



MILITARY MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

- ❖ **Mission:** Helping Christians in armed forces around the world follow Jesus Christ.
- ❖ **Vision:** To see what God might do if every military Christian had someone to stand with.

GOD IS FAITHFUL!

1. REVIEW OF MMI ACTIVITIES IN 2019-20

During the reporting year MMI staff visited the following countries to maintain and build contacts with indigenous military Christians: Belarus, Turkey, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, Belgium, Madagascar, USA, Czech Republic, Croatia, Spain, India and Bulgaria.

Highlights of the year included:

Summer Adventure Retreat (SAR)

The latest in our (SAR) was held in the Bulgarian Mountains, which combines strenuous adventure activity with Bible study, Christian fellowship and prayer. Aimed at younger serving military Christians, this event drew participants from Russia, Holland, Azerbaijan, Romania, Italy, Bulgaria, Portugal, Albania, Turkey and the UK. It was a wonderful time of trekking in the mountains, of fellowship and deepening discipleship amongst the participants.

Table Mountain-Top Interaction (TMTI).

TMTI has similar aims to SAR and seeks to engage young serving military men and women from southern Africa in physical and spiritual activity, culminating in climbing Table Mountain, Cape Town. Significant this year was the participation of several young serving German soldiers, which led to the formation of a German/Austrian Prayer Group that prays for their brothers and sisters in South Africa.

East Africa Prayer Convention (EAPC).

An annual prayer conference, coordinated by the Ugandan MCF, this is a strategic prayer initiative to petition the Lord for revival in the armed forces of East Africa. Its significance is often reflected in the struggles to organise it that are experienced. This year, EAPC was followed by a heart-warming visit to military Christians in Ethiopia, where there is much evidence of developing Christian witness and discipleship.

Indian Road Trip.

Our RTL for South Asia seeks to conduct a road trip around Indian MCFs annually, accompanied by an Indian missionary to their armed forces. We were deeply encouraged this year to learn of significant spiritual growth amongst small MCFs spread across India; fellowships often led by retired Army non-commissioned officers. We have been excited to see the development of Christian witness in the Indian Army and the succession of retired senior officers into leadership roles.

The Middle East.

The Middle East remains, for obvious reasons, one of the hardest regions in which to operate. There is little or no scope for European Christians to operate openly and so our work is dependent on collaboration with retired military people in the region who have the vision for the work amongst serving men and women. We have been encouraged by our developing regional contacts in several countries, including Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Tunisia. We have an aspiration to reach out into Lebanon and more

effectively where we already have contacts. Our enduring hope is to meet and encourage military Christians in Iran.

Visit to Turkey.

We had the joy this year of meeting the small nascent MCF in Turkey. Our RTLs for Europe and the Middle East attended a small conference in a private home and good contacts were established. These former military men and their families live in some danger of persecution for their faith but are steadfast in their hope and appreciate MMI's support.

International Orthodox Consultation on military chaplaincy.

We also assisted in the organisation in Bulgaria of a third International Orthodox Consultation on military chaplaincy. A major plank of our work has been to build relationships with the Orthodox Church to encourage their thinking about the importance of military chaplaincies, for which there is pre- communism historical precedent. We were thrilled to see the establishment of the first military Chaplain for 74 years in Bulgaria.

A major thrust of our work in 2019/20 has been to completely overhaul our Mission and Vision and, having done that, to reconstruct our Logo and our means of communicating with supporters and interested parties (website, Newsletter – now 'MMI News' - and publicity material). This has been an exciting journey of reflection on what God has actually called us to do, simplifying how we articulate this (to make sense to non-military audiences) and building appropriate communications material. Our website www.mmi.org.uk now reflects this journey.

Towards the end of the year, we entered lockdown, precipitated by COVID-19. Whilst the effects of the virus have been globally tragic, we have been deeply encouraged by what the Lord has started to do in our midst, essentially through prayer and on-line interaction (Zoom and Skype). We were determined on two things: that lockdown would be a time of spiritual growth for us as individuals and as a wider MMI team, noting Jesus' parable of the wise virgins in Matthew 25, and that we should take seriously Paul's injunction to meet regularly (Hebrews 10:25) to encourage each other.

