

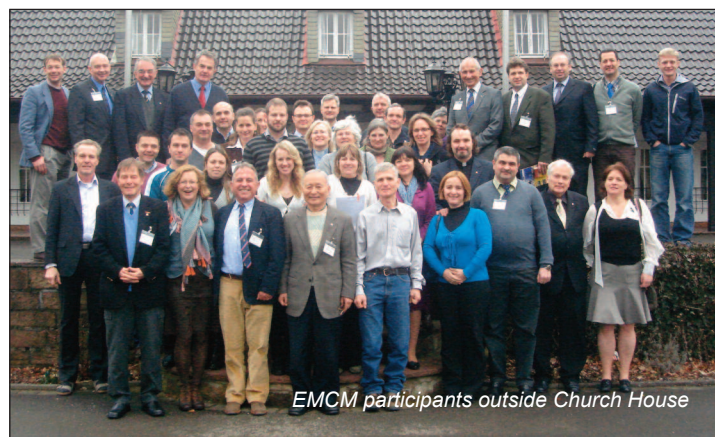
European MCF Leaders Continue in the Lord EMCM, Lubbecke 2012

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him."

(Colossians 2:6)

The first European MCF Leaders meeting was held in 2003 and it has become a key part of the AMCF/MMI work to support the leaders and upcoming leaders of MCFs in Europe by equipping, preparing and supporting them in their role. Continuity in such a programme is essential so to them the theme of "Continue in your faith" from Colossians was particularly appropriate. Church House was fuller than in any other year which was most encouraging for the organisers and there were many participants who were new to such an event.

The AMCF motto, "All one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28) came really alive during the conference. In particular for Major Dalibor Milicic, an Eastern Orthodox believer from Serbia, who emailed after the event: "Last weekend was very significant. I was surrounded with people who truly study and try to live as Christian today. I felt safe, accepted, felt like part of something good... One minute after another we were the living Church, I saw, heard, and felt it." See Page 2 for more detail on the meeting.



EMCM participants outside Church House



Valentina and Vasily Khimich (Ukraine) and Eduard Rosca (Moldova) enjoy the Church House menu



**MMI
Prayer Day
Saturday
12th May 2012
Winchester Vineyard**

**Register from 9.30
Lunch at 12.30
Tea and Close by 5.30**

- † Led prayer for MCFs around the world
- † International guests
- † Latest news from MMI staff
- † Quiet space to pray alone or in a group

Drinks on the house but bring your own packed lunch.

Please tell us by email or phone if you plan to join us.

Europe

European MCF Leaders meeting in Lübbecke

(continued from Page 1)

Delegates from 18 countries gathered for the annual AMCF Europe Leaders' Meeting at Church House, Lübbecke. The theme for the long weekend was the Missionary Journeys of the great Apostle Paul. Some of the discussion topics were:

- † An overview of the trips and setting the historic context.
- † Pray and Plan at Antioch.
- † Prepare for Problems.
- † Pressure Points.
- † Apostle in jail.

They were delivered by a variety of speakers from across the region giving some MCF leaders a chance to present in their own way. Introductions to the talks were prepared in a brilliant and inspirational way by Commander Brian Parker RN Retd, AMCF VP for Central and South Europe.

Guests from ACCTS USA included LTC(R) Dick Barnes, Bernhard Kaltenbach and their Executive Director, Col(R) Phil

Exner. Rev Steve Peck, an active duty US Chaplain, stationed in Germany ministered to the group by leading a morning reflection and prayer time. The Reverends Mike and Nicky-Sue Terry prepared and shared the Family Table with all the participants in a special way that was sensitive to the different confessional practices of the participants.

In addition to the main sessions there were numerous meetings for fellowship and encouragement, as well as some pray and plan discussions for upcoming trips, projects and overall coordination of the year between MMI, ACCTS USA and the AMCF VPs.

