

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

Jabulani, Africa! Africa, Rejoice!

This issue of the MMI Newsletter is dedicated to reporting on the AMCF 2014 world conference - Global Interaction



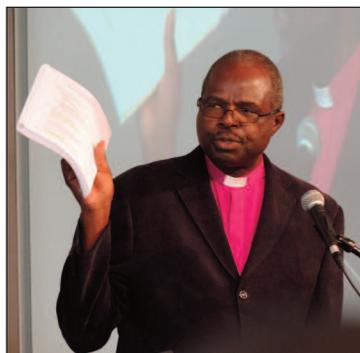
They did rejoice! More than 500 men and women from the armed forces of nearly 100 nations were united and demonstrating how to be "All one in Christ Jesus", the Galatians 3:28 scriptural motto of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships – AMCF. The African style of the worship was infectious and led to this moment of Godly anarchy (right), as one AMCF vice president described it, when the participants took to waving each other's flags to show their pleasure at sharing together as brothers and sisters in Christ. What a wonderful programme it was too, prepared by Rhett Parkinson. In addition to the vibrant African worship we enjoyed outstanding daily Bible teaching from Bishop Henry Orombi (Uganda) and fellowship with old and new brothers and



sisters in Christ from all around the world. One new participant in the AMCF family said, "To me being in Cape Town was a miracle. I came to know about it only in October. The AMCF conference took me out of depression and gave me a lot of joy and hope to press forward." In addition, we had participants from unmentionable locations in the Middle East and from countries elsewhere in political con-

flict but sharing Christian fellowship in Cape Town. All was underpinned by a superb global, prayer network established by Liesel Parkinson whose on-site prayer team provided ministry to many people throughout the week. The Joshua Trust and Conference Director and Administrator, Klaas & Linda Steyn's tireless work over 2 years was evident in this outstanding event. Now we

need prayer for wisdom as we seek the Lord's guidance for the essential follow up.



Photos:
Top "Godly anarchy";
Above: AMCF President, General Sri Lal Weerasooriya opens Global Interaction 2014;
Far Left: The conference picture;
Left: Bishop Henry Orombi;
Below: Conference Director, Captain (SAN) Klaas Steyn.

MMI

Supporters' Weekend

21-22 February 2015

St Paul's Church & Sarum College, Salisbury



Our 2015 Supporters' Weekend will focus on Global Interaction and include guests from each of our MMI regions as well as first hand reports on GI 2014 from our field staff. We will look ahead at our 2015-16 programme and how MMI will follow up GI 2014 with new activities and

events, missionary travel and inviting new contacts to take part in our tried and tested events. We will meet in Salisbury as in previous years. Please use the flier enclosed to book your place, especially if you want accommodation in Sarum College on Saturday night.



Africa at GI 2014*

Twenty six African countries at GI 2014

The African countries brought a unique flavour to this AMCF world conference held for the first time on their home continent. The young South Africans *Warriors*, we have written so much about in previous Newsletters as they went through their training and preparation, were energetic and exuberant and brought a fresh and inspiring dimension as they hosted and led Bible study and prayer groups. They also added an extra African flavour to the worship with

dancing, singing and whole-hearted praise. The Warrior training programme, in which Africa has led the way, has clearly been blessed and provides a good model to strengthen MCFs around the world and to build a “Joshua” generation for the future. Our newest MMI staff members, Eddy Amponsah and Max Mupondi were Warriors which kept them busy as they also worked hard at meeting new contacts as part of the MMI Africa team.



Just some of the participants from the 26 African countries represented at GI 2014



Left: Jos McCabe with Maurice Goeleyen (CAR)



Right: French MCF President Eric Mandille and wife, Anke with Onesime Kaoeye (Chad)

Francophone Africa

GI 2014 provided a welcome opportunity for Francophone African participants to be encouraged and grow. This is not an easy region with considerable political instability and many security issues. Yet our mighty God made a way and we were thrilled to see our prayers answered in the form of Colonel Maurice Goeleyen from the Central African Republic and Onesime Kaoeye from Chad being able to get to the event. It was also encour-

aging to see four members of the Ivory Coast MCF present. This country is recovering from a civil war and so to learn that the MCF is still active is very good news. We were also encouraged to see participants from Benin and Burkina Faso and a strong group from Cameroon led by the AMCF regional vice president, Colonel Daniel Njoya.

