

MMMI NEWS

SPRING
2021

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



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Fishing with Jesus in 2021

"Let down your nets."

Having bid 'Adieu' to 2020 and set our sights on what the Lord might have for us in 2021, MMI is as determined as ever to walk closely with Jesus in uncertain times. Staff and Trustees have just enjoyed two days and three evenings together on an online 'Retreat', a time which has been challenging, fruitful and instructive, with spirit-provoking Bible reflections and lovely times of prayer. At the start of our Retreat we considered a familiar but important 'picture', recounted by Luke, of Jesus instructing the disciples to let down their nets once more following a fruitless night's fishing. We firmly believe that, having 'prayed and planned' our 2021/22 programme, COVID-19 restrictions will still apply to a greater or lesser extent but, as we listen for the Lord's voice, He will show us where to 'fish' this year and, having shown us, there will be a sizeable catch. Acknowledging that not everything we hope to do will happen, we are confident and encouraged that everything the Lord wishes us to do will come to pass. ➔



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CE/TL RODDY PORTER

With whom shall we fish?

The theme of our Retreat was 'Co-workers with God', from 1 Corinthians 3:9. We explored what it meant to be a co-worker with the Lord and also considered biblical instruction about co-working with each other, as well as considering with whom we are being called to work in our Regions. In our Regional break-out groups, we welcomed several co-workers from around the world and enjoyed hearing a reflection from Pastor Blesson in India. I am pleased to report that we are engaging more closely with key people in the Middle East and across Africa, some serving, some retired but people with whom we feel called to collaborate in this mission. At the same time, new friends and connections are emerging in Europe and Asia. We will be formalising a number of growing relationships this year and we are persuaded that, if Team Leaders or staff cannot travel to their Regions, we will be in a position to enable our co-workers, already there, to carry out some of the work for us. Likewise, we want to collaborate more closely with partners, especially ACCTS

(opportunities to work with MSO are rare, given we do not share contiguous boundaries), Campus Crusade Military Ministries (CRU MM) and the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC).

Where shall we fish?

The likelihood of being able to travel anywhere in our Regions this side of the summer is small and so we intend to spend the first half of this calendar year continuing to use the excellent links we have developed in cyberspace. The many hours on Zoom with MCFs and individuals in all areas has been extremely fruitful and uplifting and so we will continue to encourage and stand online with our brothers and sisters around the world. Indeed, even when we can travel freely, there is much that we will continue to accomplish online – prayer, teaching and fellowship are examples – and we will be creative about the 'live/virtual balance' of our activities. But some things can really only be accomplished face-to-face, especially nurturing new believers, and working where there are no pre-existing

relationships. Discipleship is also best achieved 1-2-1, cross-denominational engagement is often too complex and remote online; and, of course, conferences and seminars involving multiple MCFs require that we travel.

So where do we hope to go?

We hope that much-delayed mission visits to Liberia and Ghana, the DRC, São Tomé and India will take place. We are confident that several Middle Eastern countries will be visited. Peter Louwrens and his planning team are hard at work seeking to bring a Southern Africa Regional Conference, to be held in Madagascar in October, to fruition. (The Madagascar MCF, like its counterparts in India, Ghana, Portugal and Croatia, is very much 'on the march', growing and keen to reach out.) We hope that Table Mountain Top Interaction (TMTI) will happen and that there will be an East Africa Prayer Convention. In Europe, both Zoom-based and live MCF events are being planned. The Portuguese MCF is planning an online conference, including MCFs from Lusophone Africa in the autumn. EMCM will have both virtual and live components and we are planning both a Summer Adventure Retreat in Bulgaria in August and the Adria Interaction in Croatia in October, when we also hope to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Croatian MCF. We also hope it will be possible to hold the 4th International Orthodox Consultation in Sofia.

With what?

MMI relies entirely on supporters and grants from trusts to fund its running costs and its mission activity. The work is indebted to faithful and generous prayer warriors and givers over the years and we have endless testimony

to the Lord's faithfulness in providing for our needs, both miraculously and through those who love the mission. We are enormously grateful to the Lord for His provision and for the many saints who support us so consistently. Many will know that MMI has no reserves (other than a small percentage of income received that the trustees 'reserve' as a buffer between solvency and insolvency to conform with UK charity law). We have always had to remain firmly on our knees asking the Lord for our daily bread and this is a great position to be in. Over the years, God has provided again and again. So, we are confident that He will supply our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus and that this will be enough to cover what He calls us to do, the fish he wishes us to catch.

Our needs, as we approach Financial Year (FY) 2021/22 (1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022), are very similar to previous years and can be summarised as follows:

MMI 21/22 BUDGET SUMMARY

Costs	a. International operational activities	54,536
	b. UK programme, international staff, all communications and fundraising costs	28,903
	c. Employment and office costs for management administration and regional staff	100,504
		183,790
Income	a. Monthly giving and gift aid	72,975
	b. Anticipated ad hoc donations	19,850
	c. Grant applications to be made for operational activities	31,814
	d. Funds already in hand for operations	11,380
		136,019
Shortfall		47,771



What this shows us is that to succeed in this coming FY we are seeking to raise a further £47,771. This also assumes that we are successful in grant applications (shown in the table above) to cover our main mission activity. To the extent that we cannot raise this from grants is the extent to which we have a greater shortfall or that we have to cut back on activities. I underscore our confidence in the Lord to provide for our needs (as opposed to our wants) but also would like to take this opportunity to ask you, our readers and faithful supporters, whether you could join with us in seeking to raise this amount of money to enable MMI to operate this coming year?

