

MMI NEWS

AUTUMN
2022

Helping military Christians in armed forces around the world follow Jesus Christ



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UP FRONT

Major General Roddy Porter MBE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE - TEAM LEADER



Dear Friends,

We had a very busy end of summer and autumn season at MMI participating in several important missions in Africa and Europe, whilst planning for others in the Middle East and South Asia. Some of these are reported in this edition, others to follow in our next. We are grateful to God for allowing us to participate in extending His Kingdom and doing work He foresaw before the beginning of time that hastens the Lord's return.

I have been provoked by Jesus' encouragement in Matthew 9:37 to, "... pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." MMI, ACCTS (USA) and MSO (S. Korea) have a band of labourers who are desperate to be sent into the harvest field. In MMI's case, we are often limited by the lack of finances, so my earnest prayer is that the Lord would enable us to get into the field! God is so generous, and we trust Him to provide for our needs. We are seeking to close a £36,000 gap that would be the difference between finishing the year with nothing in the bank and having some funds available to plan events in 2023 with confidence. Will you stand with us in prayer that the Lord might meet this specific need?

I have just returned from the USA, where I witnessed the AMCF World President change of command ceremony. Our much-loved Srilal Weerasooriya has now handed over to Essel Soriano (see his biographical details in our last MMI News). We said a sad 'farewell' to Srilal but are enjoying getting to know Essel and are praying that he would be much used by the Lord in taking the work of the AMCF forward, especially towards the World Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2024. I will write about this conference in our next edition.

Our world is in turmoil and much in need of the Lord's intervention. I am so grateful to all our supporters who faithfully pray daily for the Ukraine situation. Not only do we sense that the Lord hears our prayers and is acting sovereignly but we believe He is also training us to pray together for other situations that will doubtless arise later.

It is a joy to be in partnership with you in seeking the Lord on behalf of the world's armed forces and following as he leads us.

Every blessing to you,

Roddy

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A letter from Vasily Khimich, Leader Ukraine Protestant MCF

Dear MMI Family,

Thank you so much for your prayer support of Ukraine and our ministry!

Our current concerns and prayer requests are for:

1. God's protection for Ukrainian Power system and for the repair of damaged power points and lines.
2. God's protection of the water and gas systems in Ukraine.
3. That Ukrainians may, with God's help, live through the winter – pray they will have access to heat, power, water, phone communication and internet.
4. Our soldiers -
5. Our political and military authorities- that God gives them special wisdom in how to lead the country and troops during the war.
6. The prisoners of war.
7. Wounded soldiers.
8. Valya's work with the war widows.
- 8.The Ukrainian economy.
9. Countries that help Ukraine - may God bless them richly.

We hope you understand these requests. Please pray for our ministry.

May God bless you all!

Vasily <>

**MMI Praying Daily
for Ukraine/Russia
17.00 GMT on zoom.**

Zoom Link from prayer@mmi.org.



Breakthrough in Romania

CE/TL MMI: GENERAL RODDY PORTER

During the International Orthodox Consultation (IOC 4) in May 22, reported in our summer edition, Grozdan Stoevski and I had discussed with Stanislaw Cinal (Director, Alpha for Europe) the possibility of a mission visit to the Nicolae Bălcesu Ground Forces Academy in Sibiu, Romania. Alpha Europe hoped to receive an invitation to discuss offering the course material to the Army Chaplain there and I asked to be included on the visit should such a meeting transpire. Seasoned supporters will recall that it was during a mission trip to this academy in 2005 that the then MMI CE/TL, Reverend General Ian Durie, was tragically killed in a road traffic accident alongside the Commandant (Nicolae Uscoi), driver and escort whilst visiting a Cadet Bible Camp MMI was running with the Academy. Was this visit a chance to restart these Bible Camps?

At short notice this September, the invitation was forthcoming and Grozdan and I eagerly accepted it. We joined Stanislaw in Sibiu, accompanied and facilitated by two members of the Romanian National Alpha Board, Mitica Craciun and Thomas Kraus. By an extraordinary act of God, Thomas had witnessed the accident as a teenager in 2005 and had provided immediate assistance. Now, here he was, a fine Christian man, Sibiu Counsellor, and a great 'Mr Fixit' for the Lord, facilitating MMI's return to the same Academy.

We sensed the Lord's hand firmly on the occasion.

We received a formal yet very warm military welcome on arrival at the Academy and, in a private office call with the Commandant, Ghita Bârsan, we reflected on our deceased predecessors and I expressed the hope that we might be able to pick up the work in which they had been engaged. Thereafter, the team received an excellent briefing on the work and outputs of the Academy and enjoyed a full tour of the facilities. It is a highly developed 'state of the art' academic and military institution where, over a 4-year course, Officer Cadets are trained using the latest IT and virtual/enhanced reality simulation techniques. I enjoyed flying a virtual reality helicopter over Sibiu from a classroom.

Following our tour, we had the pleasure of a long session with the Orthodox Chaplain, Father Pavel Florin, a delightful servant of Jesus, whose passion for presenting the Gospel to the Cadets was evident, as was his frustration that there was never enough time to do so. We had hardly begun our pitch about the Bible Camps when he interjected that he had been dreaming about the opportunity to re-commence them. We had hoped that we might be pushing at an open door but the Lord had clearly blown it off its hinges! We quickly agreed to work on a

formal application to hold a Bible Camp in 2023 and Fr Florin said that, as soon as he had it, he would bid for funding from the Academy.

In parallel, Fr. Florin, although unfamiliar with Alpha, expressed his willingness to receive copies of the scripts that the Orthodox team are drafting (an important output of IOC 4) and, if he liked them, he stated his willingness to gain approval from his Bishop and the Commandant to use them in the Academy.