Portuguese speaking Africa

Participants from Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau took part alongside fellow Portuguese speakers from Brazil and Portugal itself and were a significant presence at GI 2014. Whilst they had previously attended a West African Interaction, Guinea Bissau was able to send three participants to their first AMCF conference with permission from their gov-

ernment. This is a significant development for them and the participants are praying they will be able to build a stronger MCF in their country. They were encouraged to meet other Portuguese speakers at AMCF GI 2014 and they are returning home with the desire and vision to see their MCF develop and the Kingdom of God grow in Guinea Bissau.



Proudly displaying their Guinea Bissau flag with regional supporters

* The reports on these pages come from MMI Chief Executive/Team Leader and Regional Team Leader for Africa, Colonel Jos McCabe

Burundi MCF participation

The very recently re-launched MCF of Burundi sent four participants to GI 2014. The MCF President, Brigadier General Miburo, and three younger members attended. They were keen to meet with members from other MCFs and to learn from them. They certainly had the opportunity

to become better equipped to run their MCF and to disciple its members. This young MCF appears to be dynamic and poised for growth. MMI are now keen to respond to their request for a follow up visit in the coming year as part of a wider mission visit to East Africa.



L to R: Emmanuel & Ernest (Burundi), Regional VP Brig Gen Wakaalo, Pastor Festus (Liberia) Alfred (Burundi) and Jos McCabe

Below left: Regional VP, Air Cdre Komo delivers his presentation; right: VP designate Sonny Igwe (centre).



Jos McCabe with Ghanaians: Bright, Mary & Augusta

West Africa

It was great to meet up again with some old friends from West Africa. Nigeria and Ghana were well represented and, praise God, we saw participants from Cape Verde, Gambia and Liberia as well. Because of the Ebola virus restrictions, Pastor Festus Bundor from Liberia had travelled to the USA at his own expense to apply for a visa there to come to South Africa. Amazingly this was granted and despite the Ebola virus travel restrictions on his country he was able to attend. For Air Commodore (Retired) Ishaku Komo this was his last AMCF

event in his role as West African AMCF Vice President. He is being succeeded by another Nigerian, Group Captain (Retired) Sonny Igwe. Ishaku Komo has been a most proactive vice president and has been instrumental in helping to establish the Nigerian based AMCF support organization, the Christian Military Fellowships Support Initiative (CSI). We wish Ishaku and his family every blessing as he stands down. Group Captain Igwe was commissioned as the new AMCF VP at the President's Quinquennial Council held immediately after GI 2014.

Ugandan Ladies bring encouragement and colour to GI 2014

A large number of ladies from the Ugandan Military Christian Fellowship attended GI 2014. Most are wives of serving soldiers, some of whose husbands are currently deployed in Somalia. They have been amongst the most faithful prayer warriors for GI

2014 and had in large part raised their own support to attend. They had even approached their country's First Lady and she had helped them significantly. They were an encouragement to us all and set an example of what prayerful determination can achieve.



* The reports on these pages come from MMI Chief Executive/Team Leader and Regional Team Leader for Africa, Colonel Jos McCabe

South Asia at GI 2014*

It was about the next generation

Of the 500 (plus) people who attended Global Interaction, 25 people, including the AMCF Presidential party, were from South Asia. In Cape Town we were all blessed by a lively praise band with young Warriors in naval whites dancing to the music of

“Jabulani Africa”. One of the most moving experiences of the week was when Bishop Henry Orombi encouraged the older (over 41!) servicemen and women to confess their faults in their dealing with the younger servicemen and women in their

charges. The elders were likened to those who grumbled and died in the Sinai wilderness on the way to the promised land. The elders (which included virtually all those from South Asia) were being called now to hand over the baton to the next gen-

eration. In a highly symbolic gesture the older ones laid hands on the young and commissioned them to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil their calling.



