

Cadets relish the combination of Sailing, Bible Study and International Fellowship in the North Sea

How to be an active Christian in the military environment is what it is all about and the cadets on De Arend had a perfect combination of teachers and environment to learn all about it. "The cadets were almost more interested in our experiences than in the teaching," said MMI regional staff member, Rainer Thorun. "We must

look at ways of bringing more experiences to them in future retreats" he added.

"It is a great opportunity to mix up the nations and break down barriers, although the young cadets seemed not to worry so much about the past barriers as we who are older." Rainer observed, "The Czechs are definitely Czech and can barely

remember Czechoslovakia!"

One of the Croatians was particularly keen to think and pray about reconciliation in the Balkans; bringing delegates together from different sides of old divisions could become a key feature of these retreats in the same way as AMCF and MMI has encouraged links across the old Iron Curtain in

the past. Let us pray and see what God will do!

The military Bishop of Croatia has since written to say that the cadets brought back such a positive report that the Chaplaincy will make an effort to ensure Croatian participation in other cadet events like the Skiing Retreat and the Lithuanian Cadet Bible Conference.



Pictures L to R: Intense sailing, Intense Bible study, Relaxed fellowship.

Koreans who are singleminded for Jesus Christ

MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson participates in Military Evangelism Observation in South Korea - June 2011

"I have asked Mohamed to lead our Bible study" was a first for me" said MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson reporting on his time in Korea with 32 participants from 19 nations most of whom did not have a national military Christian fellowship (MCF). That was why Korea's Mission Support Organisation (MSO) had gathered them together at Prayer Mountain, the conference centre of Seoul's, Yoido Full Gospel Church. They wanted to encourage them to start MCFs at home.

Mohamed, a former sailor from a North African country, was put in jail for 30 days in his last few months of service for trying to evangelise 3 or 4 people. In jail he was able to evangelise

a, literally, captive audience of 40 for a whole month! What a divine provision. Pray for him as he tries to find others with whom to start an MCF.

All the delegates were inspired when they attended the opening worship of the Korean MCF. Who wouldn't be inspired and challenged by joining 15,000 young serving men and women all singing their praise and worship to God with amazing energy and vitality?

Other delegates also explained the challenges they faced. Such as the participants from a Muslim country where to believe in Jesus Christ is to be branded as a traitor and spy for the neighbouring Christian country. Western European delegates explained the apathy

they faced even amongst committed Christians as they tried to meet regularly as military men and women for Bible study and prayer.

Mike was able to speak to all those from the regions MMI covers and discover their needs and to put them in contact with the appropriate MMI regional team leader as well as the AMCF regional Vice Presi-

dents. MSO provide a great opportunity to change the situation in these countries and to see the Kingdom of God advancing. Most delegates had been identified by Korean missionaries of which there are over 20,000 around the world. We are blessed and challenged by our brothers and sisters in MSO; join us in thanking God for them.

MEO participants share in worship at the Korean MCF annual meeting



Europe

Grozdan Stoevski finds an open door in Greece

From a report on MMI Regional Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski's summer trip to Greece

The road to Greece for this trip started in Kosovo in 2009 where Norwegian MCF leader Lieutenant Colonel Knut Are Seierstad was serving with Captain Vassilis Mamoulos from Greece. Then they came together to the AMCF European Conference in UK. This year Vassilis was invited to take part in the AMCF/MMI European Military Christian Meeting in Lubbecke where he met Grozdan for the first time. MMI's Korean sister organisation, Mission Support Organisation (MSO) invited him to take part in the Military Evan-

gelism Observation week in South Korea where he and MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson were able to renew their friendship. The Lord has been giving Vassilis a clear calling to become involved in military ministry in Greece and he is excited to hear this call at a time when his military service is coming to an end and he will have time to commit to this work. The vision God has given him is for a multi-confessional MCF which is essential if it is to serve the 97% of Greeks from the Greek Orthodox Church as well as the

Protestant believers. "This will be very challenging in Greece," observed Grozdan whose own vision is for all European MCFs to be multi-confessional.