Our mission at the Academy was completely fulfilled and it was as if the Lord was enabling us to pick up where Ian Durie and Nicolae Uscoi had left off. We sensed their work was not to be in vain. However, there was more to be done. Thomas Kraus, amongst a myriad of activities, had founded a Christian fellowship for young businessmen and women (called Lead 3-D) and he invited us to address a gathering that evening. Preparation time available was minutes, rather than hours, but we greatly enjoyed what turned out to be an engaging evening. Around 40 people, not all professing Christians, gathered in a town centre hotel, where Grozdan and Stanislav shared short testimonies about God's faithfulness in business ventures and I spoke for a while about decision-making in crisis, telling stories about God's leading and provision on military operations. The engagement and discussions afterwards were rewarding and I particularly enjoyed the challenge of developing the theme of loving one's enemy whilst fighting him! It was a great joy to have the Romanian MCF leader, Mihai Bruma, with us during the evening, together with a young Captain in the Romanian Army, Alexandra, who is clearly on fire for the Lord. She is excited about what might

be accomplished in the MCF. Our final major task was to scout out suitable venues for the Bible Camp and an Alpha Europe Leaders' Conference to be held in Sibiu in 2023. This proved to be easier than we thought because Thomas Kraus knew exactly where to take us and was well known to all the facility managers. We toured a wonderful new alpine facility, about an hour's drive from Sibiu, with everything needed for a Cadet event. We also agreed a short-list of venues for the Alpha Conference.

In between times, we had long discussions about how God seemed to be moving across

Christian expressions and networking people of different churchmanship and what He might be inviting us all to do in Romania in the future. Some dreaming out loud was done. And, during a breakfast meeting on the final day, we felt it right to pray for our younger brethren – Thomas, Mitica and Alexandra. We had a powerful time of prayer around the hotel breakfast table, with tears shed and a real sense of the Lord's commissioning of these lovely people. Alexandra reflected later that she had heard about how the Holy Spirit could touch people but had not experienced His touch for herself until that moment. She was looking forward to attending the Adria Interaction in Croatia in October. God is good and His timing is perfect.

Despite the fleeting nature of the visit, we all sensed God's timing and pleasure in it. Doors are wide open for effective ministry in Romania and we now pray that we can enlist the permissions necessary and plant a Bible Camp in the Academy's diary. Pray that we can restart these Cadet Camps and for Fr Florin as he works for time, finances and permission to do so.

Page 5: Roddy presents MMI Literature to Commandant Bărsan.

Page 6: Grozdan presents an icon to Fr Florin at the military academy in Sibiu.



West Balkans Trip

REGIONAL TEAMLEADER EUROPE: REV. GROZDAN STOEVSKI

During August the MMI Team Leader Europe, Rev Grozdan Stoevski and his wife, Slavica, together with MMI co-worker Europe, Drazen Hrzenjak and his wife, Tina, carried out an exploratory mission trip to the West Balkans, focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the southern part of Croatia (Dubrovnik area) and Montenegro.

Here is the story as told by Grozdan: "Slavica and I started early in the morning on our motorbike journey to Sarajevo and arrived in the early afternoon. The same day we were met by Svetlana Brezo (also known as "Tsetsa"), a local missionary, former Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) staff and an old friend of Slavica. Tsetsa took us to the small village of Kievo, just outside Sarajevo, in the Republic of Srbska where we met with Zika, a Bosnian Muslim and former war veteran. Zika and another 300 Bosnian militia personnel held a 45 km line during the fighting with the Yugoslav army. Zika fought throughout the four-year war and was wounded in battle several times. I was able to share with him about the love of God, the importance of forgiveness and confession and gave him a small Orthodox booklet on confession. Several days later Tsetsa sent a message to say that Zika had been moved by our meeting and has started reading the Bible. There are thousands of "Zikas" in Bosnia who need someone to reach out to them and tell them about the love of God. Later that day we met with Pentecostal

Pastor Sasha, a Bosnian Serb who serves the Lord in Sarajevo. He fought in the war for 2 years, on the side of the Bosnian federation, against the Yugoslav Army. Sasha showed me a book, "Hearts grown brutal – sagas of Sarajevo", by Roger Cohen (available on Amazon). There in the book was Sasha's picture with long hair, beard and automatic rifle in hand.

In the evening Slavica, Tsetsa and I, met with two other pastors, Slavko Hadzic, who I had met in 2013, and pastor Dragan Nedic. I showed Slavko the Serbian Bible he had given me then. They gave us a detailed description of the spiritual condition in Sarajevo and Bosnia and they were very interested in the Alpha for Orthodox project, which they thought could be used among the Bosnian Serbs in the Republic of Srbska. The next day Drazen and I had a good meeting with Pastor Karmelo Kresonja (Croatian by descent), who had moved to Mostar in 1995 and since then has pastored the only evangelical church in town. He was diagnosed with PTSD but has now recovered. Pastor Karmelo told us of the heavy corruption and high level of crime in Mostar, Sarajevo and Bosnia. However, he remains cheerful and full of the love of Christ. He also agreed to help us in anyway the Lord might provide.

Two days later Slavica and I met with Pastor Miodrag ("Mimi") in Kotor, Montenegro, who was there with his family. We had some good conversations about the spiritual



Grozdan attending a House Church in Montenegro.

condition and challenges in Montenegro. The Evangelical community is very small there, less than 1000 people, and there are only 7 churches throughout the country. The Orthodox Church of Montenegro is nationalistic which can make evangelicals feel threatened. Pastor Mimi arranged for us to attend a home church, led by Pastor Srđan. The meeting was secluded and low key, just some gentle worship on acoustic guitar, prayer and a 30 min sermon in a conversational, informal manner. It was a very humbling and insightful experience. God was definitely present in a very authentic, New Testament-way.

