

# MMI NEWS

WINTER  
2023

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



## MMI NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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**UP FRONT****Sue Millard****TEAM LEADER PRAYER AND COMMS**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this issue of the MMI News.

Winter can be a time of thinking back over the last year and looking forward to the new year spreading out before us, watching and waiting for the new green 'shoots' to appear.

As supporters will know, MMI faced financial difficulties during the second half of 2023. CE-TL Gen Roddy Porter gives a positive update on the Strategic Review and the steps being taken to improve finances. Although many missionary trips and activities sadly had to be cancelled or postponed during the Autumn, those that did take place were blessed. Eddy, our regional team leader (RTL) for West Africa, was able to make a long over-due visit to the MCF in The Gambia; his article on his trip reminds us how frustrating delays can lead us to unexpected Kingdom conversations and divinely appointed meetings.

The Autumn months are also the time for many MCF annual gatherings. We have 'snapshots' of the annual conferences in Bulgaria (celebrating their 25th anniversary), Spain, Portugal and India, as well as an annual prayer gathering at the source of the Nile in Uganda.

We also have articles on The Summer Adventure Retreat (SAR), Adria interaction, and the exciting relationship building with Catholic Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) at their Annual Conference held in Belgium.

So, despite the financial difficulties we have an excitement and expectation to see where the Lord is taking MMI and how we can be a part of building the Kingdom of God in the military.

Isaiah 55:8 reminds us it is not about our plans and agendas, fears or concerns, but the Lord's plans. We choose whether to go our way or the Lord's way.

As this edition goes to press, Table Mountain Top Interaction (TMTI) 23 in S Africa is under way, - the reports and pictures clearly show 'God at work'! Look out for the full report in the next MMI News.

As you read about the events and activities, please pray for all those who participated, particularly for how they share the vision and live out the message to those around them at work, in their MCF and their families. Please also pray for the next steps in the development of these events and MMI's support for them.

As we go into our 50th year of ministry, we have part 2 of the early years of the ACCTS UK/Accts MMI story, with a focus on the early ministry in Africa.

Please note the date for our celebration service and supporters weekend has changed to Sept 27-29 2024.

If you would like to support the ministry in prayer or financially (you can give for a particular region or event) turn to pages 24 & 25 for details.

*Sue*

## Our Strategic Review and Finances

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TEAM LEADER MAJ GEN RODDY PORTER



***And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things and at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.***

*2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)*

First of all, a huge 'thank you' to all our supporters who responded so swiftly and magnificently to our recent appeal for funding. MMI needed to find £30,000 before the end of this year to ensure that we could keep operating and, with your generosity plus assistance from some MCFs, ACCTS and MSO, and a generous donation from a grant-making trust, we more than achieved that target. You have helped us raise in excess of £47,000, which will enable us to enter 2024 with confidence that God will continue to supply our needs for the future. We are rejoicing with you that He has abundantly blessed us in this way.

Your generosity, on top of your regular giving has brought us breathing

space to conduct a strategic review of MMI to consider how we can rebalance our income and expenditure in favour of the former and reverse many years of labouring under financial pressure. Our outgoings still exceed our regular income and our aim, between now and 31 March 24, is to consider how we can create more operating funds that truly enable front line ministry, not just meet administrative costs. We are examining the core costs that enable our mission activity to see how we can drive them down.

In our efforts to increase our income to supplement your generous regular giving, we are seeking to find more mission partners who would be willing to journey with us and share the joy of this ministry by supporting what we do over a number of years. This is not easy to do but I sense that there is great merit in attempting it.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, we are taking a radical new approach to fundraising by

partnering with an initiative being launched in the UK, called Mission Increase (Mi) ([www.missionincrease.org](http://www.missionincrease.org)) which helps organisations like MMI overcome problems with a lack of capacity to fundraise by "teaching them to fish" (letting down our nets for a catch was the theme of last January's MMI Retreat) and the Mi team will be working with us to develop strategies to improve our Kingdom impact through more effective partnering with donors. The spiritual foundation for this work is that fundraising should be a joyful ministry and not a human chore.

