

Now it is simply Military Ministries International

"But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purposes of his heart through all generations" (Psalm 33:11)

"But you remain the same, and your years will never end" (Psalm 102:27)

The name Accts MMI has evolved to:

Military Ministries International
The organisation has made the name change after 10 years. Chief Executive/Team Leader, Jos McCabe explains, "In order to help us become more effective in building disciples in the military and after much prayerful discussion we have decided to change our name to the much shorter and more readily-understood Military Ministries International, or MMI for short.

"In a changing world it is good to know that the nature, purposes and plans of God to love and redeem creation through

the saving work of Jesus Christ never changes.

"We are told in Hebrews that Jesus Christ is the 'same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8). On this our faith and relationship with God depend.

"God also wants us to witness and help build disciples in each new generation. Our challenge is to witness to the good news of God's eternal and unchanging message using modern mediums and in as effective a way as possible."

The Trustees and Executive Council were unanimous in approving the revision of the name and say that they will as-

sist in making the work more widely known and understood both at home and abroad.

Jos McCabe said, "We have not used ACCTS as an acronym since 2001 and its use often caused more questions and even at times a little confusion as to who we where. "Nothing has changed in what we believe God has called us to do, our vision, our mission and statement of faith all remain exactly as before. In our witness we continue to aspire to be Christ like, servant hearted, relational, prayer led and 'All one in Christ Jesus' (Galations 3:28).

"We are privileged to be called to play a small part in God's

unchanging plan and purposes and we continue to value your love and support as we join together to work under his direction 'To see the Kingdom of God established and growing in the military of every country we serve."



Jos & Ruth McCabe at AMCF Leaders retreat (See page 4)

Prayer Day and Prayer Chain

Saturday

St Paul's
Church,
Camberley



5th June

Begins
10.00am

Come and hear visitors from our regions
Join together in prayer for the work of MMI
Enjoy fellowship
See Flyer for full details

Sharing in International Military Ministries - SIMM Week June 2010

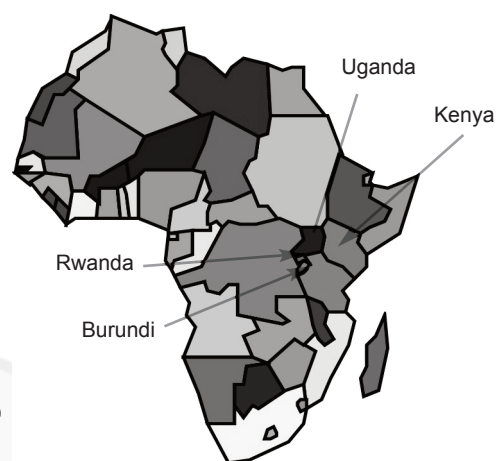
MMI and Alpha for Forces are partnering to support guests attending SIMM Week and the Alpha international conference in June 2010. SIMM Week dates are chosen such that delegates invited to both SIMM Week and the Alpha conference can attend both on one airfare. Moreover, this year MMI have planned the annual Prayer Day such that it will be held between the two

events. SIMM Week guests will be invited to join us in prayer and meet MMI supporters. To make it work we need some hosting help. We will need some help in accommodating a few guests in the Camberley area on the night of 5/6 June 2010. If you would like to be involved please contact the office on 01252 311222 or headoffice@m-m-i.org.uk



**military
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Africa News



5 weeks Safari or ... A great learning exercise?

MMI's Regional Team Leader for East & Southern Africa, Homfray Vines reports on his trip in January and February

My visit to the Great Lakes region of East Africa – one and a half times round Lake Victoria – gave a great opportunity to learn more about the region, the people and how they live.

In the West we live in a highly-industrialised society, but in Africa most people live off the land. It was a great privilege to be up early in the morning on a hillside above Lake Bunyonyi, near Kabale in Uganda, digging up potatoes with a group of Aids orphans. They decided to work the fields of their late parents together, so that they can live and pay their school or university fees. This co-operative action has bought them hope through education. I visited game parks, farms, theological colleges and John Seii, our former staff member. It was the opportunity to meet with the newly-formed Military Fellowship Support (MFS) based in Nairobi. I visited Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) members in Rwanda and Burundi and participated in the pray and plan in Kampala for the Association of Mili-

tary Christian Fellowships (AMCF) East Africa Conference in Entebbe this May. A meeting with the MFS in Nairobi was a great opportunity to come together to pray for the countries of the region facing difficult situations, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. We were also able to pray for and plan the rest of the journey. I travelled with former Kenyan Chief Chaplain, Rev Livingston Emojong.

