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| 1st Wednesday Reflection & Prayer HourApril 21MMI keeps the first Wednesday of the month as a day for corporate prayer. Please use these notes to pray for an hour at some time during the day. Do please share with us any scriptures pictures or insights that you receive as you spend time reflecting and praying. CHIRST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!“What are you discussing together as you walk along?” (Luke 24:17)I love **walking together** with my wife in the woods or in the park, or with friends and discussing various subjects – family life issues, theology, the news…**walking together** has been a normal way of information exchange for centuries.**Walking together** – a metaphor of our journey with God.Luke has recorded in his Gospel narrative a remarkably interesting story of a theophany – an encounter with God, a moment when God revealed Himself to us.On the day of Resurrection, two of “them” – part of the larger group of disciples – were going to the village of Emmaus (about 7 miles or 11 km) from Jerusalem. As they discussed what had happened, Jesus came up and started walking along with them. Soon he joined in the conversation. Not only that, but He took the initiative and “explained to them what was said in all Scriptures concerning Himself” (vs. 27). Soon they approached the village and the two asked Jesus to stay overnight with them.It was in the moment of the breaking of the bread that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. At once He disappeared from their sight, immediately they returned to Jerusalem where they shared with the rest of the apostles that they had seen the resurrected Christ.This story is extraordinarily rich with spiritual meaning and Christian life parallels.1. We are all on a journey together. We travel through life together. Life is a journey.**What** are we talking about as we walk along?**What** we talk about is what is of interest to us.**What** is of interest to us is what we have convictions about.**What** we have convictions about is what we believe in. 2. At some point in our life journey, Christ comes along and reveals Himself to us.How does He do this? • Dialogues with us –  Prayer (vs 17,19,25)• Opens the Scriptures for us – Bible Study (vs 27,32)• Breaks Bread for us – Communion/Church life (vs 30,31) 3. What was the response of the two disciples? Did they keep the news to themselves? They went back to Jerusalem and shared with their people, their community – Evangelism. What can we learn on a practical level for us today?• **How much do we talk about “what has happened” in our daily walk** – i.e. about the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ? Does this concern us daily, throughout the year, or just during Easter and Christmas seasons? • **Prayer is a conversation** – with God but also with each other. Cleopas (mentioned also in John 19:25) was the one speaking to the Lord but the other disciple (whose name we do not know) took part in the conversation by listening too! This is an example of group prayer as conversation in which one speaks to the Lord but the other listens to the conversation!• **Bible Study** – Jesus is the one who reveals the Scriptures to us as we walk along with him in our daily life! The spiritual discipline of daily Bible reading and study is indispensable!**Eucharist/Church life** – Jesus is revealed in the Eucharist, in the sacraments of the church life. In the Protestant tradition we sometimes tend to over-personalize Jesus emphasizing Christ as Personal Saviour, however, Christ is revealed and experienced by each one of us in the community of the believers, and especially in the Eucharist (this is more emphasised in the life of the Eastern Church).“The Purpose of the Eucharist lies not in the change of the bread and wine, but in the partaking of Christ, who has become our food, our life, the manifestation of the Church as the body of Christ” Fr Alexander Schmemann **How does this apply to our MMI context?** – actually – very directly!As we strive to help Christians in the Armed Forces become better followers of Christ, we need to emphasize these three elements:1) the importance of conversational prayer2) the importance of daily prayer illuminated Bible study3) the importance of the Communion with Christ in the gathering of the believersThese three elements are foundational and biblical, and we need to encourage Christians in the military to apply them in whatever Christian tradition they profess their faith.By Rev Grozdan Stoevski.  RTL Europe Prayer**We give thanks for**Croatia: Give thank that in Croatia, the documentary film Storm of the Soul made by the Croatian MCF and Veterans as an evangelistic tool, was shown on the 1st channel of Croatian Television (HTV1) in prime time (8:10 pm) on Easter Monday. It is also available on You tube with English subtitles at [(101) Storm of the Soul (Bura duše) - documentary (w/English subtitles) - YouTube](https://www.mmi.org.uk/?email_id=190&user_id=650&urlpassed=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHViZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g%2Fdj1EMHZzekJ0NGZYOA&controller=stats&action=analyse&wysija-page=1&wysijap=subscriptions)Pray God will touch the hearts of those who watch it and for healing for those still suffering.We give thanks for the Middle East online Gathering and for the Pause for Prayer, both of which brought supporters and those in region together for fellowship and prayer and a special time of blessing. **In April we Pray for:****17 April:** Swedish MCF online Annual Conference.**24 April:** European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) via zoom. Pray for inspiration for the talks, the programme, a good number of delegates, (registration deadline 12 April), for the technology to work and that the simultaneous translation into Russian will be seamless. Pray for the two AMCF VPs for Europe, Rev Mike Terry  and Col Timo Vehvilainen,  and  for RTL Grozdan as they prepare and lead the sessions and especially for the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.**Second half of April:** The Polish MCF, Korneliusz, is planning a national conference and inviting new members. Pray for good fellowship, teaching and the presence of the Holy Spirit.**Nigeria:** Pray for the Nigerian Armed Forces as they take a new approach to deal with instability and terrorist activities in the Northern part of the country. Pray for cohesion amongst the security forces and politicians to find a way to deal with kidnappings and Islamist persecution of Christians. **Northern Mozambique:** "Lord, please deliver the people of NE Mozambique from this dreadful evil." Pray for protection of the people who are threatened, for discernment and repentance of the ones who are causing the violence, for continued dedication and protection for MCF leader Col Felicina and the Mozambique MCF in their ministry to the needy in the war-inflicted northern provinces. Pray for peace for the country of Mozambique.**India:** MCF India request prayer for a pastor arrested for promoting Jesus on his blogs and for his family. A second and more severe wave of COVID has hit India. Pray for wisdom for the Indian Government as they deal with the pandemic. MCF India is constantly meeting in prayer for their nation – pray with them today.Pray for the MCF India Leaders and for a spirit of unity amongst the leaders of the NCO ministry.**Ethiopia:**Pray for peace to return to the Tigray region of Ethiopia stopping the brutal killing of civilians.**Tanzania:** Pray for continued freedom of worship for military Christians in Tanzania and for the Tanzanian church. The freedom was brought about by the country’s late Christian President. He has been succeeded by his Muslim deputy, who has become the only female president in Africa.**Eswatini** (formerly Swaziland). Pray for the appointment of a new Chief Chaplain who will promote the work of the revived MCF.**Congo (DRC)**: We continue to pray for the financial resources, and specifically for success of a grant application so that the long- planned July visit to Congo (DRC) can go ahead in both Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.**MMI.** Commit the whole MMI team and their families to the protection of the Lord as we continue to develop fellowship, prayer and teaching amongst Christians in the Military, via on-line communications.Pray that God will reveal to us the things He wants MMI to do and, in revealing them, will also provide the resources to obey Him. .  |

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