We do lack capacity (time, staff and knowledge) to fundraise effectively and

fundraising' is based on the book of the same name by Henri Nouwen and its 58 pages are inspirational. I heartily recommend it to everyone if you want to catch a renewed breath of God's perspective on partnering (donors and fundraisers). The book is readily available and is a delight.

MMI's 50th Anniversary in 2024 provides a unique opportunity to try to raise a significant sum of money to guarantee ministry in our regions for some years to come. If you would like to help us with this, through giving of your time or supplying us with ideas, we would be very grateful – please contact Sue Millard. We are planning



The Sower: Vincent van Gogh

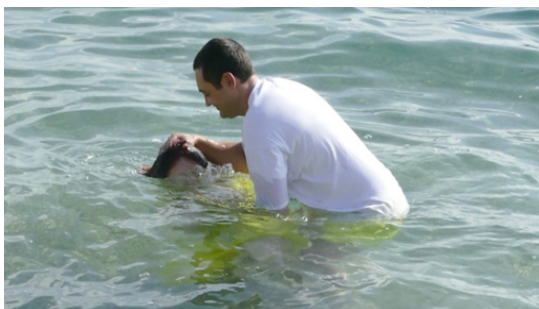
we are excited about this assistance, which has come just at the right time and comes without any fees. I am starting now with 1-2-1 coaching from the UK Director and several of us will be attending quarterly seminars to learn more. This 'spirituality of

now, and we will keep you informed both about the main conclusions of the review and of our plans for the 50th Anniversary. There are some exciting and challenging times ahead. Thank you again for your generous support to this wonderful mission.



## Adria Interaction 2023

MMI CO-WORKER NIELS WOUDSTRA



**The crowing moment of the conference happened on Saturday when the wife of the MCF Croatia vice-president of was baptized.**

The annual gathering of the Croatian MCF, "UVVID," took place in the wonderful Christian venue "Life Centre," directly bordering the Adriatic Sea, in Crikvenica, northern Croatia, from 12th until 15th October 2023. Without doubt, one of the strengths of this conference over the last couple of years has been its international character.

Besides Croatian members and associates of UVVID, guests were present from Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the USA. ACCTS was represented by director and deputy director, Phil Exner and Bernhard Kaltenbach and their spouses. MMI was represented by two co-workers, Drazen Hrzenjak, the leader of UVVID and actual organiser of the conference and Niels Woudstra, the leader of the Dutch MCF.

The theme of Adria, "Christ in me, I in Christ," fitted perfectly well in the motto of the AMCF, "All one in Christ Jesus." Not surprisingly, the first Bible study provided by Perry Stepp referred to Galatians 3.

The second lecture was given by Massimo Masella on "Christ in me, I in Christ in active service." Phil EXNER

mirrored this topic "in retirement." Perry Stepp provided a closing study on Colossians 3.

The conference provided a well-balanced mix of spiritual depth, personal engagement and leisure. On Friday an excursion was organised to the caves of LOKVARKA, followed by a lunch and a walk through the woods, giving wonderful opportunities to meet and interact. There was also ample time to meet each other over the wonderful meals and the free time.



**The Adria Interaction group**

Not all armed forces in the Balkans have an MCF. UVVID sets the example in the region and has been richly blessed over the last years. It would be wonderful if more participants from surrounding countries could join the annual conference in future. Pray for the conference's spiritual spin-off in the

## Summer Adventure Retreat (SAR) 2023

REGIONAL TEAM LEADER EUROPE, REV GROZDAN STOEVSKI



**SAR hitting the heights**

SAR 23 was a truly international event. It took place in Bulgaria and Greece from 30 July to 6 Aug, it was rich in experience and adventures, with lasting memories.

There was a good mix of young serving Christians and experienced MCF leaders, which provided a great environment for meaningful conversations, discipleship and mentoring. The activities included hiking, canyon zip-line, horse riding, jeep safari and swimming in the Aegean Sea.

