

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

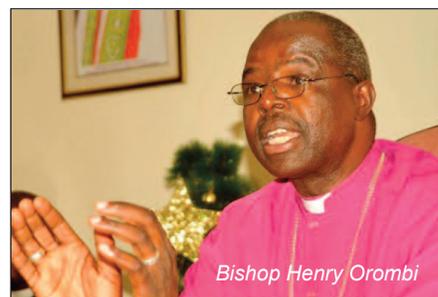
Standing on the Threshold of Global Interaction 2014



Cape Town, South Africa - 30 November - 6 December 2014

“A great fire, ignited by God, in the Southern Part of Africa”

Bishop Henry Orombi - former Archbishop of Uganda - has accepted the invitation to be the main speaker at GI2014. The programme is a banquet of meetings, presentations and seminars all related to the application of the Christian faith to the military life under the theme, ***Be strong and very courageous.***



The venue is Jubilee Community Church in the Observatory district of Cape Town and offers space for the main meetings as well as break-out rooms for the seminars, prayer gatherings and regional meetings that are features of such an event.

Accommodation for participants will be in the hostels of the local Cape Town University and hotels for those who need additional facilities.

Costs, in addition to the fare to Cape Town, are \$580 per person in the University and \$800 per person (sharing) in a hotel for the GI2014 period, 30 Nov-6 Dec 14.

Scholarships are being made available by MMI for one or 2 participants from each of over 50 countries and we hope this may increase as additional support is received. It is a principle that there will be no 100% scholarships; every participant is expected to make an appropriate contribution.

A great fire for God ignited in the Southern Part of Africa is how Colonel Blessings Mbuyazi, President of the South African Military Christian Fellowship described GI2014 at the MMI Supporters' Weekend and we began to really feel the flavour of this exciting event.



Jubilee Church Entrance, Auditorium and Foyer



To be more involved
find this enclosed slip



AMCF 2014
GLOBAL INTERACTION
Association of Military
Christian Fellowships
Global Interaction 2014
Jubilee Church
Cape Town
30 November - 6 December 2014

I want to know more about AMCF Global Interaction 2014 in Cape Town. Please send the details on:

How I can attend?
 How I can be a support supporter?
 How I can support someone else to attend? My particular interest is in:

Africa Europe South Asia The Middle East

Name: _____
E-mail address: _____

Military Ministries International 2014 Programme

April	May	June
8-11 Mission trip to Tunisia	1-2 CoV (German MCF) Meeting	5-7 Missionary trip to Croatia
24-26 Biblical Stewardship Seminar (Russia)(tbc)	23-25 Marriage Seminar (Moldova) Ukraine MCF Meeting (tbc)	14 MMI Prayer Day (Winchester)
30-2/5 MCF Bulgaria meeting and Biblical Stewardship seminar		18-22 RIMP (France)
		24-27 GI2014 P&P (Colombo)

Europe

“Grace, Peace and Armour!”

MMI Regional Team Leader (Europe), Grozdan Stoevski, tells the story of this year's European Military Christian Meeting

This was the theme of the 10th European Military Christian Meeting, which took place on 14-17 February, 2014 at Church House, Lübbecke, Germany. This year the number of participants broke the record as more attended than ever before. There were 53 delegates from 22 countries who attended this conference - UK, USA, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine, Russia, France, Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Poland, Croatia, Holland, Belarus, Finland, Lithuania, Moldova and Sri Lanka.

The teaching provided by the AMCF VPs, Brian Parker and Torbjörn Boström, as well as the MMI and ACCTS USA staff was based on St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It was broken down into 9 sessions, such as Grace - Peace and Armour; Peace - Seek and Defend; Unity - Establish and Sustain; Truth - Tell it and Live it; Re-member - Trust and Obey; Prayer - Communication and Fellowship; Word - Point and Edge. To aid the presentations, we welcomed “Antonios Italikus”, a full size Roman soldier statue, provided kindly by the History in the Making Institute in the UK.

