

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name Psalm 29:2

AMCF Southern Africa Conference 2011

"I have attended a wonderful and awesome conference. I have been greatly blessed and inspired to carry on. I am definitely more passionate and zealous for the MCF in Mauritius. I dare to dream - yes we can do it too in Mauritius. Thank you so much for this conference."

Police Officer David Thomas
Mauritius

"Awesome God – Thank you for your prayers – God moved and I have left with new energy and motivation. All God will do, will be returned to you for your faithfulness."

WO1 Michele Bezuindenhout
South Africa



The battle is the Lord's 1 Samuel 17:47

AMCF South Asia Conference 2011

Exuberant worship launched each conference day in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



"When advancing, the enemy gets closer! In retreat, defeat is close at hand", said conference speaker Dr Lalith Medis in his talk on the first day.

Singing worship in Sinhala, Tamil and English each morning prepared the way for a tight

programme of very practical and scriptural talks on the theme *The Battle is the Lord's*.

Six of the eight South Asian countries were represented and nearly 200 delegates including many serving members of all three services in Sri Lanka.

MMI Supporters' Weekend 25-26 February 2012

Who can forget the amazing signs of protest in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Syria, Yemen and Libya. Some ended peacefully and led to elections, some ended violently in civil war and others still continue. Such events in this the world's spiritual and political hotspot cannot go unnoticed by MMI. Hence, we are taking a close look at this "Arab Spring" and inviting experts to help us, and our supporters, to understand it better and its implications for our MMI ministry.

By definition MMI is outward looking but you can still do that with your

head down and only seeing what you have chosen to see. Our hearts desire is to see what God wants us to see, to be where God wants us to be. We seek to serve him by enabling the establishment of MCFs, by encouraging the growth of MCFs and nowhere is this more important than in those places where the military are engaged in active service. To do this effectively we need support. Effective support means effective prayer and effective prayer needs information.

Flier enclosed to book your place now



MMI and the Arab Spring

**MMI Supporters' Weekend
25-26 February 2012**

St Paul's Church & Sarum College, Salisbury

Speakers include:

- ✦ Chawkat Moucarry, World Vision International
- ✦ AMCF President, General Lee, Pil Sup (Korea)
- ✦ AMCF VP Middle East, Brigadier General Samir Haddadin (Jordan)
- ✦ MMI Middle East Regional Team Leader, Colonel Richard Sandy
- ✦ MMI Executive Staff for South Asia, Europe & Africa
- ✦ Guests from ACCTS (USA) & MSO (Korea)

Passionate for His Glory in Manzini, Swaziland!

Extracted from a report by MMI Regional Team Leader for East and Southern Africa, Major (Retd) Homfray Vines

In 2004 Warrant Officer Class 2 Joyce Dlamini was invited to the AMCF World Conference in South Korea. There, God gave her a vision to start an MCF in Swaziland. In obedience, when Joyce returned to Swaziland, she set about seeing that vision become a reality. Seven years later 20% of the Swazi armed forces are members of the MCF of Swaziland, wow! What a reward for her obedience.

It is little surprise that the Swazi MCF was invited to host the 2011 AMCF Southern Africa regional conference.

Fifty delegates from around Southern and West Africa, Europe, the USA and South Korea gathered in Manzini, Swaziland to be challenged to be passionate for God's

glory. Reverend Conrad Mbewe gave four outstanding Bible readings on Psalm 29 and was supported by three challenging sermons from Reverend Dlamini from Swaziland. These talks formed the background to a conference that was full of worship, prayer and intercession that God would inspire all the delegates to go back to be fruitful in the Lord's work in their own armed forces.

The two countries that do not have MCFs in the region, Namibia and Zimbabwe were well represented and are hopeful that in the Lord's time they will also be able to establish their own fellowships. Major Reverend Bwanali Ashani, who is Deputy Chief Chaplain of Zimbabwe, said that the Lord was answering the

prayers of many for his nation. Many were coming to Christ and there were fellowship groups meeting in their armed forces.

The Swazi MCF is to be congratulated for the excellent way they hosted the conference and the way they have built up an MCF that operates in every corner of the Swazi Kingdom including the Royal Household.

At the end of the conference the Chief Chaplain of Namibia, Reverend Canon Nangula Kathindi led a communion service that was deeply appreciated by all.

AMCF President, General Lee, Pil Sup encouraged the delegates to go out to show the love of Christ by making disciples in their armed forces and thereby glorifying God.



Pictures (clockwise from top): Conference opening ceremony; National dancing; "...lost in wonder, love and praise."; "Marching (and singing) in the power of God".