The adventure started with a visit to the 5th century Roman Basilica in Plovdiv and a pilgrimage to the ancient Bachkovo monastery, which included an audience with His High Eminence, Bishop Sionij. The participants had the opportunity to have fellowship with the bishop over a splendid lunch in the beautiful monastery, where we were surrounded by the New Testament saints and narrative, depicted in amazing paintings on the walls and ceiling.

The next two days were hiking in the woods of the Rhodopy mountains, including trekking on a good stretch of an ancient Roman road at 1700 m

above sea level, and culminating with an improvised competition of who would reach the top spot first - Persenik Peak, at 2091m.

Our evenings were filled with inductive Bible study sessions, masterfully led by Rev Mark Chester, gleaned from the leadership examples of Joshua, Gideon and Esther. Spiritual discussions continued throughout the day as the various adventure activities provided plenty of opportunities for deeper fellowship, individual pastoral care and prayer ministry.

A definite highlight again this year was the organized pilgrimage to Philippi in Northern Greece, which included a guided tour with well-read Greek history teacher, Dimitris. He provided insight into the Biblical narrative of Acts 16, as well as the historical context of the Roman empire in the days of the great Apostle Paul.

Once again, SAR proved to be a great tool for international military ministry in Europe, helping raise the next generation of Joshuas, as well as provide opportunities for pastoral care, mentoring and discipleship among the participants, in Christian unity and sweet fellowship in the Spirit.



## A Deepening Relationship

### AMI General Assembly and Conference 2023

MARK HIBBERT-HINGSTON & REV MIKE TERRY. AMCF VP EUROPE S&C



The Apostolat Militaire Internationale (AMI) was founded in Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 1965, by Catholic military personnel of 10 countries. The AMI strapline is Strengthening Christian values within the Armed Forces worldwide. What's not to like?

AMI has been on AMCF and MMI's radar for many years, at least since General Sir Laurence New was president of AMCF in the 1990s! European VPs of AMCF have been attending the annual AMI General Assembly and conference since Mark Fillingham's day. This year the current president of AMI, Vice Admiral Matthieu Borsboom (formerly head of the Royal Netherlands Navy) and his wife accepted an invitation from AMCF VP Mike Terry to join us at the European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) at Zeliv, Czechia, in May. Where we had great fun! (See MMI Summer News for details). We were also able to discuss how we might

support one another's ministry, especially in military ethics and in sharing links for countries where one had contacts and the other none. While with us at EMCM Admiral Borsboom, issued an invitation for as many from MMI to attend their gathering in September as were available. Mark signed up with alacrity!

The meeting was in Mechelen, just north of Brussels. Our hotel was in the centre of this beautiful old city, and 5 minutes' walk from the Diocesan Pastoral centre where many of our sessions took place. The welcome was very warm, and the hospitality lavish. In many cases serving delegates were attending in duty time, and there was therefore less of a rush than we experience at MCF events.

As a result, the conference opened on Sunday evening and finished on Friday morning. Alongside daily worship, a series of stimulating lectures by highly eminent speakers on the

theme of 'The Christian attitude to contemporary warfare' provided the meat of the programme, supported by several Working Group sessions to progress the matters in AMI's Strategic Plan. There were a number of cultural visits, as well as to NATO HQ, all of which allowed time to make and develop friendships in the margins, while travelling around Belgium.

Around 45 delegates attended, from Belgium, Austria, Germany, France, Kenya, Netherlands, Finland, Philippines, Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK, USA; this included both AMCF European VPs, Timo Vehvilainen



AMI 2023 attendees

& Mike Terry. Admiral Matthieu had invited Sergey Lysenko from Kyiv, so long as he brought Roman Catholics with him! Sergey brought a serving RC chaplain who spoke very movingly of his ministry to the Ukrainian army among a team of chaplains of many confessions. He also brought a young RC seminarian who was able to do some of the translation.