We have been amazed at how the Lord provided for us to more than survive through the lockdown. Will He not also provide for this coming season?

**BUT
BECAUSE
YOU SAY
SO, I WILL
LET DOWN
THE NETS**

Luke 5v5



Marriage in crisis

Adria Interaction 2020 amidst Covid-19 pandemic

[RTL EUROPE REV GROZDAN STOEVSKI](#)

Since 2015 Dražen Hrženjak, President of Croatia MCF and MMI co-worker Europe, has organized an annual Adria Interaction, but in 2020 it was an unusual gathering due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. It is a true miracle that the event took place as a physical meeting, despite various challenges and limitations.

The main theme of the event was "Marriage in Crisis" with Grozdan and Slavica Stoevski invited to serve as keynote speakers. Unfortunately, the other speakers, mainly members of the Italian MCF and ACCTS staff, could not attend due to travel restrictions. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold - to provide practical biblical principles on God's design for marriage, the role of husband and wife and how to deal with "Marriage in Crisis" and also to encourage the Croat MCF members. As the group was smaller than usual (total of 24 of us), we broke in two main

groups. Grozdan spoke to the men and Slavica spoke to the women. The format of the meeting was a guided (topical) Bible Study, focusing mostly on Genesis 1-3 and Ephesians 5:21-33 which also allowed for better interaction and discussion.

This Marriage Seminar has now been delivered in Bulgaria and Croatia and we have been invited to do an on-line format in 2021 for the Orthodox Military Community in Moscow, Russia. God seems to be opening new opportunities for MMI to minister to the MCFs across Europe and somehow carry on the good work in this field started by the late Rainer and Karin Thorun.

Overall, Adria Interaction 2020 was a real spiritual victory, mainly for Drazen and the Croatia MCF but also for MMI as it was the only physical international MMI-involved event during the pandemic.



Incredible Blessings in Hard Times for the Croatia MCF (CMCF)

DRAŽEN HRŽENJAK CMCF PRESIDENT AND MMI CO-WORKER EUROPE

While the whole world is trying to forget 2020, MCF Croatia can only thank God for incredible blessings.

From a Croatian perspective this is even more amazing when we consider the fact that Croatia was hit by two destructive earthquakes (in March and December). Can I look back at what happened to prompt us to give God the glory?

New Association Office – In February 20, the Association was given the use of a space owned by the City of Zagreb, and having refurbished it, we moved our office there. This space completely meets the Association's needs.

Veterans' Urban 'Triathlon' –Seven days before the first earthquake, at the time when the state had already begun to introduce restrictions due to the growing rate of infection with COVID-19, and with slightly lower

numbers than expected, CMCF held its first sporting event on Sunday 15th March. This was a unique event, organised to mark this important date from the Homeland War, combining three sports: billiards, darts and chess. It was interesting that this was probably the only sporting event held that Sunday in Zagreb.

The EU Project: Care For Our Neighbour – In June, the Association signed a second contract for a project financed by European Union funds, which made it possible to employ 5 people. The project aims to provide care for the parents of fallen Homeland War personnel for a period of one year.

Adria Interaction 2020 – In October, with much lower numbers but with good will and good faith, we held the 6th International Christian Conference for people in military ministry. The emphasis was on marriage

relationships, and a particular blessing was the fact that Grozdan and Slavica Stoevski were able to attend the conference. The fact that they crossed four borders with no problems at a time of tight restrictions due to COVID-19 was a minor miracle. See Grozdan's report on the conference on p7.

Family Charity Shop – After several postponements, in October the Association opened a charity shop in our previous office space. The shop is open to everyone and some of the donations collected will be used to help the needy. The shop is based on the example of British charity shops, but it functions exclusively on the basis of donations, with the motto: "Take what you need, donate what you can!"

Croatia Catholic Radio – The Association's president, Dražen Hrženjak, had the opportunity in November to appear on the leading Christian radio station and to talk about the work and activities of the Association, but also to testify to his faith in Jesus Christ.

Documentary Film 1991: Who Is Your Neighbour? – Perhaps the greatest miracle is everything that is happening in relation to the Association's new film project. When we consider the engagement of the actors in the film, the fact that all the planned interviews have already taken place, and that despite the crisis and the lagging economy, the film has collected 80% of the funding needed, we can only say that this has been an incredible course of events. ●

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Veterans' 'Urban Triathlon'
BELOW TOP LEFT: At the Croatian Catholic Radio
BELOW TOP RIGHT: The Care For Our Neighbour team
BELOW BOTTOM LEFT: The Croatia MCF gives thanks to God
BELOW BOTTOM RIGHT: The participants of the Adria Interaction





I thought I knew the Bible!