This is having significant effect globally, with new meetings springing up in all our regions and the hope of deepening fellowship as a result, even though we cannot travel to meet in person. We therefore trust and believe that the Lord will continue to use MMI in significant ways in 2020/21, even whilst locked down, and that the mission will continue to be achieved in ways we could not have conceived before COVID-19 struck. In all this we give glory to God.

2. AIM AND CONSTITUTION

MMI was established by Trust Deed in 1974 for the promotion of the Christian faith. Since its inception it has focussed its activities on the armed forces to encourage and equip men and women in the armed forces of the world to be effective Christian disciples at work and home, growing as Christians and making other disciples.

MMI's work advances Christianity by promoting mature and effective Military Christian Fellowships (MCF) and Chaplaincies that follow orthodox Christian teaching in particular with regard to the profession of arms. This is a strategic ministry that delivers long term international public benefit in compliance with the Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees. MMI's work is with all those in the armed forces of the world prepared to listen to the Christian message and/or receive Christian ministry.

MMI takes the Apostles' Creed as its statement of faith and seeks to achieve its mission through facilitating conferences, seminars, retreats and symposia at local, national, regional and international level throughout the regions we operate in. These are Africa, Europe, Middle East and South Asia. To support these activities, we build and maintain relationships through communication, correspondence and by regular visits to Christians serving in and working with these regions' armed forces. MMI also maintains contact

and communication with existing chaplaincies in the countries in which it operates and supports efforts to form chaplaincies in countries which currently do not have them.

MMI is one of three principal supporting organisations for the worldwide Association of Military Christian Fellowships.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

MMI (the working name of the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Services) is a private organisation, non-denominational and unrelated to any specific church or government body. It was constituted by a Trust deed dated 20 December 1974 and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. It has sister organisations in the United States of America and the Republic of Korea which operate along similar lines but with different areas of interest and different, independent boards of directors. There is some overlap and partnership in activities.

4. TRUSTEES

The Trustees are recruited by invitation and appointed by the existing trustees as set out in the Trust Deed. New Trustees normally serve a provisional period of one year before being appointed to the Board (unless they already have an established relationship with the organisation), during which time a programme of induction takes place. Trustees meet three times each year.

The following are currently serving or served during the year 2019-20:

Maj (Retd.) Homfray Vines (Chair) - (retired 9 July 2020)

Revd Mark Chester (Vice Chair)

Revd David Gilchrist

Lt Col (Retd) Dr Charles Kirk

Lt Col (Retd) Mike Paterson OBE

Mrs Janet Seierstad (stood down on completion of her term of service on 31 October 2019)

Col (Retd.) Ian Westerman

Lt Col Roland Shuli

Lt Col (Retd) Bill Graham

Mrs Pam Davis (provisional, appointed 9 July 2020)

5. MANAGEMENT

MMI staff are led by a Chief Executive/Team Leader (CE-TL). An Executive Council (EC) chaired by the CE-TL is comprised of Regional Team Leaders (RTL) and other staff members. Staff members are appointed to hold positions in the regions to which they have been called. The EC reports to trustees. The EC meets regularly.

6. STAFF

CE-TL:	Maj Gen (Retd) Roddy Porter MBE
RTL S Asia:	Lt Col (Retd) Paddy Hughes OBE
RTL Middle East:	Capt Richard Meryon RN (Retd)
RTL Europe:	Revd Grozdan Stoevsky
RTL Francophone Africa:	Lt Col (Retd, French Army) Eric Mandille
RTL East & Southern Africa:	Revd (WO Retd) Max Mupondi
Europe staff:	Lt Col (Retd) Igor Sawicki (Poland), Dražen Hrženjak (Croatia), Maj (Retd) Mark Hibbert-Hingston
Africa staff¹:	Oberst (German Army Retd) Hermann Meyer (Germany and Africa E&S), Lt Col (Retd) Samuel Coias (Portugal and Lusophone Africa), Cpl (Retd) Eddy Amponsah (USA and Anglophone West Africa)
Team leader Prayer & Communications:	Flt Lt (Retd) Sue Millard