Mike Terry and Mark were in the same Working Group, looking at the development of military ethics teaching, and were happy to put the moderator of the group in contact with Cal Dunlap at ACCTS, as they are ahead of AMI and MMI in this field. The value of deepening such links could

reap real benefit for God's kingdom as we're told the Vatican is starting to seek AMI's views on such matters to inform their opinions both for Catholic teaching and in international debates. AMCF's existing work could save AMI reinventing the wheel in some areas, and together we can provide a larger pool of thinkers to progress work on new areas such as AI, autonomous weapons, drones, cluster munitions, the impact of modern warfare on service families and related subjects. AMI sees all these and more as key areas to take forward urgently, both for strategic political interventions and to help troops on the frontline deal with these issues practically in a Christian manner. We were also able to give the Kenyan delegates, next year's hosts, the contact details for the RC chief chaplain in Gambia, a friend of MMI but unknown to AMI.

We headed home on Friday, full of encouragement, ideas for follow-up, and not to mention food and drink – AMI take the social side as seriously as the work!



AMCF VP Mike Terry with Maj Gen George Nganga

<https://www.apostolatmilitaire.com/2023-ami-conference-in-belgium/>

## MCF Annual Conferences

A number of MCF annual conferences took place during the Autumn. Here are some of them

### Bulgaria: MCF - 25th Anniversary



Bulgaria MCF 25th anniversary

On 16th September 2023 the St George Bulgarian MCF celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

The MCF was started in 1998 by then 2nd LT Grozdan Stoevski (now MMI Europe RTL) and soon reached over 100 members. Through the years it has seen good and bad days but in the last few years it has been transformed into truly a multi-confessional MCF welcoming Orthodox members as well as enjoying the support of Orthodox senior clergy and academia.

A few years ago, it produced a camouflage cover New Testament which has been greatly appreciated by the Bulgarian Armed Forces and is now trusting the Lord to be able to produce its second edition due to a new wave of increased interest by the military community.

### Spain: Mision 365, Expresate Conference (Valencia)



Juan Nombela & Mrs Nayra  
(former & current presidents)

More than 140 delegates from 12 countries, mainly police members and a small number of military, joined together in faith for Bible study, worship, prayer, practical workshops developing friendship, and communion with the Lord.

The Police and Military Christian Fellowship President for the last 24 years, Juan Nombela, handed over his responsibilities to Mrs. Nayra the new President. We give thanks and praise to God for the hard work of brother Juan during these long years! He has now assumed the Presidency of the International Christian Police Fellowship (ICPF). We pray for Joanma and Nayra in their new roles.

### Portugal:

#### Militares Evangelicos de Portugal (MEP) Conference

Every two years the MEP (Portuguese MCF) conducts a national conference to which it invites military Christians from all Lusophone countries.

This year we had 30 delegates attending in person including three delegates from Guiné-Bissau, as well as delegates from the Cape Verde and Mozambique MCFs participating via ZOOM.

We had some very good and enriching Bible teaching from the Director of the Theological College.



MEP bible teaching

### Angola:

#### AMPBCA National Conference, Luanda



AMPBCA, Baptist Church, Luanda

At the beginning of November, the Angolan MCF held their third annual conference in the facilities of the Baptist Church, Luanda, with more than 20 delegates participating from Luanda and other provinces. The aim was to encourage the members, develop the association and approve the necessary statutes in order to continue with the official registration process.

A new board member was elected, and Dr. Teodoro Ricardo was re-elected as President.

God bless and lead the MCF of Angola, especially its leaders.



Dr. Teodoro Ricardo



## THE GAMBIA

places to go and people to meet for the Lord.

REGIONAL TEAM LEADER WEST AFRICA, EDDY AMPONSAH



MCF members in Gambia

With many months of anticipated visits on the horizon, I looked forward to my trip with such immense peace. I never doubted what a thrilling time I would have with my fellow Christians in The Gambia. The Gambia's MCF (Military Christian Fellowship) had not received a visit from MMI or AMCF for at least ten years, so one was overdue.