An inspiring time in the Polish Border Guard Force

COL IGOR SAWICKI, MMI CO-WORKER EUROPE

In November 2020, on the initiative of our Polish MCF, together with the chaplains (Catholics, Orthodox and Evangelicals) of the Border Guard, a biblical knowledge competition was organized in the units. At the beginning of December, the final competition was held with over 100 Border Guard officers.

For many of them it was an inspiring time to get to know the Word of God and reflect on how to apply it in their private and professional lives.

The comments from the participants tell the story.

"I thought I knew the Bible, but with each reading of the passages, I discovered more and more new images and events. In this particularly difficult

time for everyone, reading issues that deal with timeless values allow you to understand what is important in life."

"Every time I read the Gospel, I learn something new, as if it is an infinite source. Its content relates to private life, but also helps in making decisions and is a kind of indicator in the service sphere. It shows how to be a better person, officer, supervisor and colleague."

"The biblical knowledge competition was a great opportunity to spend time thinking in this busy, sometimes crazy world, to devote time to what is most important, gives meaning to my life and what is the foundation of my existence in every aspect of this earthly journey."

"The competition motivated me to deepen my knowledge of the Gospel and to try to get to know God. A wonderful undertaking, which brought people of different denominations together and I hope that such initiatives will be continued in the near future. By participating in the competition, I saw that the Scriptures are still relevant and that human nature is unchanged over the centuries."

"As an officer, I always try to follow the rules of professional ethics and to be faithful to the oath I took. It is not always easy. I often need support, and often that support is the Word of God recorded in the Bible. After studying the Gospel of St. Matthew, I try to demand even more from myself,

because only this gives me the right to demand from others."

"There were a number of positives when I was preparing for the competition. The reading and study of the Gospel of St. Matthew helped me notice many important facts, including that the Lord Jesus is 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God' who came into the world in human form to pay the undeserved death penalty for my sins so that I can be justified before God and not be eternally separate from Him. This truth, thanks to the presence of the Holy Spirit, gives me peace in my daily life - both at work and in private life, and allows me to devote myself to others without constantly looking for the meaning and purpose of my existence."

Given the positive reception of this competition, the MCF plan to hold competitions throughout the Polish armed forces in 2021 and Igor and Grozdan (Europe RTL) are considering organizing a Europe-wide event. The initial rounds would be conducted in selected military units / academies by local MCF members, and then the competition final would be at an international level between national winners.

The aim of such an event, as well as those mentioned, would be to establish wider relations between members of the MCFs and denominations from different countries. ●



Augustin, centre in dark suit, with the new chaplains.

Stepping out in faith: training chaplains in Chad

AUGUSTIN TCHENKOUA (CCRU MILITARY MINISTRY & MMI CO-WORKER FRANCOPHONE AFRICA)

I travelled by road from Cameroon to Chad so I could transport the 1400 Camouflaged New Testaments (NT) I had received from the Gideon Society. I had to drive because the transport of the NTs by plane would have cost a large amount of money that I did not have.

Unfortunately, I swallowed a lot of dust on the way to Chad and I got the flu, but by the grace of God, I started treatment very early and this flu did not handicap me during the week.

I had some difficulties getting the Camouflaged New Testaments out of Chadian customs because the person in charge was a Muslim, seemingly lukewarm about those books. By the grace of God, Christian soldiers came

along and they were so excited to see the New Testaments in military colours that they asked me to give them some and then pleaded to let me pass with the rest.

During all the training, I stayed at a Roman Catholic Guest House where the security is very satisfactory. The purpose of the training was to train chaplain assistants, people capable of providing spiritual and psychological care to military members and their families before, during and after each deployment. One of the officers who participated in the training summarized the long-term objectives of the training by saying: "The Chadian army is known for its effectiveness against the rebels and terrorist, but the Chadian army is

also known for its toughness toward civilians and unarmed people. Our goal will be to help them understand that the army's objective is to ensure the safety of unarmed people, not the other way around."

Chad is a country at war on many fronts; in the north on the Libyan border against the rebels, in the southwest on the Nigerian border against the Boko Haram terrorists, and they are also at war with the Islamic Maghreb State in Mali where they are participating significantly in the G5 Forces (these Forces include Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania).

On the first day, Chief Chaplain Mark Toingar and I met with the Chief of Staff and the General officer responsible for Military Chaplaincy. We shared with both of them what chaplaincy is about and the value of training. We told them about the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC) and gave them a copy of the training manual. At the beginning of the interview, the Chief of Staff seemed reluctant, but after reading the training notes he changed his mind and even supported the chaplain with 200 litres of fuel to help him get around during the training.

There were 21 participants from the Police, the Army, the Gendarmerie and the Air Force. These soldiers represented all Christian denominations (Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal Churches). The training took place over a week - Monday to Thursday 2pm to 6pm and on Friday and Saturday we taught all day. The subjects taught were:

1. What in the World is Chaplaincy?
2. Call to Chaplaincy
3. Spiritual preparation
4. Professional excellence.

5. Chaplain/Commander Relationship
6. Biblical view of Military Profession
7. Suicide Awareness
8. Counselling Ministry
9. Hospital Ministry
10. Ethics
11. Deployment and Combat Ministry
12. Operational Stress and CISM
13. Ministry Philosophy
14. Unit Ministry Plan
15. Leadership

In addition to the course, we gave teaching on being born-again because we realized that some brothers and sisters attending the training did not have a good understanding of accepting Jesus as a personal saviour. We asked the General Secretary of the Association of Evangelical Churches and Missions Organization of Chad to give this teaching. Once again, I would like to give thanks to God because everything went well.