AMCF President, Gen Lee, Pil Sup who motivated us and inspired us with his vision to have an MCF in every country. He also shared about the upcoming AMCF World Conference in 2014. (For more on WC2014 see Page 7)



The AMCF President presents Heiri Minder of the Swiss MCF with the AMCF certificate



Knut Arne and Jonna Aandstad (Norway)



Grozdan and Slavica Stoevski

'St George' Military Christian Fellowship, Bulgaria

At the Zion Church, Nova Zagora, Bulgaria about 20 MCF leaders from around the country met to consider the way forward for the MCF in Bulgaria. After prayer and worship MMI's Regional Team Leader for Europe, Grozdan Stoevski (a former chairman of the Fellowship) presented the work of MMI and the status of the MCFs in Europe in general. He was then invited to preside over the rest of the meeting.

After further prayer several of the MCF leaders took turns in sharing their perspectives on how to proceed with the ministry. And then new leaders

were elected.

Master Sergeant (Retd) Hristov Penkov was elected Chairman and a Financial Manager and two Board members (including the Secretary) were appointed. Then the Assembly approved a new name for the organization – 'St George' Military Christian Fellowship. All the regional MCF leaders present re-committed themselves to the ministry and the work of the Gospel among military people in Bulgaria. All agreed that the new MCF will be open to the Orthodox church – with a multi-confessional approach. This is also reflected in the new name of the MCF.



Members of the new Bulgarian MCF hold their inaugural meeting

“This was a good spiritual preparation for us”

Extracted from MMI's European staff member, Rainer Thorun's report on the Annual MMI Skiing Retreat



“We had an eventful, interesting and inspired week in this mountain warfare training area; perfectly prepared and organised by the Austrians,” reported MMI European staff member, Rainer Thorun leading the 9th MMI Skiing Retreat. This year the theme was: “The Military - In the Bible, Today and in the Future”.

With daily Bible Studies, talks and discussions on topics such as -

- † “Christian commitment”,
- † “A matter of life and death”,
- † “A Christian commander, - what makes the difference?”

as well as:

- † “Work/Life Balance”

and examples like:

- † “The uprising of the Maccabees” and
- † “Dealing with disappointments” -

we focussed on aspects of our relationship with God in modern everyday life”, said Rainer.

Although there were about 27 participants an early deadline (or late decisions!) meant that only 12 were from outside Austria (Germany, Great Britain, and Poland). But nevertheless we had wonderful fellowship in this intimate group.

As MMI looks at the multi-confessional approach to MCF, it was particularly good to have a contribution from an Austrian, Roman Catholic chaplain, Stefan, who got everyone to consider the military life by looking at the first book of Maccabees. This particularly encouraged the Roman Catholic Polish participants.

Rainer described the programme saying, “Most days we skied during the but on one day a corporate sledging activity served as a very special event of great enjoyment.” The Austrian Army skiing instructors again did a very professional job and helped even absolute beginners become almost skiing experts.

Photos (clockwise):

1. The skiing group.
2. With the Commandant (3rd from right).
3. Sledging for a change.



In the evenings the opportunity was given for participants to give a presentation on their country, their armed forces, their way of life and their culture.

The participants views on the week were expressed this way:

“We spoke about the specific military problems in a Christian perspective. It is so good hearing it from officers with their personal experiences rather than from a priest.”

“The wife of an officer said: “It was quite challenging to me to get more involved in the military aspects in the life of my husband”

Others said:

“It was very important to me to learn about burn out, disappointment and being angry with God, it is difficult for me to acknowledge blaming God. I am glad to have been here. I learned a lot, made new friends and have seen that we can learn from our differences.”

“This was a good preparation for us, to hear what we will need when we are commissioned.”

“This was a very different experience, with our singing and just communicating and chatting about God and Christian belief.”

Looking ahead in Europe

† April

- European Naval Christian Link Up
- Cornelius Vereinigung annual meeting (German MCF)
- Ukraine MCF Stewardship Seminar (Grozdan and Slavica Stoeviski leading)

† May

- Camp Trakai (Lithuania)
- MMI Trustee, General Arnvid Løvbukten visiting Albanian MCF
- SIMM Week (UK) - Colonel Karapandzin (Serbia)

† June

- Balkans Missionary Trip
- RIMP (French international chaplaincy meeting)

Africa

MMI Chief Executive/Team Leader with IAEC in the Central African Republic

From a report by MMI CE/TL, Colonel Jos McCabe

Jos McCabe visited the Central African Republic (CAR) in March to take part in a training programme for nearly 40 serving army chaplains in the army provided by the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC). Working with Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministries, IAEC had been asked to deliver the training by the CAR government. Jos was able to assist in some of the training discussions on such subjects as the Chaplain/Commander relationship and the values and standards of soldiers.