Pastor Indra Basnet and Chiranjivi “Steve” Sharma (above right and left) carried the flag for Nepal in Cape Town. The Nepal MCF has chalked up some notable successes recently including the formation of a fellowship group in Eastern Nepal, the encouragement of 2 participants from their neighbours to come

Cape Town and the delivery of a seminar on evangelism. Other participants from the region also helped to deliver a seminar, this time on persecution, and from their own experience. The Nepal MCF looks forward to celebrating its tenth birthday in 2015.



Photos (clockwise): AMCF VP, Cdr Mathew delivers his report; Joe Lawrence (Bangladesh) worshipping; ; Brigadier Generals Johannes Pelupessy and Eddy Tartiono (Indonesia).



As the closing date for registration approached, no one from India had signed up for GI 2014. One of the many answers-to-prayer stories to come out of Cape Town, was the attendance from India of Lieutenant General (Retired) Ashok Vasudeva, his wife Neena (left with Beryl (Kenya)) and Mr BV. Gen Ashok attended a Long Gunnery Staff Course in India in 1973 with now AMCF President General Weerasooriya. They met again in July this year as General Ashok was passing through Colombo, Sri Lanka and General Wera-

sooriya took the opportunity to invite them to attend GI2014. God’s timing is perfect. By another happy “coincidence” it turned out that the General was on the staff of the Indian Staff College in Delhi when Brigadier David Wakaalo from Uganda, now VP East Africa, was a student. Gen Ashok and Neena return to India to investigate the establishment of an MCF in Delhi. B. heads home, filled with the Spirit of service, enabling him to continue his ministry.

* The reports on this page come from MMI Regional Team Leader for South Asia, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Paddy Hughes

The Middle East at GI 2014*

“Be Bold and Very Courageous”

Global Interaction 2014 (GI 2014) provided a first opportunity for the majority of the participants from the Middle East to experience an international gathering of military Christians and proved to be a real encouragement for them all. Additionally some countries were represented for the first time at an AMCF/MMI event. Such participants made many new friends among the GI 2014 gathering and have been encouraged and equipped to

begin new ministries amongst Christians in their forces on their return. They are under no illusions about the difficulties they will face but the conference theme, “Be bold and very courageous” (Joshua 1v7), has encouraged them to take on this task. They will need our prayers for wisdom and protection as they seek to fulfil what they believe the Lord has called them to do.



Photos, top to bottom:
 † MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson with Arab participants.
 † MMI RTL, Richard Sandy with Israeli participants.
 † The Arab choir.
 † Richard Sandy and the Middle East delegation.
 † Shachar (Israel) delights the Conference with her singing in Hebrew and English.



Worship African-style was infectious and encouraged other nations to give expression to their own cultural forms of worshipping God. The Arab and Israeli participants were not to be left out! An impromptu Arab “choir” enthusiastically performed a Christian song in Arabic which had the audience singing and clapping along with the rhythm. Their performance was immedi-

“A Glimpse of Heaven Touching Earth ...”

ately followed by an Israeli participant, Shachar, who performed, solo, a lively song in Hebrew and English, whilst accompanying herself on guitar, to rapturous applause from the rest of the participants. There is nothing more uplifting than large numbers of Christians from across the world worshipping the Lord together in song – a glimpse of heaven touching earth.

* The reports on this page come from MMI Regional Team Leader for the Middle East, Colonel (Retd) Richard Sandy

Europe at GI 2014*

Together in Christ in Cape Town



The AMCF motto, "All one in Christ Jesus" became very true at the informal welcoming ceremony at Global Interaction 2014. The Serbian participant Major Dalibor Milicic met for the first time the President of

the Croat MCF, Dražen Hrzenjak and this was the beginning of a good friendship throughout the conference. Another expression of the unity in Christ was the suggestion of Dražen to host a Sub-regional AMCF

gathering in October 2015, featuring delegates from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, FYROM and Greece. MMI has been invited to provide teaching at this event in the area of Leadership

Development and Biblical Stewardship. Praise God for this new initiative, which came from the leader of one of the youngest MCFs in Europe - Croatia!