We were in Rwanda for a week and renewed relations with Brigadier Richard Rutatina, chairman of the MCF and military adviser to the President. We also met Lieutenant Simon Kabele, who had helped with the 1998 Rwanda military Christian seminar. Simon encouraged us with stories of how 30 young men had come to Christ during a recent tour in Darfur.

We met with Church leaders, who encouraged us to pray for a spiritual change in the armed forces, which neither recognised the MCF nor saw the need for military chaplains.

We shared Jeremiah 29:12 with Simon as we left, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me."

Please pray for the Rwandan MCF and for its armed forces. Colonel (Retd) Salvator Budoromyi hosted our visit to Burundi. He and Chaplain Severin explained that the MCF was not meeting or functioning at this time because of internal difficulties.

We met with members of the Christian Police Association and Chaplain to the Police, Rev Canon Onesimus Nimbeshahu. Canon Onesimus, an

old friend of MMI and originally with the Army, had set up the MCF in 2003. Please pray for the MCF to become effective. Finally, we, and members of the MFS, attended the pray and plan meeting in Kampala for the May AMCF East Africa Conference. The meeting reviewed progress, went through inviting delegates and drew up the programme for the Conference. It was a great encouragement to the Ugandan hosts. Pray for them as they carry the major burden of setting up and running this important and strategic conference.



Homfray Vines with MFS members arrive in Kampala



Lt Simon Kabele and his wife

AMCF East Africa Conference May 2010 Building on a Sure Foundation – Embracing Christian Thinking in Military Leadership

Luke 6:48

MMI have pledged to support this conference and enable delegates from across the region to attend. Our support comes from those who read this Newsletter. Please help us turn this pledge into financial support.





Jos McCabe (left) and Gaston Gnomou (right) at the AMCF Pan African Conference, Nairobi 2008



Africa
News
(contd)

AMCF Vice President for Francophone Africa

Colonel (Retd) Gaston Gnomou

Given Names: Kani Gaston

Wife: Eleanor

Family: 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren

Home: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Positions:

- ✠ Deacon in the Central Church of the Assemblies of God, Ouagadougou
- ✠ Director General of l'Ecole Supérieure des Travaux Publics de Ouagadougou
- ✠ National Chairman of the Haggai Institute Alumni Fellowship
- ✠ Member of the National Independent Electoral Commission (Representing Protestant churches)

Languages

- ✠ African languages: Bwamu (Mother tongue), Dioula
- ✠ European languages: French, English, Spanish

West and Francophone Africa Plans

By MMI Chief Executive/Team Leader, Jos McCabe

Plans are underway to visit the AMCF Vice President for Francophone Africa, Gaston Gnomou in Burkina Faso in April this year. The trip will allow some praying and planning with Gaston and I hope it will help us discern how we can best help and assist him in this very difficult region. Please do pray that the visit will be an encouragement to Gaston and that we will clearly hear what the Lord wants of

us. I also hope to visit the AMCF West Africa Region in June. Plans are at an early stage and we need to hear where the AMCF Vice President Ishaku Komo wants me to go with him. Provisionally we may visit up to three countries in the region. Such visits to encourage and support isolated military Christians are a fundamental part of our ministry.

MMI Chief Executive/Team Leader attends International Military Chief Chaplains Conference in Madrid

MMI's Chief Executive/Team Leader, Jos McCabe was invited to attend the International Military Chief Chaplains Conference by Major General Marius Cornelissen, the Chaplain General of South Africa and Colonel Brian Van Sickle, the US European Command Staff Chaplain. Jos was the only non-chaplain.

Delegates from 34 countries attended the Madrid Conference in January. Its purpose was to discuss the development of effective Chaplaincies. Lectures were given by Spanish academics on topics such as Religious Rights and Military Values and Traditions and

on issues relating to chaplains in Afghanistan.

For MMI the greatest value lay in the informal meetings that provided an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the chief chaplains on an unofficial basis.