Some of the pastors Vassilis and Grozdan met as they criss-crossed northern Greece in a Pauline fashion to present the MCF vision to church leaders and elders in the different Protestant denominations, confessed they had never thought of the military community as a mission field for the local church. But they were pleased to catch the vision and support Vassilis and his colleagues.

Vassilis has called military Christians, from all over Greece, who have a spiritual concern for the military, to take part in a vision casting meeting on 11th and 12th November. This may be the precursor to a Greek MCF being launched and needs considerable prayer. They will meet at the Free Evangelical Church – Thessaloniki, pastored by Dr Dimitris Katsarkas (see photo below left). Grozdan has been invited to attend to present on the work of MMI and to help and encourage where it is requested.



Photos:

Left: Right to left - Grozdan, Dr Demostenis Katsarkas, Vassilis and Lieutenant George Tsitouridis.

Below: Vassilis (left) with Thessalonikan missionary Doimitris Tsoukalas (sitting) and Gideon worker, Kiriakos (right)



Upcoming events and missionary trips in Europe

Romania: From 30th September - 2nd October the Romanian MCF, Cornelius will hold their annual national conference. The event will be attended by Eduard Rosca, leader of the MCF in Moldova, and Dick Barnes, ACCTS USA, as well as MMI Europe RTL, Grozdan Stoevski,

Hungary: From 24th to

28th October Grozdan will travel in Hungary with Dick Barnes.

Baltic Countries: From 24th October - 2nd November MMI European staff members Rainer Thorun and Igor Sawicki will travel to meet contacts in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, the Baltic Countries. These visits will follow up MMI Secre-

tary Mike Paterson's meetings on MEO. See front page.

Greece: On 11th and 12th November Vassilis Mamoulos will host a National meeting of Christians who have a spiritual concern for the military. See above. In addition MMI Regional Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski, has been invited to speak at the Free Evangelical

Church.

FYROM*: On 17th November Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Slavcho Jurchhev will host a national gathering of the FYROM MCF in Skopje, and MMI will be represented by its RTL for Europe, Grozdan Stoevski.

* Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Redundancies on huge scale in Moldovan military

From a report by regional staff member, Rainer Thorun

The original plan for this trip (7th-14th September 2011) was to hold a marriage conference and then visit families for encouragement and prayer ministry as has happened in the past. However, MCF leader Eduard Rosca recognised that the redundancy being faced by most members of the Moldovan military, including MCF members, was distracting families and few would be able to attend. Rainer described the situation he found saying, "In the armed forces 40% and in the police and other "forces" 60% have been made redundant this year. Only a few of them get a small pension (€100 monthly is estimated to be a big one!) but there is no other support by the govern-

ment except 2 additional months wages. Many MCF members are afflicted. Most of them are in a desperate situation as there are no jobs available for them. Almost 80% of the redundees go abroad to find employment."

MMI has been in discussion with Eduard about supporting MCF members with, for example, training in small business and enterprise start up. But the problem is on a much larger scale than we can help and Eduard has been developing Christian contacts in South Korea that may offer what is needed. Eduard has decided to wait 2 months to see how things develop and in MMI we want to stand by him and

Moldova in prayer. Please add your prayers on a regular basis during the next 2 months.

Both Eduard and Marianna are very tired ministering to the MCF members, in their church and amongst the ladies (Marianna's mission field). "They feel is if they are at the furthest outpost of Europe and the AMCF," said Rainer. "They need much prayer and encouragement."

While Rainer was in Moldova there was a ladies conference but it was poorly attended because there had been a holiday that week and in Moldova this means that the lost working hours have to be made up on Saturday!

Not surprisingly Rainer was asked to do much prayer ministry, especially by those who had attended Marriage Conferences in the past.