Orthodox Consultation

Another dimension of the "All one in Christ Jesus" motto was the good Orthodox representation from Russia and Belarus. Father Konstantin Tatarintsev and Colonel (Retd) Sergey Kraule were very active participants and took an active role in all of the seminars and events at the Global Interaction. During the coffee breaks a very strategic

discussion took place about an all-Orthodox Consultation in a "round-table" format to be organized in 2015, featuring delegates from Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Romania and Ukraine. Bulgaria will be the hosting country as MMI will partner with a local Orthodox charity which has already expressed a good will for this idea.

New Contact from a new country

We sometimes think that we are doing God's work on His behalf, actually it is exactly the opposite – God is doing His work and allowing us to be part of it. It was a great encouragement to meet A.B. from a country, which is more or less closed for the Gospel.

His testimony is an amazing evidence of the miraculous way in which God works even today in the Muslim world. Another divine "coincidence" was the fact that Slavcho Jurchev, from FYROM actually spoke the language of our new friend and served as a translator.



The European reports on these pages come from MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Reverend Grozdan Stoevski

Europe at GI 2014*

MMI input into the AMCF GI 2014 worship and workshops

The Lord definitely outdid the MMI staff expectations, as Grozdan Stoevski was invited by the worship band to join them on stage serving as a second guitar player. At one point the band was truly international with Isak, Nestor and Conrad (main worship leaders) from South Africa plus Juan from Spain on Drums, Grozdan from Bulgaria on lead guitar and Commander Mo from Tai-

wan on flute! In addition to being involved with the worship, Grozdan also led a small group of Russian speakers and spoke at three of the afternoon workshops. That on Biblical Stewardship was well attended and accepted. MMI has now been invited to teach it in other countries, such as Mongolia! All of this was very humbling as all credit and glory belong to our Lord!



Grozdan leads a seminar on Biblical Stewardship



Grozdan with the Russian speaking small group



Grozdan, adding his talent to the worship band

AMCF Quinquennial Council

Moving forward in the Association of Military Christian Fellowships

Report by MMI Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Mike Paterson

Every five years the AMCF-President assembles his vice presidents to seek the Lord for the future of the Association. He invites members of the three Principal Supporting Organisations (ACCTS, MSO and MMI) to join them. In addition this year, for the first time, the West Africa support organisation CSI (see page 3) also attended. The meetings are held immediately after the 10 yearly world conferences and on the intermediate 5th year. We met at the Manyano Retreat Centre in Paarl, a town some 40 kms north east of

Cape Town. It was a time of close fellowship and sharing particularly in continental clusters of Africa, Asia & Oceania, Europe and the Americas. In those groups we considered the Global Interaction world conference we had just participated in and agreed that decisions on the next world conference, regarding if and where it might be held, should be taken at the next Quinquennial Council. For several vice presidents this was the first quinquennial they had attended and they expressed how much

they valued sharing with their brothers from the Presidential Bench. It was agreed that they should seek to meet more often, perhaps in regional or continental clusters to share and support each other as they

“led” their regions. One highly significant decision was that AMCF should remain simply an “association” and not seek to become a hierarchical “organisation”.



MMI 2015 Programme

January	12-16 MMI Staff Retreat
February	2-7 Skiing Retreat (Austria) 21-22 Supporters' Weekend
March	
April	
May	
June	15-19 SIMM Week 20 Prayer Day (Winchester) 19-22 RIMP (France)
July	10-13 European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)
August	24-29 Summer Adventure Re- treat (Bulgaria)
September	
October	
November	
December	

MMI in 2015

Following GI 2014 there is a huge amount of work to do in building on the new relationships established in Cape Town and also those that were refreshed or strengthened there. We have no doubt that many people were envisioned by God for the His work amongst their armed forces and we want to offer all the support we can as they work out, in prayer, how to follow His leading to see the vision fulfilled. In January at our staff retreat we will be praying, sharing and discussing how MMI can be the AMCF Principle Supporting Organisation God is calling us to be post GI 2014 and in 2015 in particular. Please pray with us as we meet.