In one, God given, opportunity Jos met the Greek Chaplain General. He had been unable to see MMI's European staff members, Rainer Thorun and Igor Sawicki when they were in Greece last November. (As reported in our last Newsletter.) Jos and the Chief Chaplain talked, through an interpreter from Cyprus, having been introduced by the Cypriot Bishop who had attended the AMCF

European Conference, Archimandrite Ioannis Ioannou, and first met Jos there. It was more than coincidence.

The Greek Chief Chaplain raised the subject of the meeting that he had turned down last year and said he now understood more about MCFs. Now that a relationship with the Chief Chaplain has been established we need to pray that it can be developed to enable an MCF to be established in Greece.

The opportunity to talk informally to the UK Chaplain General and RAF Chaplain-in-Chief allowed Jos to develop MMI's relationship with these key UK chaplains.



Juan del Rio Martin
Spanish Military Archbishop



AMCF European Leaders Lubbecke 2010

On 18th February delegates came from 12 countries including: Albania and Poland, Moldova and Greece, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Sweden, the UK, Netherlands, Norway (six delegates) and, last but not least USA. They met to take part in the fourth European MCF Leaders meeting held in the British Army's Church House in Lübbecke, Germany.

Our theme, *Enlarge the place of your tent* (Isaiah 54:2), called us to look at what it means to live as a nomad, in

a tent, and how we might be prepared to move our tent pegs and poles outwards so as to embrace more space and more people, in other words to enlarge our Christian fellowship. One of the joys of weekends such as this is to watch as people open up both to what the Lord is doing and to other Christians, whom they may not have met before. Someone who arrives a bit apprehensive and unsure as to what to expect may be almost unrecognisable 24 hours later and the only sadness is that we must all leave the

mountain top to return to our own homes.

MMI's European staff member, Mark Hibbert-Hingston, said, "British Armed Forces Christian Union members have often been encouraged and challenged by the energy and commitment of our Norwegian Christian friends, and this weekend was no different. We were particularly blessed to have Grethe Robertson with us. Grethe leads their prayer ministry for serving people." Accompanying them were Ørvind and Cecilie Drotningssvik, an inspiring young couple, who were an encouragement to us all to identify our leaders of the future. It was also good to get to know Axel von Freymann from the re-launched German military Christian fellowship, Cornelius Vereinigung e. V. (CoV) who dropped in for 24 hours en route to eastern Germany where the battalion he commanded was about to start training for its tour in Afghanistan.



We came away encouraged, challenged and equipped to 'enlarge the place of our tent', and blessed by spending time with so many fellow Christians who were so full of Christ's love.



Photos:
Top: Oberst Axel von Freymann
Left: An international discussion
Above Revs Nicky-Sue and Mike Terry (UK)



MCFs in Albania and Moldova

Dear friends,

Every country in Europe, every military Christian fellowship (MCF), every chaplaincy and even single contacts are precious to us. They are special. It is of no use imitating one of them but we can learn from each of them. Allow me to focus on two of them.

Rainer Thorun
(MMI RTL Europe)

Who is this?

A retired fighter pilot and electro-mechanics engineer who studied law and had become a Christian. He had a feeling that God was calling him to proclaim his faith in the Armed Forces of his country. Instantly he started to gather Christians in the military for fellowship and invited others to acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. After this start he came into contact with

the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) and took part in the AMCF World Conference in Korea in 2004. Encouraged he increased his efforts and is now active in four main areas:

1 - Strengthening and equipping the believing members of the Armed Forces to stand up for their faith

ing New Testaments

3 - Looking for the support of all churches for military ministries.

4 - Trying by all means to get a military chaplaincy established and endorsed by the churches.

Have you guessed who it is?

continued on page 6

Netivah Update

From Richard Sandy,
MMI Regional Team
Leader Middle East



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The last Soldiers' Conference was held at the Baptist Village near Tel Aviv in November 2009. Some 75 young, serving Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldiers took part. The theme was, 'How to grow in faith whilst serving in the IDF'.