"Then," writes Rainer, "we saw the Deputy Commander of the Police Academy, Colonel Ghenadie Chirița. It turned out that he is a messianic Jew and of great support for Eduard. We had a very good discussion about the situation of Christians in the police. I could introduce the ministry of MMI to him. We invited him to send 2 delegates to the skiing again. I emphasised we can support the travel expenses for a bus trip of them."



Eduard, Rainer and Korean missionary Han, Ho Jin

Africa

Following up in Senegal and an MCF is formed

MMI's Chief Executive/Team Leader, Jos McCabe and AMCF Regional Vice President, Colonel Gaston Gnomou in Senegal

Jos and Gaston met together with Senegalese contacts in Dakar this August to help encourage them to form an MCF. The Senegalese contacts, Raphael Diatta and Jean Pierre Diouf, had met MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson in South Korea in June during MEO. (See front page) They had been greatly impressed by their Korean visit and had said they wanted to form an MCF on their return to Senegal.

Senegal is 95% Muslim with a small but growing church. African traditional religion is also in evidence. Evangelism is not prohibited and the government is largely tolerant. Somewhat unusually for the re-

gion, Senegal has had a relatively stable democracy since independence and the military have largely stayed out of politics.

"The lack of an MCF has been apparent for some time," said Jos "but with new and enthusiastic contacts it seemed right to offer encouragement and support." Jean Pierre travelled for over 4 hours to meet with Jos and Gaston.

Both Jean Pierre and Raphael have now retired from the military but they do have serving Christian contacts and Raphael, who lives in Dakar, organised a group to meet with Gaston after Jos had left.

Shortly after Jos and Gaston's visit we received a message from AMCF President, General Lee, Pil Sup announcing the birth of the MCF. We rejoice in this and pray that it will grow, become mature and be used by the Lord to be a blessing to Senegal. MMI stands by to assist where possible



Gaston (L) meets Diatta in Dakar, Senegal

Military Christians in Southern Africa head for Swaziland!

"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness." Psalm 29: 2

As we go to press for this Newsletter the final preparations are in hand for the Conference. The Swazi MCF are hosting with the support of their Defence HQ. They have prayed and worked hard, so we pray that they will be greatly encouraged and blessed by the fruit of their labours.

About 40 to 50 delegates from the 14 Southern Africa countries are expected to gather at the Tums Hotel and Conference Centre, Manzini. At this time many of the delegations are awaiting official permission from their MODs to travel to Swaziland for the conference. About 20 other delegates from Africa and the rest of the world are expected to attend, including the AMCF World President, Gen Lee, Pil Sup. Colonel Jos McCabe, Lieutenant Colonel

Samuel Coias and Major Homfray Vines will all be attending and contributing to the programme. Samuel will be the main interpreter for the delegates from the 3 Portuguese speaking nations, most of whom will not speak English. The key note speaker Rev Conrad Mbewe from Zambia will be addressing the Conference theme which is: "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness."

(Psalm 29: 2)

Financing AMCF conferences in Africa is always a challenge and at the time of writing the organisers were facing significant challenges. However the AMCF Vice President Captain Peter Louwrens has seen how the Lord has always provided in the past and is therefore very hopeful for the Lord's pro-

vision for this conference. He is very grateful for the significant grant that MMI has made from the generosity of its supporters, AFCU and the Cornelius Trust.

We pray that this conference may be run to God's glory and that the participants will be challenged to deepen their relationship with God and commit themselves to serving him in their armed forces.



Worship in the Swazi MCF

Africa travel plans ...

Homfray & Sue Vines to East Africa in December

Homfray and Sue are praying about making a visit to Kampala and Nairobi to meet AMCF leaders in those countries. It will be Sue's first visit to the continent and she is looking forward to meeting the East African AMCF leaders. She has been great prayer support for Homfray during his travels, but now she will have the opportunity to participate herself.