We then travelled to the town of Nikšić where we met with Pastor Sinisha, a definite highlight of the trip. He was born and raised in the USA by Montenegro immigrant parents. He graduated from college, did the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Programme and joined the Navy as a Chaplain. He served for a number of years, reaching the rank of Lt Commander and at one point ministered to 10 000 sailors and mariners. In 1996 he and his American wife felt led by the Lord to return to Montenegro and accept the pastoral call in Nikšić. Pastor Sinisha now leads a vibrant, growing non-denominational Church which, in partnership with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), focuses on working among students. After the meeting in Mostar with pastor Kornel Kresonja, Dražen met with brother Nikša in Dubrovnik, one of the most zeal-



ous Christians in Dubrovnik and an active member of the MCFC. Considering the geographical location of Dubrovnik, he is willing and ready to work on establishing relationships in Herzegovina and Montenegro and attended this year's Adria Interaction for that purpose. On the way back from Dubrovnik, Dražen and his family stopped in Zadar to visit Božo - already known to some as a zealous and prayerful member of the Croatian MCF (MCFC). Božo knows the majority of evangelical Christians from the area of the former Yugoslavia. In this context, he proposed we consider the participation of representatives of MCFC and (or) MMI in the Men's Christian conference "Cuvar brata svoga" ("Guard your brother"), which is held once a year. Božo also attended Adria Interaction'22.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is very different from the situation in Montenegro because of the Christian background of the country. There is potential for military ministry, and to reach out to the Orthodox population in both countries - the Serbian Orthodox in the Republic of Srpska and the Orthodox Church of Montenegro. MMI's cooperation with Alpha International to produce an Orthodox version of the Alpha course could be strategic.

Top: Grozdan Chatting with veteran Zika.
Left: Dražen with Nikša in Dubrovnik.



Chaplains Basic Training in Kinshasa DRC

CRU AND MMI CO-WORKER FRANCOPHONE AFRICA: AUGUSTIN TCHENKOUA

I often become aware of God's presence in what I do. This presence is often manifested by an exceptional situation that happens in unexpected ways. However, what we experienced on this trip was more than exceptional. I have never been so challenged in my work as an evangelist.

It all starts with Steve, a team member of the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC), whose mother was ill. Because of this illness, he mentioned the possibility of not coming to Kinshasa. Later, he wrote to us to announce a delay in the team's arrival instead and we felt relieved.

Then we heard that General Sezan, who was to be our fourth IAEC trainer, did not have authorization from his Minister to leave the territory.

On our side, Colonel Kouakap and I experienced real adversity. It seemed that everything was being done to obstruct us and that we would never arrive in Kinshasa. It took us three days to cover a distance that we could have covered in four hours.

We want to give thanks to OUR GOD who has removed all the traps of the enemy from our path. We want to thank all of you who have raised us to the LORD. The extraordinary things that happened were done in answer to your prayers for us and for the Chaplains Training.



The Chaplains Training started on Tuesday, September 27 at 9:00 am. Arriving in Kinshasa at 5am, we were not able to sleep nor to change because our luggage had remained in

Abidjan. The Lord gave us the strength to teach three of the four sessions we had planned to give.

After that, the training went well, and our luggage arrived on Thursday.

With great pleasure we received the Chief of Staff on Friday. He surprised us by attending the teaching we were giving and then we prayed for him. He attended the session entitled 'Chaplain - commander Relationship'. At the end, he asked that the same lesson would be given to his officers the next time we came to Kinshasa.

We closed the training on Saturday, October 1, however, it was on Sunday, October 2 that we had the graduation ceremony. This took place during a service that was held in the chapel of the biggest barracks in the City of Kinshasa. I was surprised to learn that I was the preacher of the day while I was going to church! But, by the grace of God, I was able to give a message.

A total of 57 chaplains followed the teachings from the beginning to the end. Again, I would like to thank God for the grace and pleasure he gives me to serve him!

'The Lord has granted growth' in Tanzania.

[MMI FIELDWORKER AFRICA EAST AND AFRICA SOUTH COLONEL \(RET.\) HERMANN MEYER,](#)



Main Picture: Camp Chita "miraculous multiplication of young military believers in 7 months". Inset: Founding group of 16 + visitors.

In October 21 Fieldworker Hermann undertook a ministry trip to Tanzania to support and renew MMI's relationship with Tanzanian military Christians. The opportunity for a follow-up visit came in Jun 22 when Hermann represented MMI at the East Africa Prayer Convention (EAPC) in Uganda. As the countries are neighbours it was too good an opportunity to miss, especially as Hermann had also made appointments with the Kenya MCF and Military Episcopate – Kenya being the third adjacent country which shares borders at Lake Victoria.

After the promising revival in October 2021 (see MMI News Spring 2022) the founding member of MCF TZN, Dr. Joyce Kabadi, told that Hermann "The devil was well aware of this initiative and has immediately started his insidious attacks", for example: denial of access for the purpose of ministry work inside Tanzania Peoples Defence Force (TPDF) installations, blocking MCF TZN's formal registration, obstructions and difficult challenges in MCF board members' personal situations, the loss of family members and of MCF supporters, and there is still no Military Chaplaincy – which TPDF used to have a long time

ago. It seems the antagonist is striving to permanently impede the ministry of MCF TZN and to obstruct the growth of God's kingdom within the military forces.

A comprehensive discussion of this dramatic SitRep took place at Dr. Joyce's home outside Dar es salaam and was followed by insistent pleading prayer by three board members and Hermann. This type of spiritual combat has to be conducted with determination, patience, wisdom and with unfailing trust in the unlimited power of the Lord. Hermann gave encouragement along the lines of Matthew 10:16. He has also put them in contact with the Ugandan MCF who have comprehensive experience of military ministry inside military forces where there is no military Chaplaincy.

