim country in 1996 with General Herman Mantiri as the President. "Under God's grace I was involved with the IMCF from its outset," Ivar Hellberg reflects, "and I remain a Trustee". IMCF has expanded to provide regional IMCF chapters for the Army, Navy, Marines and Airforce in nine of Indonesia's provinces. Priority is given to the young officer training establishments, with Vice Admiral (Retd) Fred Lonan as Vice President and Brigadier Marines (Retd) Eddy Tartiono as Secretary. Earlier this year IMCF Presi-

dent, First Marshal (Retd) Ibnu visited the Army's Officer Military Training Academy at Magalan, where they had a fellowship meeting with about 70 young Christian officers. "It seems to have been a great success" says Ivar. "The IMCF has recruited many more members. Each young officer was invited to sign a declaration of his faith in Christ and that they would maintain Christian values in Leadership and Integrity."

Ivar is looking for someone to accompany him on his next visit to the Indonesian MCF in November 2011 with a view to taking over his mantle of visiting, encouraging and praying for the IMCF each year. If any-

one reading this feels a calling, please contact the MMI office (See back page). The real challenge to the activities of the IMCF is resurgent militant Islamism, which is a constant threat to all their activities 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.



IMCF Trustees visit the Army's Officer Military Training Academy at Magalan



AMCF South Asia Conference 2011 The Battle is the Lord's

Sri Lanka - 18-20 November 2011



The Conference will focus on the spiritual battle of a Christian in military service. Delegates from across the region are invited. In addition to a programme of Bible study, small group seminars and studies, a Military Values Education course will be presented and MMI Regional Team Leader, Chris West will present the MMI Discipleship Course. MMI will assist with travel for participants from across the region. Prayer and financial assistance from MMI supporters are vital to the impact of the Conference on the region.

MMI Discipleship Course Handover Deferred

Following the American action in Pakistan against Al Qaeda in May it was decided to defer Regional Team Leader, Chris West's planned visit to handover the Discipleship Course. Chris has spent a great deal of time refining the Course so this is a major disappointment and he was very keen to travel but our Execu-

tive Council, concerned for the safety of all involved took the decision to defer the visit. Please pray for those who follow Christ in Pakistan's armed forces.

Chris is in correspondence with his contacts to determine when he might visit or to agree alternative means of delivering the course.

Netivah Soldiers Conference May 2011

News from the Believers in the Israeli Defence Force

Over 100 IDF Believers gathered for the Netivah soldiers' conference in Jerusalem last month. Best selling author and evangelist, Joel Rosenberg was the main speaker. He spoke from Ezekial 37 highlighting v10 and reminding his audience that they were part of that "vast army". Their responsibility

was to lead others to be Believers in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He was a great encouragement to the IDF Believers but the challenge applies to us all as well.

Pictures (clockwise): Opposite: Delegates relaxing; Joel addresses the gathering; Below - The formal conference photo!



ACCTS USA Appoints a new Director

The Board of Directors of our USA sister organisation, The Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS) have recently announced the appointment of Col. (USMC, Ret.) Philip Exner as their new Executive Director. He begins this position on 1st July 2011. Phil is a current ACCTS staff member and has ministered internationally through ACCTS for a number of years. As a retired US Marine Corps colonel, he has extensive leadership experience in operational units and has worked in the most senior headquarters of the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense and NATO. After retiring from the USMC, he worked as an operations analyst for a think-tank at NATO. Phil's wife, Sue Exner is also a

current ACCTS staff member and has experience as both a military officer and a military wife and mother. She retired from the reserves in 2002 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. MMI welcomes Phil and Sue to their new role and looks forward to working with them as God leads in the years ahead.



MMI Trustee, General Tim Cross speaks at HTB

MMI Chief Executive & Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe joins a wide audience at the HTB Prayer Breakfast.

General Tim Cross gave the introductory interview to open the Holy Trinity Brompton Tuesday morning Prayer breakfast on 17th May, which was focussing on the UK armed forces. Tim gave a short testimony of how he had come to know the Lord and described the UK armed forces, whilst not perfect, as being a "force for good". He emphasised that we needed to pray for that to continue to be the case and for Christians in the armed forces and their families. Rev Paul Cowley (HTB), also an MMI Trustee, and General Roddy Porter, Armed Forces Christian Union

President, also said a few words, but prayer was the real business of the morning and it was thrilling to join with around 80-100 people at 7am to intercede for the armed forces and their needs.



Stop Press:

SIMM Week - As we go to press, delegates from Nigeria (Visas willing!) and Sudan (Khartoum) are assembling for a week of Sharing in International Military Ministries. The week is led by MMI's CE/TL, Jos McCabe and is supported by the service chaplaincies. The programme includes presentations and discussions as well as visits to the Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth and the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright.

MMI Programme 2011

July

- Mission trip to Pakistan
- 5 MMI Trustees Summer meeting
- Mission trip to Greece
- 23-6/8 New Wine (Shepton Mallet) (Marketplace Display)

August

- 14-19 Sailing Retreat

September

- Moldova Marriage review
- Mission trip to Pakistan
- 26-30 AMCF Regional Conference Southern Africa (Swaziland)
- Mission trip to Jordan

October

- 1-3 Pray & Plan AMCF World Conference (South Africa)
- 1-5 Mission trip to Mozambique
- 1-7 Mission trip to South Africa
- Mission trip to Francophone Africa
- 21-23 Portugese MCF Conference

November

- 18-20 AMCF Regional Conference South Asia (Sri Lanka)
- 26-27 Trustees residential weekend

2014 AMCF World Conference Planning Update

The Association of Military Christian Fellowships World Conference 2014 Pray & Plan Team in South Africa continue to meet and there is much to be done.

The vision for the conference is:

"All nations **spiritually transformed** through the work of MCF's in their militaries"

The Conference slogan is:

- ✚ Change the military
- ✚ Change the nation
- ✚ Change the world

For the glory of the Lord

The key scripture verse for the Conference is:

Be strong and very courageous

Joshua 1:7

We must keep WC2014 in our prayers for the next 3 years.

AMCF WC 2014 Planning Team



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HIGHER RATE TAX PAYERS FILING YOUR 2011 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 when you complete your self-assessment tax return to pay your portion to a charity.

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

DAS12NG

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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