"Most importantly," said Jos, "the training programme was supported by the Minister of Defence in person. He met us all and at the opening ceremony emphasised how impor-

tant it was for his country to have well trained Chaplains who could help the soldiers spiritually and improve their behaviour."

Jos was also able to meet with CAR colonel, Maurice Goeleyen, who had attended our Korean partners' Military Evangelism Observation programme in 2010 and had since been trying to form a Military Christian Fellowship. He told Jos that he would liaise more closely with the Chaplaincy so that they could help each other. The CAR MCF is currently awaiting official government approval for their registration and Colonel Goeleyen believes that this will happen very soon. MMI greatly appreciated this IAEC invitation to work with them.



Above: The team and Jos with the CAR Minister of Defence and Chief Chaplain



Right: Chaplains worshipping during the training

From Portugal to Cabo Verde

MMI Regional Staff Member, Colonel Samuel C6ias reports on his first solo missionary trip

After a few "enemy" delays on flights, AMCF regional Vice President, Air Commodore Ishaku Komo (Nigeria), Major General Lawrence Jokotola (Nigeria) & Pastor Sam Adelek (Senegal) arrived in Praia, Cabo Verde. We met up in the Hotel that I had found at 3 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday 7 March on arrival from Lisbon.

As the time was very short for the team from Nigeria/Senegal (only 2 days due to military duties in Nigeria), we called our contacts by phone and then first visited the home of Pastor Armando Sá Nogueira "Nazareth Church (Palmarejo)", in a very friendly and welcome atmosphere. After our AMCF introduction, Pastor Armando gave us the contact of a military member in his church, Colonel Amilcar Baptista who joined us in a meeting before dinner with another soldier WO1 Eduardo Lopes. During this meeting and dinner we invited the present MCF members plus Lieutenant Ana Semedo and Cris, both new

contacts, to hear about the AMCF vision and some MCF stories from around the world at our hotel the next day.

That day Air Commodore Komo presented the AMCF Certificate to Colonel Baptista. This brother was recognized by the present members as the leader to organize and develop the local fellowship. We praised God for the way that He opened doors and led all the way.

In the evening we attended a very nice prayer service illuminated by candle light (due to an energy fault) in "Nazareth Church", where I, after introducing the AMCF team, was invited to pray for the Ladies (it was International Ladies Day). The next morning the Nigeria/Senegal team departed and I continued the MMI mission, presenting AMCF at several churches on Saturday, Sunday & Monday. We give all the glory to God for the success of this missionary trip and ask for your prayers for this new MCF at Cabo Verde Islands.



An East African safari through Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya and South Sudan

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



Ordination of Reverend Charles Okongo

“My first stop on this major mission trip was in **Ethiopia**,” said MMI’s Regional Team Leader, Homfray Vines. “There I met with the leaders of the Defence Christian Fellowship (DCF) and attended a prayer meeting with 75 people (one of about 12 in the city). I was pleased to be able to offer MMI support for the DFC.”

In **Uganda** Homfray attended the ordination of Reverend Charles Okongo as a Deacon in the Church of Uganda by the Most Reverend Henry Orombi, Archbishop of Uganda. It was also attended by AMCF Vice President, Brigadier General David Wakaalo and his wife Ruth, Reverend Canon Emojong from Kenya and Lt Col

Rebecca Mpagi.

“Our visit to **Burundi** to follow up on our visit in March 2011 was brief,” reported Homfray. “Lt Col Rev Freddie Ntakosha,” he continued, “responsible to the Chief Chaplain for the MCF, looked after us.” The Burundians are keen to have an MCF that will hold onto their unity and provide a regular means of prayer, Bible reading and Christian fellowship.