The closing ceremony ended with the participation of military leaders and leaders of the largest churches in Chad, and I promised to come back to give a new training programme next year, if the Lord allows it, to complement this teaching.

This training was a key enabler for the establishment of a comprehensive Chadian Chaplaincy and a beginning for official recognition of an MCF in Chad.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors of IAEC, for without their material, financial and spiritual support, this training would never have taken place.

May God bless you and fill you with his grace. ●

Nothing can stop The Good News travelling in Africa!

HERMANN MEYER, FIELDWORKER AFRICA EAST/AFRICA SOUTH

Nothing can stop The Good News. Although the worldwide COVID virus is preventing MMI soldier-missionaries from international travel, nothing can stop the Lord's Word being spread, nothing can keep the Good News that it contains from being spoken, and nothing can prevent God's comfort, love and power being brought into effect for every single person who - according to HIS plan - shall be touched by his Word.

Spreading the Scripture amongst the armed forces is of great value. Why?

Because in critical situations, especially in leadership and conduct, particularly in combat situations the question of "What would Jesus do?" is of key importance.

Colonel (ret/GER Army) Hermann Meyer, a veteran of ops in Africa, the Balkans and Central Asia in over 40-years of active duty, knows about the incomparable effects of God's Word under military conditions in many different situations.

During November and December Hermann put together several packages with 'precious content', thinking if he couldn't go to Africa, the word of God could! Each package contains Bibles in robust, water-repelling camouflage covers, sized to fit into the cargo pockets of battle dress uniform and camouflage-pattern New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs, designed to carry in a uniform jacket. Also included are teaching materials on Psalm 91 'Under

God's Protection - The Soldier's Psalm' which provides questions and examples typical of a soldier's situation and which have strong military and spiritual relevance. The teaching material is ready-to-use for Bible study or teaching without further preparation and MMI's current Prayer Brief and information about activity, vision and mission were included.

The first three packages have been sent to Tanzania and to South Africa. One recipient is Major Christina Hhayuma, the Chief Nurse of Dar-es-Salaam Lugalo General Military Hospital. Maj Christina runs a bible study & prayer group of military Christians in the hospital and needed bibles and teaching material. They are delighted to have received this gift.

Another package was sent to central Tanzania where in Ifarka diocese individual military Christians attend civilian Sunday services and Lutheran Bishop Renard Mtenji is keen to support military people live out their faith. Although the package reached Tanzania quickly, obstructions (illegal financial demands) arose, preventing the bibles being released. MMI prayed against the enemy blocking the Good News being spread and a week later, Bishop Mtenji was able to receive the package. Praise the Lord.

The third gift was to Caleb and Thembi Mkhulise a married couple, both retired military who are living and ministering in South Africa's governmental region, Gauteng. They will make use of the bibles, New Testaments and teaching material for

two projects - for the newly established MCF-group for those around Pretoria, reaching out to those serving in MoD and in the HQ-staffs of the South Africa National Defence Forces, and for giving comfort and encouragement by preaching the Word and distributing the New Testaments to military people who are temporarily patients in 1 MillHospital, Pretoria.

Colonel (ret) Sibusiso Blessing Mbuyazi, SAMCF President, said of this initiative: "This way soldiers are able to read God's Word for themselves in their own Bible - anytime, anywhere and under any circumstances, where and when they need it. Possessing your own Bible also encourages the willingness to read the Bible every day and to reflect on what God's Word is speaking into your personal life situation and into your own reality as military Christian. Furthermore, reading the Bible gives impetus for gratitude, prayer and supplication."

A special "Thank you!" to Staff Sergeant (ret/US Army) Roger and his wife Margaret Hogan, who have a long-lasting fellowship with Germany's MCF, Corneliusvereinigung (CoV). Roger and Margaret run "Operation Centurion", a non-profit organisation reaching out to Russian and NATO soldiers and their families. The organisation provides Bibles and Christian reading materials. The Hogan's were able to provide the English language camouflage Bibles and New Testaments sent to East and South Africa.

Hermann also heartily thanks MMI's supporters for their faithfulness, their ongoing prayer, encouragement and financial support. Without their generosity, MMI would not be able to spread the Good News - "Vergelt's Gott!" ("May God reward it")

Looking forward in 2021. The main ministry effort in Africa East will be targeted on Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda where AMCF VP Brig David Wakaalo hopes to host the East Africa Prayer Convention (EAPC) later in the year.