MMI and French Chaplaincy in Yaoundé, Cameroon - 27-30 November 2011

From a report by MMI Trustee Major General Arnvid Løvbukten (Norway)

Colonel Frank Bourgeois, Protestant Chief Chaplain of France, Colonel Gaston Gnomou, AMCF regional Vice President for Francophone Africa and MMI Trustee and Norwegian MCF President Major General Arnvid Brage Løvbukten made an exploratory mission trip to Cameroon. The initial purpose of the trip was to find out the status of the missions work within the Cameroon military. General Arnvid added, "I personally had made three more specific aims out of this, also based on the information we were able to get before the trip:

- ✚ To visit the MCF, encourage and evaluate its status and potential.
- ✚ To facilitate the establishment of a real chaplaincy.
- ✚ To try out a common approach together with the French chaplaincy to optimize

solutions for military missions".

The team met with the MCF Cameroon, a group of 30 military from Yaoundé meeting every Monday afternoon. This group had been assisted by Augustin Tchenkoua from Campus Crusade for Christ in Cameroon who was with the visitors each day. General Arnvid said, "We also had a separate meeting with the President of MCF Cameroon, Lieutenant Colonel Allein Daniel Njoya, an Air Force pilot and graduate of the ACCTS (USA) Interaction programme. We were very well received, and all three of us explained our mission coming from different angles. They had a vision to reach their colleagues with the gospel and also network with the military Christians in other parts of the country. They also voiced some concerns. They wanted to meet of-

ficially with the necessary authorization in the camps. They are free to share on a one-to-one basis, but need more Bibles (camouflage covered) and Chief Chaplain Frank Bourgeois offered to use his contacts in the French MCF to get this project on the road. All in all the MCF was looking very promising and had a great potential for growth."

The chaplaincy question was as expected much more complicated. The team met with leaders from different protestant denominations (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Pentecostal, etc) and the national and regional chaplains. They are not like a normal chaplaincy and are not well known by the armed forces. The chaplains take the normal Sunday services in their local churches which are open to the military as well but only 10% of them

had access to the garrisons. They do not have any authorization for any activities in the camps.

"We clearly voiced a need for "green" chaplains with uniform, living together with the military, following them on deployments such as on current operations in the Central African Republic," said Arnvid.

Finally the team had a special meeting with General Pierre Semengue, previous Chief Joint Forces. General Arnvid said, "We were told that he was the key to any decision from the top that we needed because he had a lot of influence even in retirement. He was also very positive to our proposals and promised to make sure that the protestant chaplaincies as well as the MCF get the proper authorization from the Defence Minister and down the chain of command."



The Team meet with the MCF Cameroon



Remembering Colonel Henry Ladele 1947 - 2011

Colonel Henry Ayodele Ladele described himself as the ACCTS (now MMI) pointman in Africa and for many years he was the only staff member we had in Africa. He was a man with a great presence - nobody who met him forgot Henry. He was above all an evangelist. Since he met the Lord in 1975 in Ilorin, Kwara State his

passion was to share the Gospel. His wife Vicky became his first convert.

Henry put up with all manner of hardship to spread the Gospel amongst the military including being locked up by the border guards as he tried to cross into one West African country.

As Major General Oni, Henry's

friend and former military colleague in Christ put it, "One of God's generals has gone home. Your walk with God was infectious. Goodnight dear brother."

In MMI we remember Henry and pray for his family: his wife, Vicky; his sons, Soji, Sheyi and Tomi and his daughter Toyin.

Militares Evangélicos de Portugal Annual Conference, Lisbon 21-23 October 2011

About 35 members of the Portuguese MCF attended the weekend event to hear AMCF regional Vice President, Commander Brian Parker and MMI Chief Executive and Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe give the main Bible talks from the book of Habakkuk on the theme of "The sovereign Lord is my strength" (Habakkuk 3 v 19). The book of Habakkuk has a very powerful message to countries and people under real threat and experiencing difficulties.

Pastor Felix from Guinea Bissau (Portuguese speaking) was also there. Jos had met

him in Guinea Bissau in 2010. It was Pastor Felix's first time in Portugal and his first time at an MCF conference. He was encouraged and grateful for the chance to attend and took back 20 camouflaged covered Portuguese New Testaments to distribute. The Portuguese MCF are now raising funds to produce a second tranche of 10,000 Camouflaged New Testaments for use in Portugal and Portuguese speaking countries. The conference also provided the opportunity to pray for Samuel Coais (President of the Portuguese MCF) and to highlight his work with MMI in Portuguese African speaking countries.