The Stand and Deliver session on the last night proved again to be a highlight, when each country was represented by its delegation's entertaining performance, and ex-

posed some unknown talent amongst the participants.

The EMCM proved extremely valuable not only with the teaching sessions, but also with the opportunity to organise meetings in the coffee breaks and times of fellowship. The MMI team and the AMCF VPs held two very important meetings, one with the Belarus delegation and another with the Croat delegation. Both meetings produced important decisions and action points to assist the further establishment of MCFs in each country. Follow-up trips by MMI staff have been planned accordingly.

All of the participants, organisers and delegates alike, felt it was very important to continue in future with EMCM, since it is a real opportunity to see the Galatians 3:28 “All one in Christ” motto lived out in reality. In light of the upcoming AMCF GI 2014, the next EMCM meeting has been planned for mid-July of 2015, again at Church House, Lübbecke.



Photos:

1. EMCM 2014 outside Church House
2. In a seminar.
3. Antonios Italikus
4. The leadership team with Antonius



Join the MMI adventure at the Black Sea this summer!

Would you like to enjoy the Black Sea coast with good military Christian fellowship while taking part in dingy sailing, horse riding and off-road jeep driving?

Then consider joining the MMI Summer Adventure Retreat!

- **Who is invited?:** MCF members, young officers, cadets who would like to grow in their spiritual development (leadership, character, team-building). Couples are welcome too, however child care will not be available.
- **When is it?** 25 – 30 August 2014
- **How much would it cost me?** – 185 EUR per person – includes in-country travel, full board for 5 days as well as adventure activities. Air-fare is not included.
- **How can I find out more about it?** For further information please contact:

Rev Grozdan Stoevski, MMI Team Leader for Europe,
e-mail: europe@m-m-i.org.uk; mobile: + 359 896 685 672.



Learning how to cope with changes - and how to ski!

European Team Member, Rainer Thorun tells the story of this year's Skiing Retreat with the Austrian Chaplaincy

We had to arrive on Sunday at 2 pm at Lager Walchen to be transported by special military vehicles to the camp of Wattener Lizum at an altitude of about 2,200m (7,200ft) in the High Mountain Military Training Area south east of Innsbruck. All the main Christian confessions were represented, Protestant, RC and Orthodox. In all we were 28 international delegates from 7 different countries.

The conference was perfectly prepared and organised by the Austrians as usual. It was very blessed in many aspects: good and sufficient snow, very fine weather with lots of bright sunshine or at least sunny spells. When we had a gale one morning, we prayed in the devotional before breakfast and going out later the wind had decreased in

a way that meant we could ski as had been intended.

Praise God that there were no accidents at all and almost all the beginners were able to go on the steep slope by the last day. The skiing instructors did a great job again this year. The theme for the talks was "How to Cope with Changes" and it was of great interest to the participants. The introductory talk, given by the Vicar General of the Austrian RC Chaplaincy, was a strong foundation for our following topics which included: "The Example of Mary" (The Annunciation Luke 1:26-38) and "How to Cope with Unpleasant Changes" (Paul and Silas in prison, Acts 16:22-36). But as usual our normal talks and discussions around the matter of how to combine Christian belief

with military service aroused lively discussions.

The highlight was the final service we had in the chapel on the hill slope above the camp. Equipped with torches we made our way through deep snow in the starry night to the lovely building. Johannes Dopplinger preached from Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." As part of the service Inonut-Adrian Vlad from Romania introduced and directed a lovely period of corporate prayer. It was a very touching event.