Yet there is a reason for great joy and gratitude - the development of a group of military Christians in a remote TPDF camp in the south-western part of Tanzania. During the initial meeting in October 2021 Hermann found a small group of 16 soldiers with their Captain, a young committed Christian with outstanding potential for becoming a Christian role model to the soldiers under his command. However, spiritual attack followed. Merely a few weeks after the

founding of this military Christian group (see MMI News Spring 2022) their Captain was posted to a distant place and so was unable to continue to give spiritually leading or even mentoring to the young soldiers. MMI's communications both with the captain at his new posting and with the group in the camp were interrupted and eventually stopped.

"But the Lord ..." (2.Tim. 4:17) seemed to be put into effect. Three weeks prior to Hermann's arrival in Tanzania this June, one of the young soldiers from the previous year's visit made contact with Hermann and sent a photograph of a

Sunday service which clearly showed that the group had almost quadrupled in 7 months! A young military Christian, Tumsafi, says: "The Lord has granted growth – by faith and by numbers. We want to expand further and have already some ideas about how to invite many more soldiers to know Jesus. We need your advice and support." During Hermann's remaining time in Tanzania, prayers and ideas were shared via WhatsApp and Facetime, and Maj Christine, MMI's point of contact in Tanzania, offered her assistance as well and will continue to support the group via WhatsApp from Lugalo. Praise the Lord!

Mungu asifiwe!' (Praise God!) for an outstanding opportunity with the Kenyan Defence Force.

[MMI FIELDWORKER AFRICA EAST AND AFRICA SOUTH COLONEL \(RET.\) HERMANN MEYER,](#)

After several years of silence, the dormant relationship between MMI and MCF Kenya (MCF-K) was rekindled in October 2021 during a brief visit which we hoped would revive our former fruitful relationship, with its mutual benefits for the Lord's kingdom in His military vineyard. This first visit with key leaders of the Kenya Defence Force (KDF) and the Military Episcopate, who are double-heading as MCF-K's board, agreed to future mutual prayer support and the exchange of training aids for chaplains and teaching staff within MCF-K.

Hermann worked to foster this new relationship and met with KDF Principal Chaplain, Col. Rev. Alfayo Lelei, together with a 5-heads-delegation, at the East Africa Prayer Convention, one week before this visit to Uganda. Hermann received an invitation to meet, speak and teach troops of the KDF in their garrison. As Hermann had been a Paratrooper in the German Army for more than 40 years of active duty, he was very glad to be

invited to give ministry to paratroopers of the 20th Parachute Battalion KDF Army Special Operations Brigade (ASOB).

This unit has extensive experience in military operations both in maintaining Kenya's political sovereignty and also on Peace Keeping Missions abroad – especially with AMISOM/ATMIS in Somalia – where the unit is currently involved. So, immediately after being welcomed by the unit's Commanding Officer and the garrison commander, the unit's memorial stone was visited, commemorating and honouring 20th Paras killed in action. On this occasion John 15:13 was proclaimed: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Hermann spoke to more than 250 soldiers on military attitude and leadership which are important for daily military life as well as in extreme military situations.

For example, he taught how a God-loving soldier can handle ethical dilemmas in situations through relying on various words from Scripture. Another topic taught was how the military Decision-Making Process (DCM) could be used in spiritual combat against the forces of evil and of darkness, along the lines of Ephesians 6:10-18, and the questions to be considered and answered in fighting the antagonist, such as who is the enemy? Where is the enemy? What are the enemy's most likely intentions? What are the enemy's TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures) and how will he conduct his attacks? What are the consequences for our successful defence / for our effective counteractions? What is the effective Armour of God for us as Christian soldiers?

A remarkable fact was that amongst the mostly Christian audience, soldiers and

officers of Moslem faith were also present as the ASOB's CO had emphasized the need to know God's Word and its meaning for their military profession.

'Mungu asifiwe!' (Swahili for Praise God!) for this outstanding opportunity. HE is the heart and the anchor point of our Abrahamic religions. A meeting with the garrison's Protestant chaplains and with the military congregation's church board was conducted in great unity in the Spirit.

On the last day of the visit, the KDF Principal Chaplain stated his intention to conduct an MCF-K activity with invitations to AMCF VP for the region, to all MCF-neighbours in the region and a selected international attendance. An initial Pray & Plan meeting suggested the 25th anniversary of the founding of the MCF-K (in 2023) could offer a suitable occasion for such an event.



Above: Hermann speaking to 250 paratroopers of the 20th Parachute Battalion Kenyan defence Force.

Opposite Page: Left -Right São Tomé and Príncipe MCF President, WO1 Carlos Ceita, Lt Col Felicina Mondlhane (Mozambique), Lt. Marçal Lima and Samuel.

Fellowship and friendships renewed in São Tomé e Príncipe

REGIONAL TEAM LEADER LUSOPHONE AFRICA, LT COL SAMUEL CÓIAS

On behalf of the AMCF and with the support of MMI, Lt Col Samuel Cóias (Portugal) and LtCol Felicina Mondlhane (Mozambique) visited São Tomé and Príncipe during the summer this year. The visit had been planned the previous year, but was postponed due to Covid-19. São Tomé and Príncipe is a small country made up of two islands: São Tomé (larger) and Príncipe (smaller) in the Atlantic Ocean between Gabon and Angola (a former Portuguese colony). Its Armed Forces - Army and Navy, have around 1000 military personnel and a small MCF. The MCF was founded as a result of the contact between Capt Samuel Cóias (FAP - Pilot) and Lt. Marçal Lima (Liason Officer, São Tomé Army) during a Portuguese military food aid mission to the country in 1987 (Hercules C-130 air bridge). Subsequently, contact was maintained through visits of encouragement, joining-in with military missions, and in recent years having the President of the MCF - SMor Eugénio Mota, living in Portugal and so participating with the Portuguese MCF as well as the São Tomé MCF.