Homfray's son, Paul and his wife, Julie have recently moved to a teaching post at St Andrew's School, Turi, Kenya. So they will use the occasion to meet up before Christmas

along with his daughter Anna, who plans to fly in at the end of her tour aboard MV Africa Mercy.

In addition to visiting Kenya and Uganda, Homfray is praying about visiting Ethiopia to encourage the Defence Christian Fellowship, South Sudan to encourage the formation an MCF, Rwanda to assist in the planning of a regional AMCF Conference and Burundi to help the MCF leaders with the courses they are planning to run in 2012.

See back page for more on Homfray and Sue.

Francophone Africa

General Arvid Lövbukten (MMI Trustee) is discussing with a representative of the French Protestant Military Chaplaincy a mutual desire to travel to Cameroon to see if, together, we can to assist military Christians and Chaplains in that country.

Last year Jos McCabe met Pastor Felix in Guinea - Bissau. Pastor Felix is keen to

help develop a military ministry in that country and MMI are helping him to travel to the Portuguese MCF conference this coming October in Lisbon, where Jos will meet him again. As the former colonial power, the Portuguese have historic ties with Guinea- Bissau and the Portuguese MCF is keen to help encourage MCF work there.

Sharing in International Military Ministry with Nigerian Chaplains - SIMM Week 2011

MMI Chief Executive and Team Leader, Jos McCabe reports

HMS COLLINGWOOD hosted SIMM Week this year. Three delegates from the Nigerian Army Chaplaincy attended, Lieutenant Colonel, the Reverend Danfulani (Chief Protestant Chaplain of the Nigerian Army), Lieutenant Colonel, the Reverend Kauche and Major, the Venerable Marigu (both principal Chaplains in Nigerian Army Divisions).

Our guests were exposed to a full range of Chaplaincy and Military Christian Organisation activity in the UK armed forces. They had the opportunity to meet and be briefed by Chaplains from the Navy, Army and Airforce. They were also able to take part in a lunchtime fellowship group and a Chaplaincy weeknight service at Collingwood.

A highlight of the course this year was the visit to the Armed

Forces Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC) at Amport House where they were hosted by the Principal, Group Captain (the Reverend) Gordon Craig RAF, and enjoyed presentations from the Chief Instructor, the Reverend Philip McCormick RACHD, on the role of AFCC and on Operational Chaplaincy in Afghanistan.

Other highlights included an informal talk from the Reverend Bill Gates RN and a visit to the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright. Padre Bill is a green bereted Chaplain and a veteran of two Afghanistan operational tours with 45 Commando RM. In Pirbright our guests witnessed a class of female trainees in their first session with the Chaplain where the students were introduced to the Soldiers and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association (SASRA) worker.

Delegates also enjoyed visits to the offices of some of the Military Christian organisations in Portsmouth and Aldershot and they attended the MMI Prayer Day. See page 7.

They were clearly engaged in

all they saw during the week and enjoyed SIMMs so much that the Reverend Danfulani has requested to be allowed to bring 7 Chaplains next year! We are putting this to pray and plan!

Hosts MMI and SIMM Week guests at Amport House



South Asia

The Military Fellowship meeting in New Delhi

From a report by Regional Team Leader for South Asia, Chris West

Chris visited New Delhi in July and, at their local church, met a new group of serving personnel calling themselves simply 'Military Fellowship' (MF). This was a mix of all ranks who have been formed since May this year. They meet every month and are restricted to serving personnel. Pastor Jeremy Dawson, in the third part of his talk on 'The Great Commission', spoke under the title, 'The Commission is for the Conscripted'. A very appropriate heading.

This was very encouraging, but they have some challenges to overcome in the months ahead. Their founder has just left the services and they will need solid leadership to sustain their momentum. Please pray that a plurality of leader-

ship will emerge who will be committed to this exciting vision. They have started out well - pray they will continue to 'run the race set before them'.