Father Carl Gomez, the Chief Chaplain of the Gambia Armed Forces, and I have an excellent relationship, and communication with him never disappoints; he is such a down-to-earth and easy person to get along with. Serving soldiers constantly speak highly of him, and I could not wait to experience it firsthand.

It was a beautiful day when I landed in Banjul. Throughout the flight from Accra to Banjul, the skies appeared beautiful and warm, which may have signaled what was ahead upon arrival. Having been welcomed at the airport by Father Carl, we jumped into his car, which seemed to have served him well

and remained reliable. The plan was to immerse myself in a busy schedule for the next four days. It needed to be primarily intentional, but with room to adjust as necessary.

Fr Carl took me to the army headquarters where his office is situated. The drive was hectic and there was a hubbub of people on the busy main road, which serves the capital from one end to the other. I met a few officers at the army headquarters going about their routine work. Even though the headquarters building needs many touch-ups, they seem to be doing their best under the current circumstances.

The participants were lovely, welcoming, and interactive, but they are also naturally reserved. I felt so much at home with them. Together with some chaplains and MCF members, we reviewed the presentation slides as planned, and there was a tremendous engagement with the presentations.

Gambia is a small country bounded by Senegal with a narrow Atlantic Ocean coastline. Heavy rain came every night I spent in the country making connecting roads to other communities difficult to navigate. Although Father Carl's 4x4 jeep seemed so durable to make those journeys every day, unsurprisingly the car's axle suddenly disconnected on one of our trips to meet some soldiers in a barracks. Yet, God knows best, and this delay made way for one-on-one ministry with a senior officer who accompanied us in the car. God is always good.

Throughout my trip, my experience and observation concentrated on impromptu chances to minister to individuals by sharing the gospel of Jesus with both believers and non-Christians.



A Muslim brother, Tommy said: *"It would be complicated for me to switch my faith, knowing what the outcome would be."* His family are pious Muslims, both religiously and culturally grounded in their ways, and he cannot see any way around it. I could see that, even though he listened patiently whilst I shared Jesus Christ with him and he had a soft spot for the gospel, he could not afford a possible polemicized situation from parents and family. Even though he listened and allowed me to pray with him, the fear of his folks knowing, shackled him down. As he says, it would be different if he lived in

another country far from his folks. He's heavily burdened and needs willpower and a divine experience to break free! I pray that God will come through for him. Right now, keeping contact and communication is my hope and focus, and shielding him in prayer is a must.

Our Gambian brethren are all very determined and sincere people. They are trying to put up a chapel building for all their Christian activities, but they have no help except individuals and sympathizers to support them with their project. As an Islamic-majority country, nothing is given in support of Christian activity in the armed forces. I am both amazed and ecstatic about what they are trying to achieve for themselves. They need help.

It is my prayer and hope that they will receive all they need to lighten their burden. The MCF of Gambia needs resources – material to help with discipleship training; and regular training for the chaplains and volunteers to become efficient and effective. Financial support is needed to enable them to achieve their goals.



Father Gomez welcoming Eddy to Gambia.

## THE SOURCE OF THE NILE

annual prayer meeting in Uganda

UGANDA MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, ATIM JUSTINE INNOCENT



### The River Nile

The River Nile rises at Lake Victoria in the Jinja district of Uganda, it then flows northwards into the Mediterranean Sea running through 11 countries and covering over 6600km. The river is the primary water source for Egypt, South Sudan, Republic of Sudan and has two tributaries - the Blue Nile and the White Nile.

### Activities at the source of the Nile.

There are the usual activities such as fishing and irrigation but also satanic rituals are known to take place at the source of the Nile. Ex-satanists have testified that the source of the Nile is seen as a significant place.

The joint forces ministries have been

praying together at the source of the Nile for two years.

### What we do as the Joint Forces Ministries

Two years ago, God called those of us in the armed forces, who are born-again, to start praying at the source of the Nile every year. Since then, we have been dedicated to praying and repenting as led by Maj. Gen David Wakaalo.