Hill of Crosses - Lithuania

The Hill of Crosses (Lithuanian: Kryžių kalnas) is a site of pilgrimage about 12 km north of the city of Šiauliai, in northern Lithuania. The precise origin of the practice of leaving crosses on the hill is uncertain, but it is believed that the first crosses were placed on the former Jurgaičiai or Domantai hill fort after the 1831 Uprising. Over the centuries, not only crosses, but giant crucifixes, carvings of Lithuanian patriots, statues of the Virgin Mary and thousands

of tiny effigies and rosaries have been brought here by Catholic pilgrims. The exact number of crosses is unknown, but estimates put it at about 55,000 in 1990 and 100,000 in 2006. (Source - Wikipedia)



Baltic bus tour through Lithuania

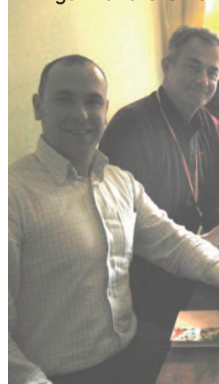
An extract from MMI staff member, Rainer Thorun's account of his

Igor and I travelled by bus from Warsaw to the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. In Lithuania we were invited to speak at four different gatherings and had valuable meetings with several influential senior officers including the Chief Chaplain. We have been invited to lead a seminar on Christian marriage in 2012 as well as continue to take part in the annual Cadet Bible Camp at Camp Trakai.

In Riga, Latvia where we were well received and welcomed by Chief Chaplain Elmars Plavinš. We had a meeting with soldiers in the military base of Kadaga, the biggest one in Latvia. They were very interested even though some preferred to ask their questions after the meeting. Elmars Plavinš would like to have more support from MMI in evangelistic outreaches in addition to that he has from Bob Elliot (who takes holidays from his work as a SASRA Scripture Reader to visit Latvia).

In Estonia Chief Chaplain Taavi Laanepere welcomed us and we had good discussions on how MMI can support Christians in the Estonia. There we were invited to a dinner group naming itself "Churchers" in Tallinn. Chaplain Kutsar attended Military Chaplainism Observation on Kõrval, which gave him real vision of his commitment and helped to establish an MCF.

In Riga with the Chief



AMCF V Corn Annual G

Extracted from Brian Parker's blog: <http://www.brianparker.org.uk>

Morning prayers took a prison poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Vergangenheit" (The Past) as a focus. It concludes:

*I stretch out my hands and pray –
and I learn something new:
That which is past will return to you
again as your life's most living
strain, through thanks and through
repentance.*

*Lay hold on God's forgiveness in
the past, pray that he will care for
you this day and to the last.*

Our meditations took us into our own pasts, things visible and invisible, satisfaction and regret, what we recall and how. Jesus weighed



Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

...ent of his trip with MMI colleague Igor Sawicki

Chaplain, Lt Col e welcomed us and discussions about support the Chris- nia. That evening to a dinner by a self "Christian Offi- Chaplain Gustav Military Evangel- on Korea this year real vision for fur- t and how to estab-

Our route home took as back through Lithuania where we were invited for lunch by Bishop Gin- taras Grušas. The Bishop is close to the chaplaincy and well informed of all the details.

During this exhausting trip Rainer and Igor covered 2,300 km by bus and an additional 1,300 km by car. Rainer's travel to Warsaw was an- other 1,600 km.

...the Chief Chaplain and colleagues



AMCF Vice President attends Cornelius Vereinigung Annual Gathering October 2011

...og: <http://brianamcfeurope.wordpress.com/>

motives and intentions (even when not becoming actions) in the same way that he weighed actions. Even in his cell, Bonhoeffer had a life hidden from his persecutors. One of the most refreshing aspects of the conference was the inclusion of an item never seen at any other conference we have been to. "Playing with the children" was specifically programmed in as well

as a full children's programme ran in parallel with the adult's. Lt Col Sascha Zierold gave a presentation on "Preparation for Missions Abroad" reflecting on national commitments to operational service and cooperation across international boundaries. Sacha also presided over the family communion that concluded our weekend.



Family communion at German CoV meeting

Hellenic MCF (HMCF) is founded

In November MMI's Regional Team Leader for Europe, Rev Grozdan Stoevski, together with 1st Lt Valentine Valkanov travelled to Thessaloniki, Greece, to meet with Greek Military Christians.

The two first visited the St Demetrius Basilica,

This same evening, Grozdan was invited to share and preach at the Free Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki, pastored by Dr. Demostenis Katsarkas, an influential Christian leader who is also very supportive of ministering to the military.