Whilst in India, Chris was also able to visit the Cornelius Network India (CNI) group in Bangalore. This group and the other potential chapters of CNI need your fervent prayer. The Armed Forces are keen to remain secular and retired officer groups may be suspected of being associated with Hindu nationalism or extreme movements. This is suffocating CNI's ministry. Please pray for a clear vision for their role and for courage and wisdom to bring it to fruition.

With both of these groups Chris was able to share how the UK Armed Forces Christian Union (AFCU), then Officers

Christian Union, was able to help him sustain his Christian walk whilst serving and the part he is now able to play in an AFCU Associate Prayer Group praying for those serving. Chris encouraged the MF and CNI to investigate forming a similar relationship to that of the AFCU and its Associates Prayer Groups.



Pictures:
Above - Military Fellowship worship
Left - Pastor Jeremy Dawson



Discipleship Course trial

As reported in our last Newsletter, we had to delay planned visits to Pakistan in June to discuss final adjustments to the Discipleship Course. The situation is still uncertain and we recognise that more time is needed. However, things have not stood still. The leader of Benaiah, with Rev Riaz, Vicar of the Cantonment Church at Abbottabad, and Rev Ashkenaz, the principal of Zarepath Bible Institute have met and studied the course. With the benefit of

'Skype', MMI Regional Team Leader, Chris West has been able to have regular virtual meetings with Benaiah and will be incorporating the modifications suggested. At the AMCF South Asia Regional Conference in November the module 'Confidence in Battle' will be used to give the delegates a taste of the course. This is an encouraging move in the right direction and we praise God for the development of this course.



Discipleship course editing team

AMCF South Asia Conference 2011

"The Battle is the Lord's"

1 Samuel 17: 47

Sri Lanka - 18-20 November

The MCF of Sri Lanka is hosting the 3rd South Asia AMCF Regional Conference. The theme of the conference is 'The Battle is the Lord's' from David's statement when preparing to defeat Goliath. They have chosen as their keynote speaker Bishop Dhilraj Canagasabay, the Anglican Bishop of Colombo.

General Lee, Pil Sup, President of AMCF will be speaking about progress on the vision for all countries with armed forces to have effective MCFs.

The AMCF VP for East Asia, Reverend Commodore Ernesto Sacro will be present-

ing the Military Values Education Course he authored - this has been very effective in the Philippines.

June West and AMCF VP's wife, Dilhani Weerasooriya will present a seminar on being a service wife or mother.

Chris West will present the new MMI Discipleship course.



Will the Arab Spring become a Muslim winter?

The reverberations of the Arab Spring continue to be felt in many of the countries of the Middle East where we have recent contacts. For Christians living in these countries the situation emerging is beginning to cause concern, will the Arab Spring turn into a Muslim Winter?

In Egypt elections are due to be held before the end of the year and this does not allow time for new representational political parties to form and mobilise. The Muslim Brotherhood party are the most organised and likely to achieve the most seats in any election. Christians hope and pray that moderate Muslims, Christians and others will together gain at least one third of the votes in order to provide at least a viable minority. Christians are calling for 'citizen rights for all Egyptians', rather than highlighting the Christian community which Muslims too readily associate with the West.

However, at present there is no

major threat to the Christian community, although there continue to be isolated incidents. In fact, in the current situation, in the absence of full-time officials in the various ministries, there is a window of opportunity for Christians to repair and build new churches – as licences for such work cannot be issued!

The situation in Syria is still very confused and varies from one part of the country to another. Christians in Syria do not feel under threat at present although their security is very much linked to the stability of the country and the Syrian military.

As a result of the current uncertainties within a number of the countries in the Middle East it has not been possible for Richard Sandy to make visits so far this year. The Regional Pray and Plan Group therefore are actively considering the need for a short Retreat, perhaps in Cyprus, in 2012. The aim will be to bring together some of our contacts from the region

and to hear from them how best we can support the ministry in their respective countries.