We pray for what happens in our various departments, for our country, for the behaviour of our leaders. In particular, we are praying and repenting for what happens at the source of the Nile.

## PRAYING FOR VASILY AND VALYA

in Ukraine

Vasily, a Baptist Chaplain in Ukraine, who is well-known to MMI and its many supporters, says he and Valya (his wife) are doing well and are active in ministry.

He is, of course, very busy and has recently represented the MOD at a 2-day conference dealing with amputees. He has also been translating materials from English into Ukrainian for use at the amputees conference, as well as for use at the Ukraine chaplaincy conference. Vasily is attending the Chaplaincy conference

representing the Baptist Union as well as the multi-confessional MOD committee. He continues to make week long trips to the East to minister to the troops there.

It is reported that Kyiv continues to be hit by incoming missiles and drones from the Russians so please pray for their safety.

Please continue to pray for Vasily ministering to Ukrainian troops and Valya ministering to the widows in Kyiv. Strengthen their faith and courage and guide their work to bring Your kingdom into the hearts of those to whom they minister.

## 2024

### our Year of Jubilee!

We celebrate 50 years of  
Military Ministries International

Special service and Supporters' Weekend

**27-29 September 2024\***

*Provisionally St Paul's church Camberley.*

Additional events throughout the year

*Biblically a year of Jubilee is an  
Economic, cultural, environmental and communal reset.*

*\* This is a change of date*





## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Champions needed



## What can you do?

In 2024 MMI will celebrate 50 years of supporting military Christians.

As part of the celebrations, we invite supporters to sign up to a challenge for which they can be sponsored to help MMI finances.

What skills do you have for a challenge? Or challenge yourself to learn a new skill. The MMI team have taken on the challenge of making Jesus Christ known in the international military community. You can help them by creating your own challenge.

GET SPONSORED. GET ACTIVE.

## THE ACCTS UK / MMI STORY (part2) Africa in the 80s

Through the 1980's the work of ACCTS UK was focussed in Africa. With the help of Geoff Skippage, the first Pan-African Regional Conference was organized and held at Limuru, Kenya in 1982 with about 200 people from 11 African nations, including Capt. John Seii.

"The decision of ACCTS to appoint Capt Geoffrey Skippage supplied the greatest impetus in launching a Missionary Thrust into many African countries. Geoff, with his knowledge of French, was able to plant fellowship in many French speaking countries. By the year 2000, MCFs on the continent had grown to 26 confirmed, 18 in contact and 4 not yet visited. All glory to the Lord Most High. Three African Staff members were appointed namely Col. Henry Ladele, Major John Seii, and Rev Val and Gina Rajah and assigned to specific areas in Africa:

Henry as Accts MMI Point-Man for West Africa, travelled to many parts of the sub region preaching the gospel, encouraging military Christians and establishing new contacts. In this ministry, he endured hardship in his travels, was imprisoned at a frontier and faced opposition to his message. At the same time he saw the power of God open the door of the most senior officers in the region to his ministry and prayed with many government ministers and military chiefs and commanders, and received their permission to take the gospel to their armed forces and instigate military Christian fellowships where hitherto barriers had been insurmountable.

Major John Seii was a well known figure and was instrumental in the



Col. Henry Ladele with his wife

establishment of military Christian fellowships in East Africa. He was involved in Accts MMI almost from inception and was a key figure in the founding of the Military Christian Fellowship of Kenya. In 2000 he was taken on as the Accts MMI staff member for East Africa and much of his work involved assisting the training and establishment of Chaplains in South Sudan. Hereafter, he travelled throughout the region and later in Southern Africa too when he supported his wife, Tabitha in her appointment as Kenya High Commissioner in South Africa.

Rev Val Rajah and his wife Gina were appointed to the ACCTS USA staff and assigned to assist countries in Southern Africa particularly Portuguese speaking Africa. Val and Gina also travelled to establish and then encourage Christian fellowships in Angola and Mozambique."