The main effort for Africa South will be the regional conference of MCFs and chaplains from all 13 nations of Africa South. This evangelistic conference will be followed by an international one-week interaction of TMTI- style, with the younger attendees of the regional conference. Both events will be led by AMCF VP AS Navy Capt. (ret) Peter Louwrens, in close partnership with Malagasy MCF VMK. These two events have the ideal combination of encountering,



MWO Caleb (2nd from right) and his wife Col Thembi MKHULISE with Col Blessing MBUYAZI, SAMCF President, (far right) and Col Hermann MEYER, MMI Fieldworker 2nd from left.

strengthening, equipping, and training MCFs and their emerging future leaders in brotherly fellowship with their chaplaincy brethren beyond regional borders. The venue of both activities will be Antananarivo/Madagascar.



Regional Prayer Summit in West Africa in 2020

EDDY AMPONSAH FIELD WORKER WEST AFRICA

The year 2020 seemed to stand still while Covid-19 dominated every sphere of world engagement. One such area of impact was ministry and missionary activities across the globe.

The West Africa Region saw its fair share of the menace of the virus rampaging through the land and crossing boundaries. Due to the situation and the exacting protocols, gathering for normal Christian activities in groups was very difficult, almost impossible.

Virtual activities began to have more presence. With the willingness and interest from MCF nations, the region was able to organise a Prayer Summit, focusing on Guinea Bissau as an emerging MCF. It brought a range of key personalities and potential leaders together to pray extensively. One participant describing the event said every one "fully participated and was spiritually uplifted".

With lockdowns being lifted, Ghana was able to launch a National Prayer Day in November, mobilizing MCF members from some of its key Command areas, as well as other

security services in the country. The weight of the National Prayer was to prepare for the December 2020 general election for the country.

In some parts of the region, the year was sadly an unending battle against extremist groups making continuous efforts to destabilise countries by their activities.

Even though some military Christians were unable to physically do things at a national level, everyone was able to participate in regional online events which continue to strengthen the unity of fellowship amongst national MCF groups. MCF members who represented their countries on international mission, such as members of the Liberian MCF on peacekeeping deployment in Mali, remained steadfast in their walk with God by continuing to pray in theatre and to uphold their faith.

In 2021, we hope to reset the commitment of MCFs in the region to the great commission. The prayers of the many faithful are a bedrock for the year onward.

Glory to God and thank you to our generous supporters.

New ways of connecting with our partners in the Middle East

RTL MIDDLE EAST RICHARD MERYAN

2020 was a surprisingly good year for MMI's ministry in the Middle East. Lockdown caused us, like many other ministries and churches, to develop new ways of connecting with our partners.

We quickly established a weekly online call across the region, which worked wonders to dispel a historical caution between people of the various countries, although we were careful to handle the Israeli Defence Force ministry separately from the wider Arabic speaking countries. Friday is the best day to meet across the Islamic lands as it is their weekly day off, and we tweaked the time to avoid their Friday church services. Over the year we morphed the meeting to fortnightly, and now in 2021, we 'meet' monthly and we aim to share prayer requests digitally the other fortnight.

What does 2021 look like? MMI has embraced Pastor R (ex WO1 in the Jordanian Air Force) to connect with all these Arabic speaking saints, being linguistically and culturally more adept than the UK based team. Currently we have nascent ministry to serving personnel by a senior serving officer in Erbil, Kurdish Iraq, and also by someone serving in the Palestinian police.

We will maintain the regular digital meetings, while exploring how we can re-introduce personal visits to each country: if the UK remains more CV-constrained for regional team leader (RTL) Richard than for Pastor R in Jordan, maybe we can support R in visiting Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria

Tunisia and the West Bank.

Funding is an issue across MMI, but a donor has funded the £5000 estimated for MMI's Middle East ministry in 2021 for which we thank the Lord, but do feel free to participate financially to allow us to expand the Middle East work, which can tackle as much as funding allows.

Above all, we covet your prayers so do contact RTL Richard at middleeast@mmi.org.uk if you would like more prayer material or even to join the Middle East RPPG which covers this region, arguably the AMCF region most hostile to Christianity.

We are praying fervently for more links in the countries that, as yet, we have no contact with. If we can have but one name, he/she could act as a conduit for prayers each way. We know it could be awkward, even dangerous, and the list of countries is long.

Please join with us in this prayer. ●





South India: NCOs Holy Fire Revival Ministry

PASTOR BLESSON VARGHESE, MCF INDIA & MMI CO-WORKER INDIA

I flew to Cochin under strict COVID-19 protocol measures. I was under quarantine for a week in Kerala and then underwent an Antibody test. With the negative result the Health Department allowed me to move around.

I was then able to travel to Tamil Nadu, the neighbouring State, to meet the group I am mentoring from the Army and from Border Security Force. Sergeant J is a serving NCO in the Artillery Unit. He was home on leave and invited me to have an MCF meeting and to minister to his local church. We formed a small local MCF with 4 members and their families. I spent a week with them and then moved back to Kerala to spend time

with Subedar Jacob and his church.

After 30 years of active service in the Indian Army Engineers, Pastor Jacob started a church in Thodupuzha, Kerala. By the grace of God this church is growing and holds many baptisms in the local river. Please pray for these meetings. I ministered in Pastor Jacob's church and provided the 40 chairs for their fellowship groups which were generously funded by MMI. The population of Thodupuzha and surrounding area, is 3 million people and Pastor Jacob's prayer and vision is for 300,000 souls to be in the church. Pray!!