In 2021, with the support of MMI, Eugénio returned to São Tomé to transfer the Presidency of the MCF to WO1 Carlos Ceita. The ceremony was carried out by the General Staff of the Armed Forces and was attended by Gen Idalécio Pachire, Chief of the General Staff, Col Marçal Lima and other personnel, with more joining via Zoom, including AMCF VP Africa South, Capt. Peter Louwrens; MMI Lusophone team, LtCol Samuel Cóias and LtCol Felicina Mondlhane, and MEP (Portuguese MCF) leaders Col Fernando Freire and MSarg Jorge Raposo.

This most recent visit in July 22 began with the presentation of greetings and a briefing on the AMCF and MMI mission to the current Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Gen Olinto Paquete, and the Chief of Staff of the Army and Commander of Instruction, Col José Menezes, who warmly welcomed us with



sympathy and openness! We were allowed to give a presentation about AMCF and MMI to the Commander and all military personnel in the Instruction Unit, including the distribution of camouflaged Bibles and Challenge newspapers, sharing testimonies, and praying for the military and the nation.

There was also the opportunity to visit sick military personnel at the Military Health Centre, to which Bibles and Challenge newspapers, were offered by Lt Col Felicina Mondlhane, together with witness and prayer. We also visited and participated in the services of the Seventh-day Adventist and Assembly of God churches, where we were very well received and blessed, and we were able to share about the mission of AMCF and of MMI. The visit ended with a lunch of fellowship and friendship with the members of the MCF, their families and friends including the Former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Gen Idalécio Pachire and the Fireman Commander - Cmdr Felisberto, both of whom confirmed their support for MCF and its President WO1 - Carlos Ceita and thanked MMI for the visit and support. We ended up holding each other's hands and praying, led by Lt Col Felicina Mondlhane.

South Africa Road Trip Phase One

MMI REGIONAL TEAM LEADER AFRICA EAST AND SOUTH: MAX MUPANDI

In Praying and Planning a road trip across South Africa by the outgoing AMCF VP Capt. (Navy Ret'd) Peter Louwrens and MMI Regional Team Leader Africa East & South Rev. Max Mupondi, it became apparent that more than two weeks would be required, so it was broken down into two phases over two years. God willing, Max and Peter will undertake Phase 2 in mid-2023. Phase one took place in July this year.

The main aims of the road trip were to meet with Christian military believers and chaplains in the nine provinces of the Republic of S. Africa (RSA) and neighbouring countries for prayer, Bible study and fellowship, building good working relationships and establishing strong, SAMCF*/Chaplain contacts and to establish provincial MCF committees. Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding through missing messages, some chaplains received a message from the Chaplain General's (CG) office not to attend the SAMCF meetings, but the Lord provided key contacts in each place.

*South Africa MCF

Oudtshoorn, Western Cape

The first port of call was Oudtshoorn, the 'Ostrich capital of the world,' situated to the east of the Western Cape. It is thought to have been the birthplace of apartheid before it spread across the RSA. Peter had a burden to plant a prayer group at the Army Infantry School, a notorious camp disdained by locals due to its bad reputation – especially the operating of a brothel, and the reported suicide of a young female soldier after being sexually abused by a senior officer. Peter tried to arrange an appointment with the CO but was turned down. However, the Lord connected them to retired police Inspector Seggie, an

ordained evangelist of Indian descent who is passionate about police and military ministries. Before retirement, Seggie was based at the local Police Training School and decided to stay in Oudtshoorn so he could reach out to recruits and staff with the gospel. Max and Peter also met Bonggi, a retired former RSM at the Army Infantry School, now living in Umtata, Kwa Zulu Natal.

During his time as RSM at the notorious camp, he ordered the destruction of the brothel and restored discipline and respect at the unit, but the situation deteriorated again after he retired. Seggie had previously tried to reach out and support the chaplain at the Army Infantry School and he felt honoured to be asked to be the MCF key contact in Oudtshoorn. He accompanied Peter and Max to a planned meeting with Chaplain Dingiswayo but, on arrival they learned that the head chaplain was not available and had delegated her junior, Chaplain Joseph to attend the meeting. Although he appeared indifferent at first, he agreed to link Seggie with a group of three female soldiers meeting occasionally for prayer at the unit. Seggie arranged to visit the group with his wife before inviting other soldiers to join the group.

Gqeberha, Eastern Cape

"The next morning, we left Oudtshoorn for Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth. The roads were marred with potholes in the Eastern Cape, but we arrived at the Army Support Base in time for supper at the officers' mess, however we had to look for alternative accommodation outside the base as keys for the rooms Peter had reserved could not be found". However, they had an encouraging meeting with head chaplain Diniso, who is happy to promote and oversee the work of re-establishing an MCF



Meeting with the Kwa Zulu Natal (KZN) MCF Committee outside Durban.

committee, and mobilising fellow chaplains from nearby navy and air force bases to support the initiative. He was excited that MMI supports both chaplaincy and the MCF. He also requested assistance in getting Camo Bibles in English, (being the operational language of the South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF)).

They also met the acting CO of the Naval base, who had been a student of Peter's. Although brought up in a Christian home, he's no longer a practising believer but suggested a warrant officer under his command who was interested in leading an MCF group at the base, however the WO was on leave. During this meeting Peter gave testimony of backsliding as a young officer, and how God used the Officers' Christian Union to bring him back to faith, clearly showing the importance of an MCF.