Forgiveness in Military Marriage

Rainer and Karin Thorun respond to the Lithuanian Chaplaincy invitation to run another marriage course

Again we will have a Marriage Seminar in Lithuania, this year in the General A. Ramanauskas Warfare Training Centre, in Nemenčinė not far from Vilnius. Additional to our general topics - *More pleasure in Military Marriage* - burdened by long separations and deployments - we will emphasise this year especially the role of forgiving in the relationship of a couple and within a family. But we will also trace the influences our ancestry has on our actual relationship. The highlight will probably be the service with the opportunity to renew wedding vows combined with a personal blessing by Archbishop Gintaras Grušas.



Archbishop Gintaras Grušas and Rainer

Ukraine - A plea and prayer for the armed forces

APPEAL by the Council for Pastoral Care of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine to the personnel of military units and their families.

Dear brothers and sisters!

We, the representatives of Ukrainian Churches and religious organisations, ...are proud of the courage, determination and honour that you demonstrate as the defenders of your Nation... "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe" (Luke 11.21). ... Pastors and the faithful of our Churches are praying for you, for your families, for the unity of the people, for a better future for our country. ...May God give you the strength to survive during this confrontation without losing dignity and honour...

Glorify to God!

The Council (See below) are representatives of the major faiths professed by the members of military services: Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kiev Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, The Roman Catholic Church of Ukraine, Ukrainian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine.



Major changes in the MMI Africa Team

MMI's Chief Executive/Team Leader, Jos McCabe, explains the significant developments in the MMI Africa Team

Beginning with our farewell to Homfray Vines ...

Well has it finally happened? After 14 years Homfray Vines is retiring from MMI at the end of this his 3rd tour with us. From 2000-2005 he was Field Director Europe before assuming the position of Executive Chairman after the tragic death of Ian Durie. In 2007 Homfray retired from that post for a whole year but came back after completing mission studies at All Nations Christian College to be Regional Team Leader for East and Southern Africa.

Homfray is much loved and widely respected by many people all over the world who are involved in building Christian

disciples in the military. His enthusiasm, generous heart and Godly wisdom have been used by the Lord to touch many people. He leaves having been used to play a part in the creation of new MCFs in Namibia and South Sudan in the last 2 years. Homfray "has run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12 :1). We know he will continue to pray for MMI and the work we are involved in. We pray that the Lord will richly bless both Sue and he in whatever the Lord calls them to next, because we know that both of them have a heart to continue serving the Lord.



Homfray and Sue are released with prayer and MMI's blessings

... swiftly followed by welcome Max Mupondi

Max has joined the MMI Africa Team as a new team member for East and Southern Africa. Max, a former Warrant Officer in the Zimbabwean Air Force, now lives and works in Britain. He is married and has 4 children. Max came to faith whilst serving in the military of his own country and feels called to military ministry. He spoke at our last Supporters' Weekend, has undergone induc-

tion training and, by the time you read this, will have made his first missionary trip with MMI to Zimbabwe and Uganda. Please join with us in praying for Max, his family and for the journey they have begun with us in MMI.

Turn to the back page for Stop Press news of Max in Zimbabwe.

Bernhard Kaltenbach (ACCTS USA), with Max at Sarum College



... and Eddy Amponsah

Eddy has also joined the MMI African Team. He was born and raised in Ghana but joined the British Army and before leaving as a lance corporal saw service in Iraq. He was also a keen athlete at Army level and now works as a youth worker. Not surprisingly, he has a special heart for West Africa. Eddy is married and has 2 children. Eddy will be travelling with MMI in the next few months and we ask you to join us in praying

for him, his family and for his journey with MMI.



... and how will it work?

With Homfray leaving us, and Max and Eddy joining us, how will MMI work in Africa? As always we will be dependent on God as we begin a new phase but the heart of our strategy will remain as building and maintaining relationships with military Christians in Africa to encourage a growth in Christian discipleship. Having Africans in our team provides a tremendous opportunity to connect better in the region and build the vital relationships. As we journey together in this we will be focused on building a real team ethos. I, Jos, will take

on the task of Africa Team Leader, coordinating the work of the Team and supporting it throughout the continent. Whilst Max and Eddy will focus on some specific areas Samuel Coias will continue to help in Portuguese speaking Africa. We hope to grow the team further in the next year. Supported by the African Regional Pray Plan Group, chaired by trustee, Richard Cobbold, we would value your prayers and encourage anyone who would wish to join the RPPG to please contact the office.