In **Kenya** Homfray had a breakfast meeting with Maj Rev Lelei, who represented the Military Bishop, Simiyu, who was unwell. He briefed on regional AMCF activities and requested Kenyan help in the formation of the Burundi MCF. The purpose of the visit to



Brigadier General Wakaalo (left) and Homfray Vines with SPLA chaplains in Juba

South Sudan was to assist in setting up an MCF. The programme was set up by Pastor Martin of the African Inland Church and hosted by Lt Col Rev Elijah Kuek, who is now the Chief Chaplain of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). Pastor Martin is very committed to setting up an MCF in the SPLA. The visit gave him the opportunity to work with Rev Elijah whom he had not worked with or met before. He wants to establish house to house MCF Bible studies amongst the soldiers along with Monthly gatherings

for the MCF. One evening Homfray was able to enjoy a time of prayer and worship with 20 chaplains, which Pastor Martin attended. They appeared more confident of their role now but still apparently suffer from the spirit of rejection they received when the chaplaincy was not recognised in 2006. It was a good opportunity to encourage them in their work. In summary, there is much that is complex in South Sudan. However there are faithful people serving there who have a heart to start an MCF.

A new AMCF Vice President for Southern Africa

Brigadier General Victor Mohapi from Lesotho has been appointed as the new regional AMCF Vice President for Southern Africa following the retirement of Captain Peter Louwrens, who has done a great job in bringing the region together. The region has MCFs in 12 of its 14 countries, which is one of the highest percentages for anywhere in the world. In May MMI’s Regional Team Leader, Homfray Vines plans to meet up with General Victor in Cape Town to pray and plan the

way forward in the region prior to attending the pray and planning meeting for the AMCF World Conference 2014 (see Page 7). Whilst there they will also investigate and pray over the vision for a successor event to the familiar Table Mountain Top Interaction that has been part of the Southern Africa AMCF programme for several years.

The plan is for General Victor and his wife Mampho to be commissioned by AMCF World President General Lee, Pii Sup

in Lesotho immediately after the meeting in Cape Town. This will provide great opportunities to meet their new Defence Force Commander and church leaders and to request support for General Victor to carry out his important role.

General Victor and Homfray are then looking to visit either Namibia or Zimbabwe, neither of whom currently has an MCF. As you can see there is much still to be confirmed so your prayers would be greatly appreciated.



Brigadier General Victor and Mrs Mampho Mohapi

South Asia

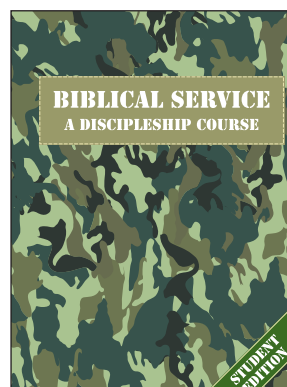
Some current highlights from the South Asia story

The major highlight at this time of our partnership with South Asian MCFs is undoubtedly the formation of a new MCF in the region. Our partnership with the Nepal MCF made it possible for us to identify two delegates for the AMCF Regional Conference. We were overjoyed when they arrived in Sri Lanka and our expectations were exceeded when on 7 January 2012 this new MCF was

born.

We anticipate exploring new avenues in India – particularly the regions of Nagaland and Assam which are approximately 90% and 4% Christian respectively. Some of our CNI friends in India have served or are serving in Assam, so we would hope to work in partnership with the local clergy or chaplaincy. We understand one exists in the Assam Regiments. The MMI

Discipleship Course was originally inspired by this vision. The English version of the Discipleship Course 'Biblical Service' has been published and we anticipate its use in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Please keep praying for the launch of the Course in Pakistan. Beniah have already commissioned the translation into Urdu and will set a date for launch as soon as possible.



MMI Staff begin the year in retreat

MMI staff begin each year with a retreat and training days. The back page tells you who all the MMI staff members are. Many different venues have been used. This year, for the first time, we met at Ladywell Healing and Retreat Centre, a Roman Catholic convent in the Franciscan order. It was a very appropriate setting for discussions on the multi-confessional approach to MCFs - a subject that we are grappling with as we seek to draw Ortho-

dox and Roman Catholic countries into the AMCF and walk the talk of our motto verse "All one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). We are not seeking to resolve an issue that hundreds of years of church history tells us is insolvable, at least not by a small ministry focussing on Christians in the armed forces. Nor do we seek to embrace other denominations with an attitude of, "You are welcome to join us but you do it our way." An earlier expression

used on this topic has been "cooperation without compromise" and that works both ways. At the start of this work we ask for your prayers for the MMI team leading the considerations. Our prayer is that it will draw Christians in the armed forces closer together rather than encourage entrenchment. In the spiritual war we are engaged in it is the enemies desire to divide and conquer where as ours is to build and support.