Follow the **MMI PrayerBlog** on
www.m-m-i.org.uk/category/prayer

Patron

General the Lord Dannatt
GCB CBE MC DL

Trustees

Maj Gen Roddy Porter (Chairman)
Maj (Retd) David Baldwin
Mrs Yvonne Cobbold
Rev, Col (Retd) Richard Cobbold
Lt Col Innocent Shams
Maj Gen Arnvid Løvbukten (Norway)
Rev Philip Majcher
Mrs Janet Seierstad (Norway)

Associates

Col Charles Amaning (Ghana)
Jeremy Clare
Gen Tim Cross
Rev Simon Farmer
Mrs Anthea Fillingham
Gen Joshua Hamidu (Ghana)
Col Peter Harvey
Col Ivar Hellberg
LTC(R) Dell McDonald (USA)
Gen Lee, Pil Sup (South Korea)
Gen Sir Laurence New
Cdr Michael and Mrs Sue Piper
Mrs Gina Rajah (Brazil)
Lt Col Jan Ransom
Capt Inge Wold (Norway)
Mrs Sue Skippage
Maj John Seii (Kenya)
Ian Willis

Text a donation

Did you know you can donate to
MMI by text?

Simply text **MMIX07 £2, £5 or £10**
(maximum) to **70070**.

or

Give on line



Use this QR code
to go to the MMI
page and give
through Steward-
ship's give.net.

Download a QR code reader from
App Store or Google Play.

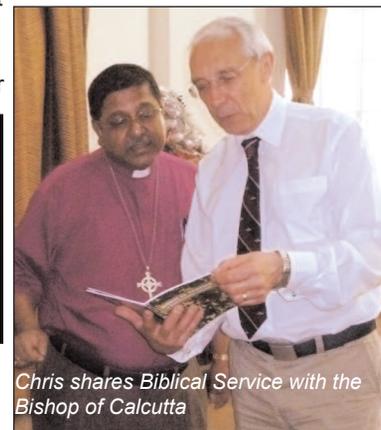
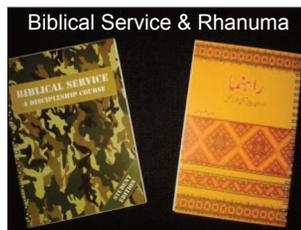
Chris West 1944-2014

MMI Regional Team Leader in South Asia

The whole hall clapped in memory of Chris at GI 2014 as AMCF Regional VP, Commander Mathew remembered the commitment and service they had enjoyed from this wonderful Godly man. Chris travelled tirelessly around the region to meet with leaders and members of the fellowships. His vision was clear; he was to provide all the support he could to help them build God's kingdom amongst their armed forces. When the Pakistani clergy asked for help in supporting the servicemen and women in their congregations Chris offered to provide a discipleship course tailored for Christian servicemen and women. The first version, in English, he called Biblical Service and when it was translated into Urdu they called it Rhanuma (Showing the Way). This is Chris' legacy and he would be thrilled to know that at GI 2014 plans were laid to have it translated into Hindi. Mathew asked for prayers for

the family remembering especially June who sacrificed travelling with Chris herself to allow the funds to be used for Chris to make another journey. Chris would, happily sit and study scripture with MCF members discussing aspects they found difficult; or work with the fellowship leaders to help them set up new groups. He would encourage each fellowship to hold regular meetings and a major annual meeting and attend them himself if that was helpful.

To learn more about Chris' life, and his service flying in the Royal Air Force, Mission Aviation Fellowship and British Airways as well as his family life and service to his church, you should watch the recording of his Thanksgiving Service held on 11 September 2014; go to, <http://vimeo.com/glowmentor/cdpw>. Log in with *ccmmi*.



Chris shares Biblical Service with the
Bishop of Calcutta

Newsletter is a private circulation by:

Military Ministries International
Havelock House, Barrack Road
ALDERSHOT, Hampshire,
GU11 3NP, United Kingdom.

Telephone: ++44(0)1252 311222;

E-mail: headoffice@m-m-i.org.uk

Reg. Charity 284203

www.m-m-i.org.uk