Jacob has also started a work with a group of around 60 serving and non-serving NCO's called Holy Fire

Revival Ministry. They gather in a place for a week, fully fasting and in prayer, and hold meetings at which many are delivered from different bondages. As I write I am currently spending time with the Holy Fire team on mission.

The coordinator for MCF India (South) is Subedar M who is based in Kottayam. He is actively engaged in MCF activities and runs a local MCF group based in his home, although due to this pandemic he is not able to arrange regular, face to face fellowship. I was able to meet M at his home with family and spent a day with him.

I plan to go on to Bangalore to meet with serving Subedar Major J who has formed a group of enquirers and NCO J, a serving soldier in a Madras Engineering Unit in Bangalore who has formed a prayer team and is encouraging a group of serving soldiers from the local unit. I also plan to meet with Chaplain (JCO) John of the Madras Engineer Group in Bangalore.

While in Bangalore I hope to visit Col Retd K, an officer passionate for the Lord who is constantly praying, seeking God's voice and encouraging MCF activities.

I would like to thank MMI for their valuable prayers and support. ●

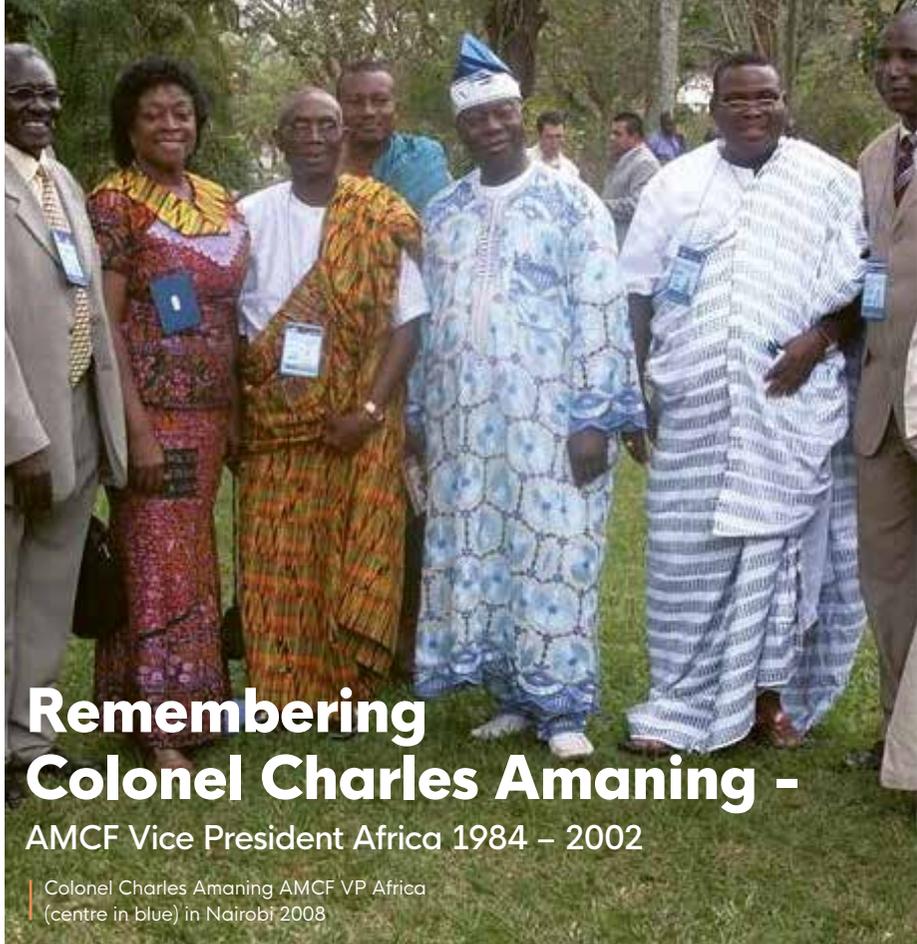
| The NCO team. Pr Blesson 2nd left

South Asia:

RTL S ASIA

The work of MMI is furthered in some countries across the world by co-workers. A typical example is in India where MMI co-worker Pastor Blesson is currently, at the time of writing, on a one month long missionary trip to Kerala and Tamil Nadu, South India. This trip is not without danger and can be seen as a test of faith and endurance by Blesson and his family.

COVID 19 is rampant in India and mass vaccination has not yet started. Blesson's wife Jaya is working in a military hospital in Kolkata, at the forefront of Corona virus treatment, and is acutely aware of the dangers of travelling in India. Blesson is in regular touch with Paddy, RTL S Asia, for prayer and encouragement. At the time of writing, Blesson is on a 72-hour prayer-fast with Indian ex-Army Engineer NCOs in Thodupuzha, as they seek the Lord's guidance on their ministry. Please join with MCF India in praying for the vision of these tough, former NCOs, for their mission, and protection for them and their families. Thanks be to God.