The impact of the Arab Spring



The very familiar mosque, the Dome of the Rock (above) contrasting with a Church in Lebanon (right) is one image of the concerns of Christians in the Middle East



MMI and the Arab Spring Supporters Weekend Salisbury, 25-26 February 2012

Events continue to unfold in the Middle East and we do not know what the situation will be in February next year but the Lord has led us to take the region as our focus for our next Supporters Day in Salisbury. More details will follow but please put the date in your diary now.

We will meet in St Paul's Salisbury at 9.00 am. Saturday evening and Sunday will be held in Sarum College and accommodation will be available

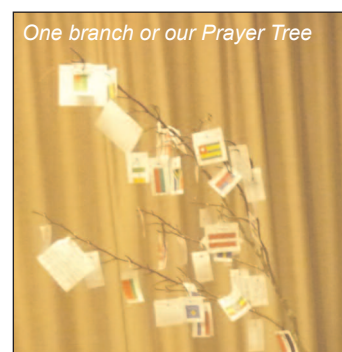
there. Provisional bookings are being taken now. Email or call the office - contact details are on the back page.



It's all in the Tree - Prayer Day 2011

In many ways this picture of the Prayer Tree we made at Winchester Vineyard on Saturday 18 June says it all. We took the flags of the nations and wrote our prayers on them and hung them on the tree as a visible display of our commitment to the spreading of the Gospel amongst the armed forces of the world. We had prayed round the world as our regional team leaders requested. We prayed in groups, as individuals and as a united gathering. But the day sped past too quickly for all that we had to cover. Thankfully com-

prehensive prayer notes gave us all we needed to take away and continue our praying.



MMI Programme 2011

October

- 28/9-2 Romanian MCF Conference (GDS)
- 1-3 Pray & Plan AMCF World Conference (South Africa)
- 1-7 Mission trip to South Africa
- 21-23 Portugese MCF Conference
- 24-28 Mission trip to Hungary
- 24-2/11 Mission trip to the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia)

November

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

December

- 1-18 Mission trip to East Africa

January

- 9-11 Exec Council Retreat & Staff Training
- 29-5/2 Skiing Retreat

February

- 16-20 European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)
- 24-26 Supporters Weekend (Salisbury, UK)

World Conference planning update

As we go to press MMI staff members, Jos McCabe and Homfray Vines along with Val Hall from the Armed Forces Christian Union (UK) are attending a 2-day AMCF World Conference Pray and Plan and briefing session in Pretoria, South Africa. Also taking part will be the AMCF World President, General Lee,

Pil Sup, three of the African AMCF Vice Presidents and representatives from our partners ACCTS and MSO. They will pray with and be briefed by the South African planning team on God's purpose for the Conference, the theme and vision, potential venues and financial issues. No doubt there will be many other matters.

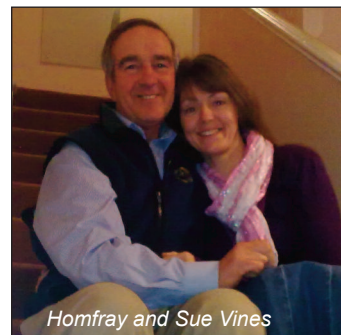
Missionary in Residence MMI's Homfray Vines

St Mary's Longfleet (Poole, UK) is where Homfray and Sue Vines' worship and he has been appointed as the church's Missionary in Residence. On Sunday 16th October he will be licensed there as a Lay Minister in a joint service that will also see him commissioned as MMI's Regional Team Leader for East and Southern Africa. (Better late than never!) MMI values the support our staff enjoy from their own churches and know that the missionary perspective they bring in return is a blessing to their congregations. The bedrock of prayer from the local church for MMI's work and the countries our staff members serve is essential to the growth of God's Kingdom amongst the world's armed

forces.

If you are able to support Homfray and Sue on 16th October they would love to see you at St Mary's Longfleet at 6.30pm. Directions at <http://www.smlpoole.org.uk> click on *contact us* and *how to find us*.

Be sure to allow time to park, it is not easy!



Homfray and Sue Vines

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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:

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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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