¹ Country of residence is listed first; area of operations with MMI second

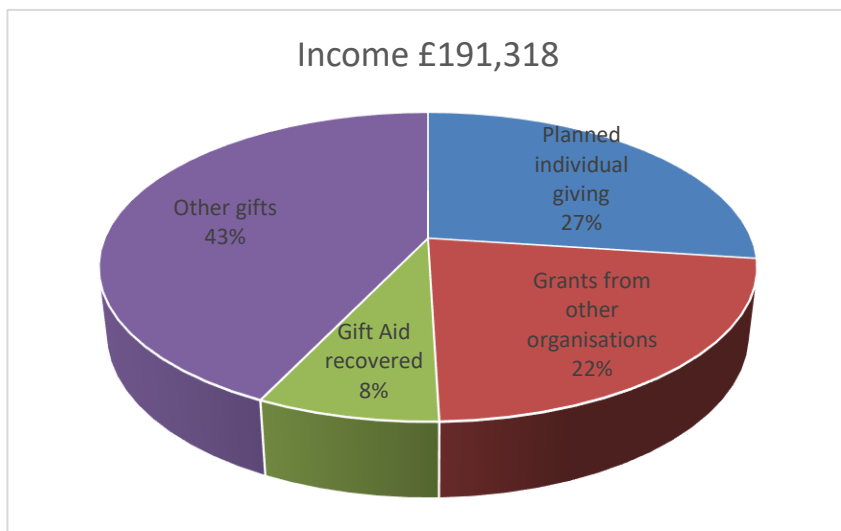
Executive Secretary: Maj (Retd) Mark Hibbert-Hingston
Finance Secretary: Mr Alan Murray
Finance and Administration Manager: Mrs Jo Hill

Independent Examiner: Michael Harris, MJ Harris Solutions,
 18a Church Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 6BH

7. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2019 / 2020

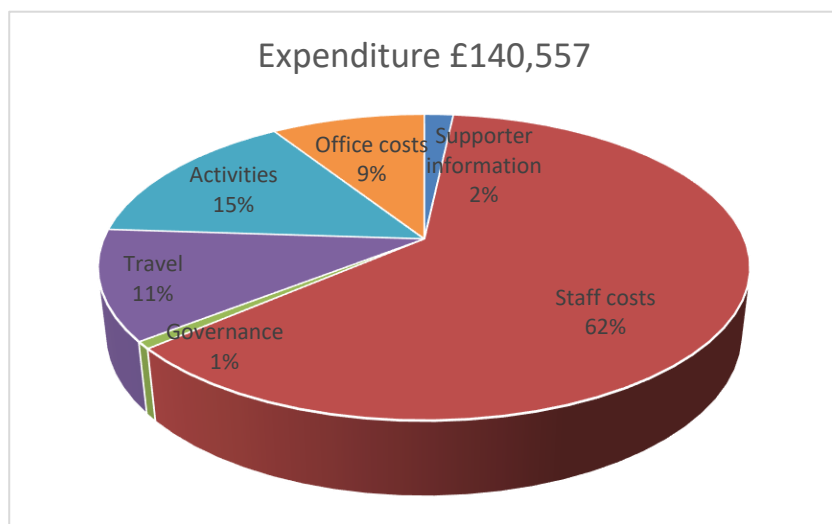
Income £191,318

Planned individual giving	51862	27%
Grants from other organisations	42930	22%
Gift Aid recovered	14434	8%
Other gifts	82092	43%



Expenditure £140,557

Supporter information	2410
Staff costs	87088
Governance	1057
Travel	16316
Activities	20908
Office costs	12778



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