The next day Capt (Retd) Vasileios Mamoulios hosted a national meeting of Christians from the armed forces and police at retreat centre near Thessaloniki.

The delegates decided:

1) that there is a necessity to start a Greek Military Christian Fellowship.

2) It should be an informal group, at least in the beginning.

3) It should be open for co-operation with the Greek Orthodox believers as well.

Vassilis agreed to serve as the President/National Coordinator of the informal Hellenic MC

This meeting was the result of many prayers and it was with great joy that we received the announcement from Vasileios of the formation of HMCF. We thank God for this wonderful and courageous move.

The next meeting of HMCF is scheduled for March 2012 in Athens.

Members of the new Hellenic MCF in Thessaloniki



Late News:

Georgian Fellowship

As we go to press we have just received the great news that a fellowship has been founded in Georgia. The Georgian Christian Military Organisation (GMCO) is the 133 MCF. AMCF President, General Lee, Pil Sup noted in his announcement that there are still some 62 countries without MCFs and we must work towards the goal of a mature and thriving MCF in every country in the world. Each MCF will have its own character and the visibility of each will vary as local security conditions allow. In MMI we strive to serve AMCF and see each individual MCF growing to spiritual maturity and, with that, the Kingdom of God growing amongst the world's armed forces.

South Asia

A battle in prayer demonstrates that the battle belongs to the Lord

MMI Regional Team Leader for South Asia reports on the regional AMCF Conference held in Sri Lanka from 18-20 November 2011

This, the third Regional Conference for South Asia, brought together delegates from six out of the eight countries in the Region. MMI's recent focus has been to encourage, through its neighbour, representation from a country only just beginning to open up to Christianity. It was said by Dr Lalith Medis in his talk on the first day, "When advancing, the enemy gets closer! In retreat, defeat is close at hand". Because MMI sensed the conference was advancing against the enemy, specific prayer was encouraged for 6 days leading up to the conference. We were kept guessing and trusting right up to the last minute, not knowing until very late on Thursday if the delegates from the sixth country were coming and if so when they would arrive. Amazingly at the last minute communication difficulties were suddenly resolved and arrangements could be made to meet them. We must thank God for

your faithful prayer and for the dedication of Prayer Coordinator, Sue Millard who put together the prayer fuel that was essential and effective.

Because MMI sensed the conference was advancing against the enemy, specific prayer was encouraged for 6 days leading up to the conference.

We are overjoyed that the vision regarding the additional country has been fulfilled. And as we go to press we rejoice in the announcement of the formation of an MCF in this country. Now follows the difficult and dangerous process of MCF development requiring wisdom and discernment. The host MCF of Sri Lanka were also rejoicing in obtaining a good response from all three services resulting in about 150 active service personnel attending. Each day started with a time of prayer from 0630 to 0700 and after breakfast a time of wor-

ship. Singing in Sinhala, Tamil and English from 0900 to 0930 prepared the way for a tight programme of very practical and scriptural talks on the theme *The Battle is the Lord's*; presentations on the MilVed course; Inductive Bible study; Conversational Prayer; the MMI Discipleship Course; the Role of the military wife; AMCF, ACCTS and Country reports. General Srilal Weerasooriya, the AMCF Vice President for South Asia in his 14th year (normally a 7yr term) passed on the baton to Commander (Retd) Saleem Mathew. General Lee, Pil Sup, President of AMCF, commissioned both Commander Mathew and Bishop Commander Ernesto Sacro (VP East Asia). Please pray that the delegates will be inspired to single minded service as they seek to advance the Gospel amongst the military in the counties of South Asia. The Battle truly does belong to the Lord! 1 Samuel 17:47.



Pictures clockwise from top: Commander (Retd) Cherian from CNI (India); June West addresses the ladies group on "The military mother and wife."; Commander (Retd) Mathew receives his certificate of appointment as AMCF Vice President for South Asia from AMCF President, General Lee, Pil Sup; the ladies group at prayer

Mohamed - A new link into Tunisia

Richard Sandy, MMI's Regional Team Leader for the Middle East, is making a first visit to Tunisia between 12 and 16 December, following up a contact made with a Tunisian in Seoul in June 2011. Mohamed served in the Tunisian Navy and in Seoul he was enthused about MMI's ministry and said he would welcome a visit to hear more and to discuss what possibilities there may be to begin a ministry in Tunisia.