Former MMI trustee and Roman Catholic, Major David Baldwin assisted us with our preliminary discussions on the multi-confessional approach to MCF.



World Conference 2014 planning

Planning for the AMCF World Conference 2014 is continuing to gather momentum. The Conference Director, Captain Klaas Steyn of the South African Navy, visited the UK in early March on business and took the opportunity to have meetings with Jos McCabe, Homfray Vines and AFCU staff about the World Conference. The Conference Planning Team has recently been boosted by the inclusion of Major Rhett Parkinson from AFCU as the Programme Director. A pray and plan is due to be held in Cape Town in early May at which, it is hoped, a final decision on a venue that will accommodate up to 1,000 people in South Africa will be

made. The Conference Planning Team has already decided that the Conference theme will be based around the book of Joshua. General Lee, Pil Sup, AMCF World President, has also sent a letter to every MCF in the world asking their members to consider offering one day's income in the next 3 years (0.1 of total income) to help fund the World Conference. In MMI we are committed to supporting the South Africans in this event and for this we ask your prayers.



Gathering together from across the Middle East

In view of events of the Arab Spring in the Middle East the Regional Pray and Plan Group decided it was timely to get together our various contacts within the region for a time of fellowship, encouragement and teaching. Cyprus was the obvious venue, providing the least difficulties for delegates coming from the various countries involved. The Retreat, rather than a conference, will be held over the dates 1 to 5 April in the Lordos Beach Hotel on the outskirts of Larnaca.

A total of 17 delegates have been invited from 8 different countries in the region – Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan (Khartoum), Lebanon, Israel, Cyprus and Syria. In addition there will be a total of 10 other delegates

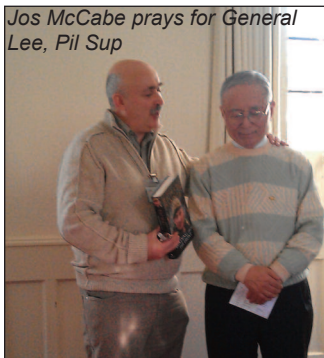
from the AMCF supporting organisations (ACCTS US, MMI and MSO). Regrettably, it appears unlikely that the delegates from Syria will be able to attend due to the current situation in that country. There are still a number of difficulties to overcome, particularly in obtaining visas for some of the delegates and we are praying hard that the Lord will enable the necessary visas to be issued. We believe the Retreat provides a real opportunity for participants to encourage one another and to be encouraged as they seek to develop the Kingdom of God amongst their nation's armed forces during these turbulent times.



Bellapais Abbey Cyprus



Jos McCabe prays for General Lee, Pil Sup



AMCF regional Vice President, Brigadier General Dr Samir Haddadin, with his wife Alia, was a very welcome guest and speaker.

MMI Supporters' Weekend 2012

You might say it was an obvious topic but planning far ahead means it is not easy to touch the mood of the moment so precisely as the Holy Spirit led us on this occasion. For a change the world's agenda seemed to coincide with the Lord's; at least as far as MMI was concerned. Over 110 of us were blessed by a wonderful range of speakers including the AMCF Regional Vice President, Dr Haddadin from Jordan, General and Mrs Akhnoukh from Egypt and Dr Chawkat Moucarry Syrian born and working for World Vision. We learned

much of the complexity of the situation as well as of the many different faces of Islam across the world not just in the Middle East. It was a lively question and answer session after lunch.