Bloemfontein, Free State

"At Bloemfontein we were due to meet a woman who had indicated she wanted to be part of the new MCF committee, but was nowhere to be found: however

we bumped into Sgt Henry Kamm, an old acquaintance of Peter's and a former member of the MCF at Port Elizabeth. We prayed together and Henry promised to mobilise people in the area who would be interested in joining the new MCF".

Peter and Max were also able to meet with Chaplain Khamadi, who promised to lead the work of setting up an MCF committee for the Free State. He plans to work with other chaplains in the area and with Sgt Henry to form an all-inclusive MCF committee which will operate with the blessing of the chaplaincy. Chaplain Khamadi and Sgt Henry are passionate about witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kimberly, Northern Cape

Peter and Max had a fruitful meeting with two chaplains, despite one of them receiving a call from the CG's office advising him not to attend the meeting. This particular chaplain supports the MCF working in harmony with the chaplaincy and is fired up to lead the work of establishing a committee

comprised of members from various services and units in the Northern Cape. The other chaplain will be retiring by the end of the year and is enthused by the prospect of continuing ministry to the military through SAMCF. "We believe these two Chaplains are the key contacts the Lord raised to establish a provincial committee to reach out with the gospel to military bases and stations in the Northern Cape."

Durban, Kwa Zulu Natal (KZN)

A day's drive from Kimberley brought Peter and Max to the Jivannadi Mission, outside Durban in KZN province, where Evangelist Chris Meyer, producer of the SAMCF At Ease radio programme, had arranged accommodation. They were able to meet with the KZN MCF committee in Durban, where they were joined by the SAMCF President, Col (Retd) Blessing Mbuyazi. Blessing was busy with community work following the devastating floods in KZN. Blessing promised to be available to support the new leadership. The following day they had a productive meeting with the acting Commander Durban Naval Base, Capt. (Navy) Vusi Dladla, Col



Blessing and Sgt Alson. Vusi, a strong Christian, is very positive about the MCF and willing to work with Sgt Alson and his team to help them establish a group on the base. Peter and Max got back to Jivannadi Mission in time for their interview on Good News Community Radio with Greg Denysschen. The interview focussed on their respective roles and experiences with AMCF and MMI, and will be available on the MMI website.

Pretoria, Gauteng

The road trip ended with an inspirational meeting with Frans Meyer at the Bethany Baptist Church. Frans is an acquaintance of Peter's from the years he was based in Pretoria: he is an elder of that church and assists SAMCF in distributing the Challenge Newspaper. He is a Zimbabwean born veteran who served 6 years in the Airforce before moving to S. Africa in 1981 where he joined the S. African Air Force and served for 34 years. He is passionate about sharing how his faith shaped his military career and reaching the military with the gospel. He understands the need for



MCFs to build trust with the chaplaincy and is in good relationship with some key chaplains, and with both retired and serving individuals - who he will invite to be part of the provincial MCF committee that he will lead. Max believes that with good support, a proactive committee will be established in the heart of RSA.

There was a positive and exciting outcome to the Phase One S. Africa Road Trip. Where provincial MCF committees could not be established, the Lord provided key contacts and supportive chaplains who are now leading or supporting the work of establishing provincial committees which will reach out with the gospel to all four services of the SANDF - Army, Airforce, Navy, and Medical Services, and the SAMCF President intends to invite retired Chaplain General Brig Gen Jamanjile to be involved with the SAMCF.

Many of the contacts made have accepted invitations to join the Regional Pray and Plan Group and participate on the MMI PrayerLink which will encourage and inspire them with news of events and ministries in other regions.

The Chaplain General and his team have agreed to meet with Peter and the SAMCF to chart the way forward. This will be a crucial meeting in Cape Town needing much prayer - the date is yet to be set.

This page: Kimberley, North Cape. Peter Lowrens and Max meeting with Chaplains Rev. Moncho and Rev Petersen.

Opposite page: Peter and Max with activists in Oudtshoorn, Western Cape
Next page (18): In Lesotho with the Chaplains and their wives.

Max would like to express great appreciation to MMI supporters who made the road trip possible through their prayers and generous giving:

**" The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make His face
shine upon you,
and be gracious to you".**
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Amen!



Encouraging Chaplains in Maseru, Lesotho

MMI REGIONAL TEAM LEADER AFRICA EAST AND SOUTH: MAX MUPANDI

The outgoing AMCF VP, Peter Louwrens, and Max visited the military chaplaincy of the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho in July 2022 to encourage and promote the re-launch of their Military Christian Fellowship and establish new contacts to pray and enjoy fellowship with military believers in their armed forces. They travelled from Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth, and reached the border at 5pm - a peak hour on a Friday and the place was buzzing. After a little difficulty at the border, they were in Lesotho!

The chaplains treated their spouses to a night out at the Motholeng Gardens guesthouse where Peter and Max were to stay. The Chief Chaplain asked them to talk on marriage. After dinner, Peter introduced himself then said 'We have an ordained minister all the way from the UK who will speak to you about marriage!' Max encouraged the chaplains and their spouses from Ephesians 5:25-31, which starts "husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph 5:25). He used the

example of a well-watered garden as a picture of a healthy marriage and warned against failing to appreciate each other or taking the other for granted. This was well received - especially by the wives.

Peter and Max were able to spend the following day with ten of the twelve chaplains at their offices, where they had opportunities to make presentations on AMCF and MMI/PSOs and distribute gifts and literature. They learned that the Lesotho Defence Force Chaplaincy is a relatively new 'kid on the block' having been established in the twenty-first century with support from the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Chaplain General. Currently there are twelve men and women who constitute the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Chaplaincy, many of whom were already serving as soldiers but holding some theological credentials and ordinations in their own denominations.