Tunisia was where the Arab

Spring had its beginning, after Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire on 17 December 2010, in protest at the confiscation of his wares and the harassment and humiliation that he reported was inflicted on him by government officials. His act became a catalyst for the Tunisian Revolution and the wider Arab Spring and led in Tunisia to President Ben Ali stepping down on 14 January 2011, after 23 years in power. Since then Tunisia has held

democratic elections and only recently held the first meeting of its elected Assembly.

Richard will be accompanied on the visit by MMI Trustee, Mike Barritt and they plan to meet with Mohamed and another Christian in the armed

forces plus other Christians in the country to discuss and pray about the possibility of beginning a ministry in Tunisia. We pray this may result also in a Tunisian delegate attending the Cyprus Retreat in April 2012.



Next year in Cyprus

Plans have now been made to hold a gathering of our known contacts across the Middle East at a brief 'Retreat' in Cyprus from 1-5 April 2012. It will be the first occasion since 2007 to bring together our contacts across the region, many of whom are recent and will not have met each other previously. The Retreat will be of particular interest in view of recent and on-going events in

the region.

Already a number of our contacts have expressed great interest in getting their delegates to attend. We acknowledge there will be difficulties in some of the countries, particularly in obtaining the necessary visas to leave their country and most delegates also will require financial assistance.

However, we are excited about the possibilities and know that

the timing for this event has come about as a result of prayer. In 2007 the Lord really blessed the last similar Middle East gathering in ways we simply could not have anticipated. We are confident He will again be present in a powerful way.

At this stage we would really ask for your prayers for the

plans for the event, that the right delegates will be identified, visas will be obtained, travel plans made, the necessary finances made available and that the Lord will really bless the event and encourage and inspire MMI's ministry within the Middle East region.



Jos McCabe and Homfray Vines attended a Pray and Plan in Pretoria for the AMCF World Conference 2014. The AMCF World President, General Lee, Pil Sup was present along with representatives from our Partner organisations MSO and ACCTS. The Pray and Plan endorsed the Conference Theme as:

Be strong and very courageous. Joshua 1:7
The desire was for this confer-

World Conference 2014 planning update

ence to be truly used by the Lord to bring transformation and to equip those who attend to help build disciples. The mission was worded to reflect this aspiration as:

With the help of the Lord we will inspire and equip delegates to establish and strengthen MCF's in all countries of the world and to effectively disciple the military men and women of their nations.

The Pray and Plan agreed that National MCFs should be given the opportunity to join in the "grace of giving" as outlined in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9. Conference planning team appointments were endorsed and work agreed to explore 2

preferred venues in South Africa.

Please continue to pray for the Planning Team to be guided and directed by the Lord and to be given energy and clear focus as the workload increases.



MMI Programme 2012

January

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

February

- 17-20 European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)
25-26 Supporters' Weekend (Salisbury, UK)

March

April

- 1-5 Middle East Retreat (Cyprus)
20-22 European Naval Christian Link Up (JMT)
Marriage Seminar (Lithuania)(tbc)

May

- 12 Prayer Day (Winchester)
13-18 SIMM Week (tbc)
16-20 Cadet Bible Camp (Lithuania)
Mission trip to Pakistan (tbc) (CDPW)
Mission trip to East Africa (HNV)
European Leadership Forum (Hungary)
Polish MCF 15th anniversary meeting

June

- 18-25 MEO South Korea (MGP)
21-24 RIMP (France) (GDS)

July

- 21-4/8 New Wine (UK)

August

- 12-17 Sailing Retreat

September

- Mission trip to Jordan (tbc) (RJS)

Ask, Seek, Knock

"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

At this time of year most of us will be celebrating God's greatest gift to us, His only son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the last few weeks we will also have enjoyed receiving and giving gifts to celebrate Christmas. Some, we may have asked for, others will be a surprise. The above verse in Matthew makes clear we can ask our Heavenly Father to provide for us and the passage goes on to tell how He wants to give us good gifts (v 11). May I ask you to pray and ask our Heavenly Father to provide MMI with the right people to:

- ✠ Become an MMI Team Leader for Francophone and West Africa.
- ✠ To join the MMI African Regional Pray & Plan Group and for a group chair person.

✠ To join the MMI South Asian Team as a regional worker with specific responsibility for Indonesia.

✠ Become supporters who will pray and give of their time, talents and finances to support the work.

Please also give thanks to our Lord for the many blessings that we in MMI have enjoyed in the last year. For new MCFs, for encouraging visits, for your prayers and giving and most of all for the love of Jesus.

Yours in His service

Jos McCabe



Colonel Jos McCabe, MMI's Chief Executive and Team Leader, with Colonel Fiina Amupolo from Namibia at the AMCF Southern Africa Conference (See page 2)

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

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