Our own regional team leaders opened up the perspective as they spoke on MMI and MCF developments in Europe, South Asia and Africa. We went wider as General Kim, Young Duk from South Korea and Colonel Phil Exner from USA spoke about our sister organisations' work. Then, for what was likely to be his final attendance as AMCF President,

General Lee, Pil Sup gave us his global overview of the Christian Military scene. We will miss this wonderful humble man of God when he hands over as AMCF President and Jos took the opportunity to pray for him on behalf of us all. On Sunday morning we were honoured and blessed by the preaching of the UK Deputy Chaplain General, Rev David Coulter who spoke on the importance of story in the Christian journey. A very fitting end to a weekend considering the ongoing story of God's work amongst the world's armed forces.



World Vision's expert on Islam, Syrian born Chawkat Moucarry opens the day in St Paul's Church, Salisbury.

MMI Programme 2012

April

- 1-5 AMCF Middle East Retreat (Cyprus)
- 19-21 Biblical Stewardship seminar (Ukraine) (Stoevskis)
- 20-22 European Naval Christian Link Up (JMT)
- 20-22 CoV Annual Meeting (RT)
- 27-29 AMCF World Conference P&P (South Africa) (JMcC & HMV)

May

- 12 MMI Prayer Day (Winchester)
- 16-20 Cadet Bible Camp (Lithuania)
- 21-24 Mission trip to Latvia (RT)
- 21-25 SIMM Week
- Mission trip to India and Bhutan (CDPW)

June

- 18-25 MEO South Korea (MGP)
- 19-24 Mission trip to Balkan countries (JMcC, GDS & JMT)
- 21-24 RIMP (France) (GDS)

July

- 21-4/8 New Wine (UK)

August

- 12-17 Sailing Retreat
- 21-23 Mission trip to Angola & São Tomé et Príncipe (SC)
- 23-27 Marriage Seminar (Molodva)

September

- 7-9 Polish MCF 15th anniversary meeting
- Mission trip to Jordan (tbc) (RJS)

October

- 29-31 Hungary Euroseminar



Your QR code to the MMI website

MMI Staff 2012

MMI has a core staff of paid and unpaid members. We are organized into geographical regions each with a Regional Team Leader and in some cases Regional Staff Members. All are under a Chief Executive/Team Leader and there is a secretariat and a prayer coordinator to support the field operations. The title, "team leader" is chosen to re-

flect the servant hearted attitude, with which we endeavour to engage MCFs and contacts in the regions we support.

From time to time, volunteers also join a regional team for a missionary trip or to support the facilitation of a conference or other event.

In 2012 the MMI staff comprises:

Chief Executive/Team Leader -

Colonel (Retd) Jos McCabe OBE

Africa

RTL West & Francophone Africa

Colonel (Retd) Jos McCabe OBE

RTL East and Southern Africa

Major (Retd) Homfray Vines

Staff member lusophonic countries

Colonel (Retd) Samuel Cóias (Portugal)

Europe

RTL Europe

Reverend Grozdan Stoevksi (Bulgaria)

Staff members Europe

Oberstleutnant a.D. Rainer Thorun (Germany)

Colonel (Retd) Igor Sawicki PhD (Poland)

Reverend, Commander Mike Terry RN Retd

Major (Retd) Mark Hibbert-Hingsdon

Middle East

RTL The Middle East

Colonel (Retd) Richard Sandy

South Asia

RTL South Asia

Flight Lieutenant Chris West RAF (Retd)

Prayer Coordinator

Flight Lieutenant Sue Millard RAF (Retd)

Secretary

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Mike Paterson OBE

Finance & Administration Secretary

Mrs Judith Hillary

Patron

General the Lord Dannatt
GCB CBE MC DL

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Maj Gen Tim Cross CBE
Capt Mike Barritt RN
Rev Paul Cowley
Mrs Yvonne Cobbold
Reverend, Colonel (Retd) Richard Cobbold
Lt Col Innocent Shams
Maj Gen Arvid Løvbuken (NO)
Rev Philip Majcher

Associates

Col Charles Amania
Jeremy Clare
Rev Simon Farmer
Mrs Anthea Fillingham
Gen Joshua Hamidu
Col Ivar Hellberg
Gen Sir Laurence New
Cdr Michael and Mrs Sue Piper
Mrs Gina Rajah
Lt Col Jan Ransom
Capt Inge Wold
Mrs Sue Skippage
Ian Willis

HIGHER RATE TAX PAYERS FILING YOUR 2012 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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