As their final day was Sunday, Peter and

Max were invited to join the Deputy Chief Chaplain Rev Tsepiso Joseph Molefi at the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he ministers. Max was invited to share the Word of God; he encouraged the saints to a closer walk with the Lord despite the hardships or losses being suffered by people everywhere, using Habakkuk 3:17-19. People testified it was a 'rhema' word for them and many congregants came forward to be prayed for. After the service, they joined the church in visiting a local orphanage with gifts of food and other gifts.

This article captures only the highlights of the trip, but the many green shoots, forged relationships, seemingly little miracles, open ministry doors, and opportunities that the Lord presented in Lesotho will take many years to be realised. With support and follow-up, the trip will bear much fruit for the glory of God. Great feedback was received during and after the trip from chaplains and key leaders saying, 'Thank you for coming to support us.' The lack of military

chaplaincy training and experience was identified as their urgent need and this has now been referred to IAEC to see if they could provide online chaplaincy training in the short term and conduct a physical event in Maseru when the time is right. Some of the contacts made have already been invited to RPPG meetings and to join the MMI PrayerLink, and now receive MMI literature electronically to encourage and keep them inspired from reports, events and ministries happening in other regions. Prayer issues raised from the trip were included on MMI PrayerLink and during our recent RPPG meeting for Africa East & South. Max believes that many will look back to the trip as the wellspring of revival and resurgence of the Lesotho MCF and chaplaincy. Last but not least, Max wishes to extend deep gratitude to MMI supporters who made the trip possible through their giving and prayers. "We pray the Lord will continue to bless and use you abundantly for His purposes. Shalom!"

Renewing friendships in Israel and Palestine

MMI REGIONAL TEAM LEADER MIDDLE EAST: RICHARD MERYON

In the summer, RTL Middle East Richard and Rosalind visited Israel, where they had previously lived for 7 years, with the aim of reconnecting with Believers serving in the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the Palestinian Police. Richard and Rosalind started their visit in Palestine, and were able to meet up with K, a Christian police officer, his wife and baby. K introduced Richard to his boss and they were able to have a good conversation. K is quite isolated in his Christian belief, and only knows of one other believer in the Palestinian police. Then on to Israel and a visit to friend Yoel, founder and director of Netivah.

The Netivah website explains that Netivah "intentionally invest in and target the vulnerable years of youth with support, mentorship, friendship, community, prayer, and solid instruction in the Word of God. From pre-military spiritual training, conferences, respite

retreats, small group discipleship, and team-building activities, every aspect of Netivah builds up the youth of Israel from the inside out."

As Israel has conscription, the pre-military duty spiritual training for teenage Christians is significant and a spiritual lifeline.

Richard describes the Soldiers' Programme, as "world-leading, exemplary and enviable" He is praying about exploring the possibility of young MCF members from other regions attending some of the Netivah courses, and some MCFs running equivalent courses for pre-military service believers.

Sadly, some friendships Richard and Rosalind had planned to renew were impeded by Covid, and technical difficulties, but all in the Middle East are now looking forward to 'The Gathering' in Beirut in 2023.

Experiencing South Korea and the Military Evangelization Observation Programme.

MMI SUPPORTER CPL JOSH MARLOW

Hello! I am an aircraft engineer in the RAF currently serving at RAF Brize Norton.

I am married to Gemma who is a part-time artist and care assistant. In late June this year, I was blessed with being a delegate at the Military Evangelization Observation programme (MEO-P) 22 in South Korea.



If I am completely honest, I wasn't sure what to expect. I was excited to go to South Korea, most likely a once in a lifetime trip for me but I was also apprehensive as I was unsure what God was going to say to me whilst I was there.

On arrival, I was met at Incheon International Airport by Choi SangBok, a Marine Corps Col (Ret) and Lt Col (Ret) Kim Sung-geun. From that point, amongst the broken English and my complete lack of Korean, Google translate became my friend. After waiting for another two hours for Kalybek Bagytov from Kazakhstan, who spoke no Korean or English, we were taken for our PCR tests.

After a quick bite to eat at the Navy Chapel we arrived at our accommodation at the Air Force Hotel, where I finally met my roommate, MMI representative Mark H-H! I had every intention of having a nap before our next commitment, however I prioritised a shower and conversation with Mark who, having done this before, was able to tell me all the intricacies of the event.

That evening, all the staff and delegates met at the Navy Chapel for the welcome which involved standing up one at a time and giving a little information about

ourselves. We also took part in worshipping God. As a worship leader, I was fascinated by the varying styles of worship throughout the week. We had youth bands, dancers, pastors, church worship groups and, on a visit to a military baptism ceremony, which was incredible to witness, the worship was led from the front by a military chaplain who was very enthusiastic! I was absolutely blown away by the clearly evident effort and preparation that was put into all the worship sessions, which almost always included a short message.

On the Wednesday, we were all transported to a church for a morning prayer meeting. At 0530! I was told that these early morning meetings, as well as evening meetings took place regularly. Again, the effort and preparation put into this meeting was nothing short of herculean. What really stood out to me though, was the way the Koreans prayed in this meeting. As soon as the meeting leader opened it up to the floor, everyone including the meeting leader, was crying out loud to God all at the same time. What an incredible experience. Some were on their knees, others were standing up and some were praying in tongues. It was loud but passionate and heartfelt. I was blown away.