Remembering Colonel Charles Amaning - AMCF Vice President Africa 1984 – 2002

Colonel Charles Amaning AMCF VP Africa
(centre in blue) in Nairobi 2008

COL AUGUSTA WELLINGTON MCF GHANA

We are sad to report the death of Colonel Charles Amaning on 11th January 2021 after a long illness. Col Charles was the longest serving AMCF Vice President (VP), under whose leadership many African countries established MCFs. At the time of handing over, he had served for eighteen years from 1984 to 2002 and continued to represent Ghana at international events after that.

General Sir Lawrence New, AMCF President 1991-2002 said of Col Charles, "During my time as President AMCF I admired and trusted Charles in

everything he did. The climax came in January 2000 when he hosted Anna and me during a five day visit to Ghana. It was an extraordinarily generous programme involving visits, to the Armed Forces and Army Commander, a parade involving a Guard of Honour and band, two church services, a memorable meeting with Commodore Philemon Quaie, an early AMCF leader, and so many kindnesses. The point of mentioning this generosity is that on the last day of our visit as we left, I overheard Charles thanking the Army Commander, Lt General Akafia, for the exceptional

participation in the visit by the Army, I also overheard the reply by the General - "We did it for you Charles". It was a measure of the respect in which he was held throughout Ghana.

Praise the Lord for a noble and faithful servant of the Lord."

Col Charles joined the Officers' Christian Union (OCU) while an Officer Cadet at the Ghana Military Academy in the early 1960s, when the then Lt. Joshua Hamidu introduced the first OCU fellowship in Africa. In 1964, as a young officer Col Charles, was invited to attend the Lunteren Conference in the Netherlands. He was an active and committed member of the OCU in Ghana, supporting the leaders to organise activities. His commitment quickly extended beyond Ghana to the whole of Africa as the years unfolded.

At the AMCF World Conference held in Seoul, Korea in 1984 Col Charles was appointed AMCF VP for the Africa Region when General Joshua Hamidu stepped down. Together with Capt. Geoffrey Skippage (who had been made an honorary African citizen at the conference), he made many trips to African countries to mobilise delegates to attend the AMCF Pan African Conference in Kenya in 1986, and in 1992 the first Pan-African Conference in a Francophone country was held in Cotonou, Benin, for which he also made several trips to Benin.

In 1994, he and Rev Lt Col Val Rajah attended the Re-constitution of the South African MCF (from one started in 1970 under Apartheid restrictions), in Cape Town; this was among several visits he made to S Africa to strengthen the country's MCF. He also attended the AMCF World Conference at Virginia Beach, USA in 1994.

In 1996, still focussing on strengthening national MCFs, VP Charles toured ten Francophone

African countries. He attended the first South Africa conference in Cape Town, in February 1998 with his wife Christine (of blessed memory) and was in Rwanda for another conference in the same year.

At the 2002 Pan-African Conference for West Africa, held in Lagos, Nigeria, Col Charles, with AMCF President General Lee and other leaders laid hands on Air Cdre Ishaku Komo of Nigeria, commissioning him as the AMCF VP for (anglophone) West Africa. By the time Col Charles stood down in 2002 the AMCF VP role in Africa had grown into four regional VPs, a testament to his passion for championing Military Fellowship Ministry. In Ghana, he handed over leadership of the MCF to Lt Col Larbi Okyere, but remained a very active member and mentored the leadership team.

On returning from a leaders' interaction in Nigeria in 2013 he suffered a health setback. After this health issue he started 'taking it easy' physically and with MCF activities, although the following year he still attended the AMCF Global Interaction in Cape Town, South Africa, with his new wife, Daniela.

Col Amaning dedicated much of his life to the AMCF ministry within the Africa region and beyond and had a remarkable presence wherever he was. He was so keen to strengthen and build MCFs that he undertook difficult journeys to the nations across Africa. He also wrote an article entitled 'Fifty Years of Military Christian Fellowships in Africa 1958 - 2008' which is available on the MMI website.

We pray for his wife Daniela, his family and friends and the Ghana MCF, and in the words of General New we "praise the Lord for a noble and faithful servant of the Lord."



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.

Despite COVID-19, the MMI team continues to:

- Meet via video conference weekly to pray, study the Word, encourage each other and plan ahead
- Maintain contact with our brothers and sisters in our regions to encourage and pray with them
- Seek the Lord for what he has for us in the months ahead
- Cherish our close friendships with our sister organisations ACCTS and MSO
- Explore how we can better use social media to reach even more military Christians with God's Word for them
- Consider how we will get back on mission when the Lord says, "Go!"

We are in no way downhearted but are rejoicing in the Lord's love and grace and are excited that he has called us to prepare and pray in these days for what He has called us to do downstream.

This is not wasted time – it is prayer and preparation time and the Lord is at work.