On the first evening the delegates were divided into small groups and studied Psalm 107. Conference leader, Michael Relf said "This Psalm has many relevant verses for military service." On the second day after morning devotion, the

small groups read from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians about his sufferings as an apostle, including shipwrecks and how he stayed firm in his faith through his difficulties. Michael Relf has reported the formation of two new small groups of Messianic Believers serving in the IDF. One near Tel Aviv and the other near Jerusalem. Michael said, "This is really encouraging." In 2010 they plan to hold two Natsor courses. These are short courses that seek to prepare Believers for their IDF service.

Michael has had some family difficulties to cope with recently, including his father undergoing a major heart

operation and he would value whatever support we can give him. We need to continue to remember him in our prayers.



National and local TV stations in Sudan reported recent seminars held in the country.

Two seminars have been held in Sudan to brief the uniformed forces on chaplaincies and Military Christian Fellowships (MCFs). Henri Minder, a long-time friend of MMI, Rev Kibinge wa Muturi, a police chaplain from Kenya and MMI's Regional Team Leader for the Middle East, Richard Sandy spoke at them both.

The seminar in Khartoum was hosted by the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and the audience, about 50 people, was made up of serving military and police, chaplains/pastors and MCF members, as well as other SCC staff.

Rev Kibinge gave a presentation highlighting the need for specialist training for chaplains in the military and police. Richard Sandy presented on the concept and role of MCFs. Brigadier General Christo Simon, the current Secretary of the MCF in Khartoum, then gave a short talk about the MCF.

Next day the team flew to Juba to repeat the seminar programme. However, on arrival it

became clear that little had been organised in preparation and even the venue was not confirmed. It was also Sunday in Juba, the day Christians go to church, and some concern was expressed that no-one would attend the Seminar. Moreover, it was extremely hot in Juba, 39°C on arrival. The evening before the Seminar the team prayed fervently. Prayers were answered and 70 to 80 people attended. What is more the Deputy Inspector General of Police for South Sudan, representing the Minister of Internal Affairs arrived to open the Seminar. A formal welcome was made and the event started.

As it got under way the skies outside darkened and then it rained. The locals said they could not remember when it had last rained in January but the effect was to reduce the temperature significantly. During the day Richard Sandy was interviewed twice. First by a local TV station asking what the Seminar was about and why the team had come to South Sudan. Then by South

Sudan national TV. The interview was broadcast that evening throughout Sudan and a call came from the Khartoum MCF to say they had seen it on national TV.

Richard Sandy said, "It was clear from the delegates reaction that our presentations were enthusiastically received and there was a good deal of discussion at the end.

"We understand that a steering committee has been set up to cover chaplaincy implementation in the uniformed forces of South Sudan (military, police, prison service and wildlife service). This steering committee has the support of the SCC

in South Sudan, helping to give it legitimacy." The following morning the team were summoned to a meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs in the Government of South Sudan, HE Major General Gier Chuang Aluong. It was a very warm and friendly meeting, lasting about 30 minutes, and he gave his full support to the implementation of chaplaincies. Finally, in Khartoum Richard Sandy was able to hold a brief meeting with the MCF members. They were clearly heartened by what they heard about the Seminar in Juba



Training Weekend March 2010

"It has been our experience in the MMI leadership that God decides on the theme and programme for the annual training weekend and this year was no exception," said MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson. "In prayer we sought his guidance and scratched our heads as to what might be appropriate. The wonderful growth of the Nepal MCF since it was established five years ago was a story we felt would bless people to hear at first hand. "Then Homfray Vines (Regional Team Leader East and Southern Africa) recommended we invite 'Sam' Samkuty from All Nations Christian College to speak on Mission and the theme was set."

Mike continues, "Sam was inspirational and so challenging. 'Mission,' Sam taught us, 'was not something some people are called to go off and do. Mission was an obligation on us all as part of the great commission. It was not just talking about our God but was living the evidence of Christ in our

lives such that people recognised a difference and wanted to know more'.

Mike said, "Jos next next to focus our thoughts on mission within MMI and introduced the change in name to Military Ministries International from Accts MMI (see front page). "From there we narrowed our focus further to each region



(Europe, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East). David Baldwin leading on Europe - in the absence of Regional Team Leader, Europe, Rainer Thorun who had serious eye damage and was waiting for an operation.