**Based on: Fifty Years Of Military Christian Fellowships In Africa: 1958 – 2008. By Col. Charles Amaning Vice President AMCF Africa 1984 – 2002**

## Nurturing Marriages and the Military inside Nepal

NEPAL MCF CHIRANJIVII (STEVE) SHARMA



Chiranjivi and Prasula praying for a couple in Nepal

My wife Prasula and I are actively engaged in ministry in Nepal. Since 2017, Prasula has assumed the role of youth coordinator at Anandit Church in Kathmandu, after leaving her full-time job at World Vision International. Prasula and I work in the Christian ministry of marriage, family, leadership, and young people inside and outside the Army.

We have been actively engaged in teaching and delivering sermons focused on young people, both married and unmarried in the community at large. Recently, we had the privilege of addressing a gathering of 25 couples from Kirtipur, a city nestled within the Kathmandu Valley. During this engagement, we challenged prevailing

cultural perspectives on marriage, which still hold sway among Christians and non-Christians in Nepal. Our aim was to inspire a shift away from traditional and unhealthy approaches to marriage, towards God-centred, Biblical, and wholesome marital paradigms.

Invited by the esteemed Dunamis Bible School, an institution that has played a significant role in training thousands of pastors and leaders in Nepal, we had the opportunity to share insights on marriage and family.

Equipped with the authority of the Word of God, we conducted a week-long training session and were gratified to witness the transformative impact of our prayers and guidance on the

couples and singles present. All glory and honour be to God.

My father-in-law is Pastor Indra who is President of NMCF. Whenever I journey within Nepal or abroad, I actively seek to forge connections with military personnel. My deep admiration for them began in 2006 and has led to the formation of numerous Military Christian Fellowship groups in Nepal and beyond. Over time, I have cultivated many enduring friendships with soldiers worldwide.

During a recent trip to Tanzania in September, I had the opportunity to establish contact with Bishop Elias Chakepuwa, an Anglican pastor. In this encounter, I shared the work I am involved in within Nepal, specifically focusing on supporting army couples and families.

In recent years, the world has presented increasing challenges and uncertainties. My wife Prasula faced a significant health ordeal, necessitating major surgery to remove approximately 5 kg of bodily mass. She had carried this burden for years, yet throughout it all, she remained steadfast in her service to God. The complexity of the surgery demanded a highly skilled, multidisciplinary surgical team. Understandably, anxiety loomed large, but by the grace of God, the surgery was successful. Prasula was discharged from hospital in September and is on the path to recovery.

We continue to request your prayers please for her complete healing and restoration.



Chiranjivi Sharma & Bishop Dr. Elias Chakupewa in Daressalaam



## MCF - India Annual Conference

GROUP CAPTAIN (RET'D) DAVID JAMES

*To brothers and sisters in MMI,*

*Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.  
1Tim 6: 12.*

*Praise the Lord!*

*By the grace of God the MCF-I Retreat, which was held in Chennai 5th- 7th October, was a blessing. Although greater participation was expected, some who were keen to come, could not. Those who attended, as well as those who joined online, were blessed, and they appreciated the efforts of the organisers.*

*We had Holy Spirit anointed singing by the worship team. The two pastors, who came as speakers really challenged us to fight the good fight of faith, (which was the theme of the Retreat).*

*The Salvation Army venue though quite basic, was very well appreciated by all who stayed there. The staff really went out of the way to accommodate all our needs.*

*Thanks to generous love offerings by many, and the contribution of those who attended, we had no shortfall, nor any excess of funds. Praise God for His wonderful provision!*

*This short report is to praise God for what He did and to thank each one for your prayers and support.*

*It is also to appeal to everyone to pray for, participate in and propagate all the activities of the MCF-I.*

*We need many more chapters to come up, in every part of the nation and Chennai could act as a trailblazer!*

*We also need to pray God will show us where to hold the Retreat next year.*

*In the joyful service of the Master, Your brother in Christ Jesus,*

**David James**

PRAYING FOR OUR FRIENDS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REGIONAL TEAM LEADER MIDDLE EAST CAPTAIN RICHARD MERYON

We cry out to the Lord for the Middle East. We know of partners directly affected by this conflict in both the IDF and Palestinian police and others affected across the region.