After this we were transported by coach to the DMZ (De-Militarised Zone). First, we were taken to Imjingak Pavilion which is 7km south of the military demarcation lane. There is a bridge that we were able to walk onto which overlooks rice fields as far as you can see left and right. There are also bullet holes marked in the bridge footings. From there we were taken to Panmunjom which is the Joint Security Area (JSA). This was such an honour as we were told not many people get to see this area. It actually straddles the demarcation line between north and south. This line runs through a couple of the buildings in the JSA and we had the privilege of entering one and walking to the back, meaning we could all say we had been to North Korea! We were shown many amazing things on this day but the one thing that really stuck out for me was the "Bridge that does not return". Whether you are from the North or the South, once you walk across this bridge you are unable to return across it. Since the signing of the Armistice Agreement in 1953, this bridge has been used to repatriate prisoners. To date, 605 prisoners and injured UN soldiers and 6030 communist prisoners and injured soldiers have been repatriated.

There is so much I could say about my week in South Korea but my take-away was observing how the South Koreans pursued all of their endeavours with precision and excellence whilst at the same time remaining humble and compassionate, not forgetting to serve anyone around them. They really do take their Christian walk seriously and everything they do is in service to God. This was a challenge to me, one that I have brought home with me to ponder and to act on.

Josh



Top: MEO-P Organisers outside the demarcation line in the Joint Security area.

Middle: Josh with delegates and staff MEO -P 22

Bottom: All the delegates in the Joint Security area





MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS:

VISION

To see what God might do if every military Christian had someone to stand with.

MISSION

Helping Christians follow Jesus Christ in Armed forces around the world.

15 March 2023
Trustees Meeting (UK)

9 - 12 Jan 2023
MMI Team & Staff
retreat (UK)

18 - 21 May 2023
European Military Christian
Meeting (EMCM)
Poland

6 - 12 Feb 2023
Romania MCF ski camp
Straja, Hunedoara

DRC Date tbc
DRC Chaplains Training 2
Lubumbashi

March 2022 (TBC)
MMI PAUSE 4 PRAYER
online

MMI Praying Daily
17.00 BST
for Ukraine/Russia
on zoom.
*Request link from
prayer@mmi.org.uk*

1 - 16 Nov 2022
AMCF VP S ASIA regional
visit.

30 MARCH 2023
Middle East gathering
Beirut, Lebanon

Want to support our work?

Prayer Support

Prayer is the foundation of everything we do in MMI and we have various ways to share and 'fuel' prayer. Here are some of them:

PrayerLink

Be a part of our e-mail PrayerLink. Urgent or immediate prayer needs and reminders to pray for planned activity are e-mailed in a short, succinct form, straight to you. To sign up, email prayer@mmi.org.uk to add your name to the MMI prayer support base.

TPB - The Prayer Brief (previously known as Quarterly Prayer Brief)

31 prayers covering ministry activities and regional needs for four months. One short prayer for each day of the month (current TPB Nov-Feb 22) available with the MMI News or from prayer@mmi.org.uk.

Pause 4 Prayer

Spring and Autumn (currently online) - an opportunity to pray with those ministering in our regions.

Next Pause for Prayer morning:

April 2023

Annual International Prayer Day

Next one planned July 2023.

More detailed prayer needs and answers to prayers are shared at our prayer days. Regional Team Leaders (RTLs) and MMI field workers brief on recent activities, difficulties and future plans; international guests are invited to provide in depth and contextual information on prayer needs.

Praying for a Region

If you would like to pray for a specific region (Africa, Europe, Middle East, S Asia) or a country within one of these regions, you can join a

regional prayer group who meet to prayer together on-line. Currently we have English, French, Portuguese and German speaking groups as well.

For more details on how to support MMI through prayer, look at our Prayer page on our website. www.mmi.org.uk

We need both prayer and financial support to be able to continue our ministry to the military.

Financial Support

If you would like to support the ministry financially, even just £10 a month (by standing order) would make a huge difference to what we are able to do.

You can also donate

a one-off gift through the mmi.org.uk website with give.net, or

by bank transfer

by sending a cheque to the office.

You can also designate a gift for any of the projects, activities or regions you have read about.



WAYS TO GIVE

Set up a STANDING ORDER via your online banking - you're in control of how much you give and when.

By BANK TRANSFER

Our bank details are:
Military Ministries International
Sort Code: 20-61-82 A/c No.
40127469

GIVE ONLINE: at www.mmi.org.uk

SEND A CHEQUE: payable to
Military Ministries International.

LEAVE A LEGACY: If you wish to know more about leaving a gift in your will please contact us.

Your support, no matter how small can help us, through Jesus Christ, to give every military Christian someone to stand with.

A big welcome to Katie Edwards

who has joined the MMI office team working on IT and finance. Katie comes from a military family – her Dad is a UK Army Chaplain and her Mum, Juliette is the prayer co-ordinator for the AFCU (UK MCF). Katie, husband Chris and 1 year old Esme have just moved house and now live a 20 minute drive from the MMI office!! Pray for Katie as she gets used to us!



The Summer Event.

First MMI Team meal together for 2+ years.

Below: Rev'd Mark Chester, Chair of Trustees, speaking at the MMI Summer event.



The Summer Event.

Dean Mills from ACCTS joined us for the MMI Team Day reflecting on Military Ethics most relevant to the different MMI regions.



AMCF VP Africa South,
Maj-Gen Niriniana Ramasitera with Hermann in Madagascar

Hermann Meyer

MMI Field Worker Col (Ret'd)
Hermann Meyer celebrating 50 years since accepting Christ into his life through confirmation.



50 Jahre-Goldene Konfirmation in Dietenhofen



Petty Officer Zinzi,
South Africa Navy at MMTi, Madagascar.

Mozambique MCF

Visit to Emeritus Bishop D.Dinis Sengule.



Front Cover: A moment of reflection at the Kenyan Defence Force Special Ops Brigade memorial stone .

BACKPACK

This season's thought to take with you
and share ...

Whatever the situation, we can pray with confidence

This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears
us."

1. John 5: 14