"After the reports we were treated to a wonderful insight into the life and workings of the Nepal MCF by its President, Pastor Indra Basnet. Pastor Indra and his wife Sushila were our guests and more about their travel in UK is opposite. We were very grateful too to Dr Homnath Dakal for translating and allowing Pastor



Indra to speak easily. (Although it has to be said his English was excellent.) "We learnt the history of the MCF and how God has blessed this fellowship such that the vision for at least one group in every region was realised a year early.

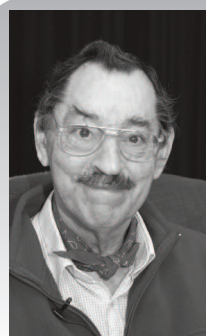
The day ended with a film premiere as guests watched extracts from the video, Mark Fillingham, A Personal Journey

"It was a very fitting way to end a day focused on military mission that had begun with

teaching that our lives are missionary journeys." said Mike.

All the talks are available either as MP3 files or on CDs. Copies of the video interview with Mark Fillingham are also available price £5 plus 60p P&P. Contact the MMI office on +44 (0)1252 311222 or headoffice@m-m-i.org.uk.

Photos: Left: 'Sam' and the Terrys. Top: Prayer for the Basnets at the closing service. Above: Trustee David Baldwin led the reports on work in Europe



Mark Fillingham
A Personal Journey

Produced by:
Military Ministries International
www.m-m-i.org.uk

Video production by
Nigel Beaumont

European friends

continued from page 4

Yes it is Eduard Roşca from Moldova. Here he is with his family.



Albania used to be the most isolated and one of the most estranged countries in Europe. When the Iron Curtain collapsed they had to adjust to being a part of Europe and to integrate with the continent. This was not a smooth event. "But" says MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Rainer Thorun, "Albania has made good economic as well as political development and is very well-integrated internationally. It is a member of NATO and hopes to join the EU before long."

Even when Albania was considered as predominantly Mus-

lim a Christian General and his serving daughter attended the 1994 AMCF World Conference in USA. From that time on Christians in the Albanian Armed Forces came together for fellowship and established an MCF. They were well-accepted and highly-esteemed by their colleagues as well as by the government. Later Lieutenant Roland Shuli and some other younger MCF members started an additional ministry especially focusing on young people. Both fellowships intended to send delegates to the European MCF Leaders meeting in Lübbecke in Febru-

ary. But duty prevented the Shulis taking part and only the Vice-President of the first MCF, Colonel (Retd) Tomi Petraj and his wife Fatbardha attended.



Tomi and Fatbardha Petraj

The Discipleship Course, requested by contacts in Pakistan for members of the armed forces, is our focus during 2010 in South Asia. Chris West explains, "In 2009 whilst visiting North West Frontier Province in Pakistan the clergy there requested material that the military



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members of their congregations could use to help develop the application of their faith in the context of the profession of arms."

As part of the launch Chris will visit Pakistan in both the spring and autumn. In the spring he hopes to meet with the clergy to discuss the course before presenting it to the Zaraphath Bible Institute for translation.

By the autumn we hope the course will be ready for use by the clergy for the soldiers attending churches. Chris will

also meet with Benaiah and the Rawalpindi fellowship on either or both these trips.

Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he too was as famous as the three mighty men.

2Samuel 23:12

The Cornelius Network India appointed a Chairman, Secretary and Prayer Convenor last year and the Chairman will be

attending SIMM Week in June (see page 1).

The President of the Nepal MCF was our guest speaker at our Training Weekend this February (see opposite). After that he met with Ghurkha Christians in Catterick. In Edinburgh he joined the UK's Armed Forces Christian Union Prayer Group, the Nepal Prayer Group and spoke at Carrubbers Christian Centre.

The Nepal MCF, now over 500 strong, had the vision to have MCF groups in all five regions of Nepal by 2010 and achieved this a year early.

They continue to encourage the formation of more groups. Active serving soldiers share the gospel freely in some barracks. The average income is low, so they don't take a membership fee. Most give directly to the church and the churches' needs are heavy. As a result, they rely heavily on the Korean, Mission Support Organisation and MMI.

The Sri Lankan MCF are focusing on establishing a

course in the Military Academies to teach Military Ethics from a biblical perspective. It is also preparing for the AMCF South Asia Regional Conference in 2011.