In the spirit of AMCF, may they  
**'be all one in Christ Jesus'**

(Galatians 3.28)

We are currently hosting a weekly online prayer meeting among our Arab partners in the Middle East; from Proverbs 14.34 we cling onto "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people". We invite them to share their perspectives on the war as viewed from their country, into which we all then pray in English or Arabic; the consistent prayer is for Peace and the Protection of God's People, His earthly army. The ME

RPPG also upholds prayerfully the work of Netivah in its support to the Messianic (Christian) soldiers in the IDF.

Following on from 'The Weekend In Heaven' in Lebanon (March 2023), our CE-TL, MGen Roddy and our RTL Middle East, Richard Meryon, had planned to go to Jordan in November to meet with the Middle East AMCF VP and then go on to Lebanon to spend a weekend with the newly formed Lebanon MCF, but for obvious reasons this trip was postponed.

Less currently focussed issues include our ever quest to find partners in the 12 nations across the region where we have none, and supporting those Links we do have in Egypt, Jordan, Kurdish Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia, and especially of course now our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel and Palestine.



We pray for all people in conflict zones.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that Your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, that they find Your wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

**The Archbishop of York, Most Revd, Stephen Cottrell**



## 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.

8 - 11 Jan 2024  
MMI Team Retreat  
UK

27 - 29 Sep 2024  
MMI 50th Service & supporters weekend  
UK

6 Dec 2023, 6 Mar 2024  
Trustee meetings  
UK

13 - 16 Jun 2024  
RIMP  
France

17 - 19 May 2024  
European Military Christian meeting  
Czech Republic

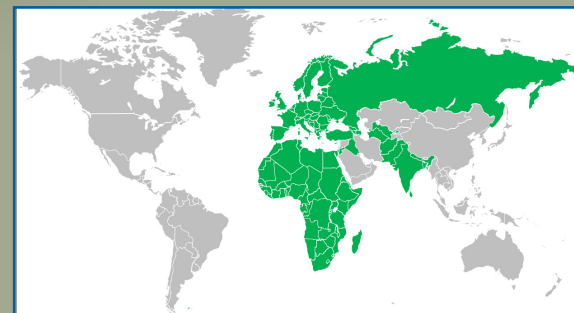
3 - 6 Oct 2024  
ADRIA interaction  
Croatia

16 - 20 Oct 2024  
AMCF World conference  
Brazil

Provisional  
Spring regional visit  
Jordan & Lebanon

tbc  
Spring regional conference  
Bangladesh

MMI Praying Daily  
17.00 BST  
for Ukraine/Russia  
on zoom.  
*Request link from  
[prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.uk)*



MMI global reach



# 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](mailto: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 Dec 23-- Mar 24) available with the MMI News or from [prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto: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:

Spring 2024 Tbc

### Annual Supporters Prayer Day

September 27-29 2024.

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](http://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](http://mmi.org.uk) website with [give.net](http://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 new bank details are:  
Military Ministries International  
Sort Code: 20-11-43  
A/c No. 63332268

GIVE ONLINE: at [www.mmi.org.uk](http://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.





Adria 2023



SAR 2023



The Adria MMI team



Adria 2023



Lunch with Bishop Sionij at the Bachkovo Monastery



MEP worship



Angola bible distribution



SAR Officer Cadets



SAR study

Front Cover: Uganda MCF members praying at the source of the Nile.



# BACKPACK

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

## **When we seek the Lord, for what do we hope? An answer...**

**The answer we want? Or God's answer?**

Do we want God to straighten out our path and make  
our way easier? OR

Do we dare ask Him to show us how we can conform to  
His purposes?

"Let us know your thoughts, Lord and show us Your  
ways so that, in walking in them, we might fulfil Your  
purposes and extend Your Kingdom; the reason You raised us up  
in the first place."

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.*

*Isaiah 55:8*