17th MARCH 2021
Trustees Meeting (UK)

4th - 9th JULY 2021
AMI Conference London

APRIL 2021 (TBC)
POLAND: MCF Regional Conference

JUNE 2021 (TBC)
SOUTH KOREA: MEO

OCT 2021 (Alternative)
SOUTH KOREA: MEO

23rd - 28th AUGUST
BULGARIA: Summer Adventure Retreat (SAR)21

18th NOVEMBER 2021
NEPAL: MCF Annual Gathering

17th - 20th JUNE 2021
FRANCE: RIMP
Eric & Anke TBC

14th - 17th OCTOBER 2021
CROATIA: Adria Interaction

21st NOVEMBER 2021
NEPAL: AMCF VP visit

FEB/MARCH 2021
S. ASIA: Blesson to NE India

ONLINE

FEB 2021
S. Asia Regional leaders' conference
ZOOM

19th MARCH 2021
Middle East Conference
ONLINE

24th APRIL 2021
EMCM 2021 (European Military Christian Meeting for MCF leaders)
ONLINE

APRIL 2021
Marriage Seminar for Russian Orthodox Military Christians
TBC

18th - 21st MARCH
CHAD: 2nd Chaplaincy Training (Augustin Tchenkoua, Charles Sezan)

NOVEMBER 2021
INDIA: RTL & co-worker visit

18th - 24th OCTOBER 2021
TANZANIA: Ministry Trip

JUNE 2021
S. ASIA: Blesson to Kerela

APRIL 2021
S. ASIA: Blesson to Bengalaru and Tamil

10th - 24th JULY 2021
DRC: Mission trip 1st contact with MCF and Chaplaincy

31st OCT - 6th NOV 2021
KENYA: Ministry Trip

31st OCT - 6th NOV 2021
MADAGASCAR: Mountain Top Interaction (MMTI)

OCT 21st - NOV 20th
DRC: Chaplaincy Training (IAEC team, Augustin Tchenkoua, Eric Mandille)

25th - 30th OCTOBER 2021
MADAGASCAR: Africa South Regional Conference

18th - 24th OCTOBER 2021
SWAZILAND: Ministry Trip

27th MARCH 2021
MMI PAUSE FOR PRAYER DAY

26th JUNE 2021
MMI INTERNATIONAL PRAYER DAY

6th NOV 2021 (TBC)
MMI PAUSE FOR PRAYER DAY

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 - Triannual 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 Feb- May 21 available with the MMI News or from prayer@mmi.org.uk)

Pause for Prayer

Spring and Autumn (currently online) an opportunity to pray with those ministering in our regions. Next Pause for Prayer morning: Saturday 27 March 2021.

Annual International Prayer Day

Next one planned for 27th June 2021.

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 or 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

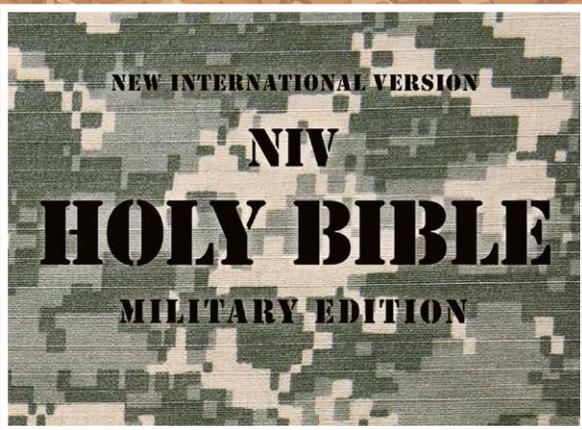
SEND A CHEQUE: payable to Military Ministries International.

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.

Good News!

New Year good news for the Croatian MCF - the New Testaments in camouflage covers for the Croatian army arrived. Drazen says, "and now we must pray for the openness of the chaplaincy service to let us into the barracks!"



Portugal MCF

In January, the Militares Evangélicos de Portugal (Portuguese MCF) were invited to lead the Universal Week of Prayer opening service in Lisbon. MEP President Col Fernando Freire (top) led the service and Capt Sandra Neves and others in uniform supported.



Congratulations to Ruth Wakaalo
 Ruth graduated with a Master of Divinity from the Uganda Christian University on 18th December 2020.

Bibles breaking through the red tape

Packages of Bibles arrived safely with Lutheran Bishop Renard Mtenji in Tanzania after they had been held up by a series of obstacles and financial demands. MMI prayed, the Lord moved, and Renard's work with military Christians in his diocese is blessed with much needed resources..



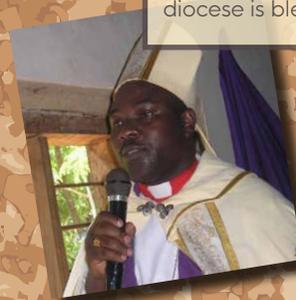
Bibles for Southern Africa

Major Christina Hhayuma, the Chief Nurse of Dar-es-Salaam Lugalo General Military Hospital, runs a bible study & prayer group of military Christians who are members of the hospital's staff. Maj Christina was delighted to receive Bibles and teaching materials from Hermann Meyer, Fieldworker Africa East/ Africa South.



Southern Africa Regional Conference

RTL for Africa South & East, Max Mupondi says "The main prayer focus for Southern Africa is their regional conference planned to be held in Madagascar in October 2021".



BACKPACK

This month's thoughts and prayers to take with you and share...

In our locked-down bases, we prepare: Abiding in Him, in His Word, in prayer, in hope and expectation!

"Show us the ground you want us to take, Lord! Show us the ways and the timings!". "Give us our orders and we will move out. Provide us the resources and we will obey."

There are many possible objectives; but we strain to discern the Lord's priorities. **His ways are perfect, His purposes glorious.**