There are few Christians in the Armed Forces in Bangladesh and thus they are geographically very isolated. To address this Bangladesh MCF members are encouraging young Christians to take up a career in the Forces and are working to re-establish a military chaplaincy. MCFB meets regularly and has an annual conference.



OBITUARY

Major (Retd) Aftab Suri

Benaiah Leader Commander Mathews reports on the passing of a gallant soldier of Christ

On 23rd February, Major(Retd) Aftab Suri - a faithful, committed and pioneer member of Benaiah died, aged 62. His funeral, conducted by the Bishop of Lahore, was attended by a large number of Christian officers, friends, relations and family members. Twelve officers (mostly Muslim) from his parent unit, 47 Field Artillery Regiment, were at the graveside. The Regi-

mental Colonel laid wreaths. Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Mohammad Shamim, his close friend, highlighted his long-standing courageous and brave service in the Pakistan Army.

General Julian Peter laid a wreath on behalf of Benaiah. Wreaths laid by the Bishop of Lahore Diocese and Vicar of Lahore Cathedral honoured his recognition in the commu-

nity.

Major Suri was a man of great strength, well-loved and greatly-respected by his family and friends. The way his whole family stood by him during his

time of sickness was a fine example.

He is survived by wise wife Nazneen (Niki) and their children.



MMI sponsors high level ethics discussion on board HMS Bulwark

Programme 2010

April

- 14-21 CE/TL to Burkina Faso
West to South Asia (tbc)
10-17 Bob Elliott to Latvia
23-28 Thorun and Sawicki to Cuacusus

May

- 19-23 Lithuania Cadet Camp (Thorun, Baldwin & Elliott)
11-14 AMCF East Africa Conference (Kampala, Uganda)

June

- 1-5 SIMM Week
5 Prayer Day (Camberley, UK)
6-11 EMEA Week Alpha
17-20 RIMP (France)(Thorun)
21-28 Military Evangelism Observation (Korea) (Paterson)
24 Day of Prayer for Armed Forces (UK)
Hibbert-Hingston to Russia (tbc)

July

- 24-10 New Wine (Marketplace display)

August

- 1-6 Sailing Retreat (Thorun and Sawicki)



LtoR Back Row: Colonel Jos McCabe, Revd Prof Nigel Biggar (Oxford), Chaplain to Bishop of Durham, Padre Mike Hills, Prof Oliver O'Donovan (Edinburgh), Captain Gavin Pritchard RN (HMS Bulwark), Cdre Wayne Keble, Padre Martin Evans, Canon Nicholas Sagovsky, Padre Simon Beveridge.

Front Row: Chaplain of the Fleet, Ven John Green, Maj Gen Gary Robson, Bishop Peter Price, Bishop Tom Wright, Maj Gen Roddy Porter, Mrs Ann Wright.

On Ash Wednesday, five senior academics, including two Anglican Bishops met on board HMS Bulwark with five senior military officers to discuss, "War, Peace and Faith". The poignancy of holding the event on Ash Wednesday was not lost on those gathered. The Chair of the symposium, the Rt Revd Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, during the opening act of worship, reflected that the day should offer an opportunity for those present to "humbly offer up our safe beliefs and convictions" and allow ourselves to be challenged by views different

from our own. A series of papers written by the academics, which were circulated before the event, helped introduce topics for discussion. The subsequent exchanges between the military and the church, on board one of HM Warships, were often challenging, but the spirit of generosity which facilitated a creative tension greatly deepened the understanding of the representatives from both church/academia and military alike. The day was generously funded by MMI, a Christian charity which serves and supports Christians in the military of many nations across the world."

... and finally

We are delighted to announce the engagement of Homfray Vines (the MMI Regional Team Leader for East and South-

ern Africa) and Miss Sue Ellis of Poole, Dorset. Homfray and Sue are planning to be married on Monday 12 July 2010.

Patron

General Sir Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC

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Maj Gen Tim Cross CBE
Maj David Baldwin MBE
Capt Mike Barritt RN

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Revd Simon Farmer
Maj and Mrs Mark & Anthea Fillingham
Gen Joshua Hamidu
Col Ivar Hellberg
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To do this and to donate any overpaid tax to Accts MMI enter the unique code:

DAS12NG

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Only one charity can be nominated to receive all your tax relief at the higher rate and overpaid tax but you can change it each year.

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