God is calling the Nations of East Africa to Pray in Uganda

says MMI Regional Team Leader for Africa (East & Southern), Homfray Vines

Praise God! General Edward Katumba CDF of the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force gave the official permission for the AMCF East Africa Prayer Convention to go ahead in Jinja from 24 to 28 March. The Convention has for 4 years been the vision of the AMCF VP Brig Gen David Wakaalo. He and his wife, Ruth have a great heart for prayer. Ruth runs the very active Military Wives Christian Fellowship in Kampala. The Fellowship was one of the first groups to pray actively for the AMCF Global Interaction and they want to send 15 participants!

The purpose of the Prayer Convention was to mobilize

regional armed forces to come together and stand apart to seek the Lord's face and strength. "If my people would walk in my ways, then I would quickly subdue their enemies" (Psalm 81:13).

With this intent the AMCF President, General Srilal Weerasooriya invited up to 50 serving military personnel who are members of the MCFs of Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda to participate. As the event opened we celebrated that God had, so far, called 5 nations to participate in this prayer for peace in the region: Kenya, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania and



Brigadier David & Ruth Waakalo being commissioned as AMCF VPs in 2010

Uganda. We were praying that the delegates from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who had their authority to travel rescinded at the last minute, might still make it, but sadly that was not to be. Brig Wakaalo said: "What is required at this stage, is to cre-

ate faith in the Jinja event. The Lord gave me this message over the weekend which beat my understanding! Faith without action is also dead but also prayers without Trusting God kills the confidence in Him."

Being MCF in the Western Cape

At the MMI Supporters' Weekend Hendrick Swarts, chairman of the Western Cape Fellowship spoke of SAMCF life. He said that for him, "My Mission Field begins right where I am, and may God help me do it well."

In The Western Cape Fellowship there are 4 strong groups meeting; including the Simon's Town Naval Base where Swarts leads. The Fellowship includes the Men of Valour group. Men of Valour is a group of young men who believe that ... "as iron sharpens iron, so one man should sharpen another." (Proverbs 27:17) and they meet together to grow in Christ.

In Simon's Town NB the fellowship is in good relationship with the fleet and the base chaplains. They have Warriors trained to lead at GI2014. Warrior Training has had a great impact on the leaders and the fellowship is anticipated to be the strongest fellowship in a year's time.



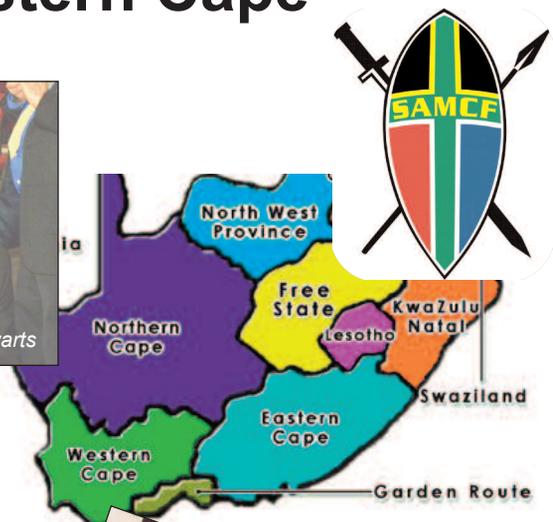
Max Mupondi (left) with Swarts



Men of Valour



Simon's Town Naval Base fellowship



“MMI Partnering with South Africa”

Our 2014 Supporters’ Weekend in Salisbury 1-2 March

We returned to Salisbury this year and invited Supporters to join us in St Paul’s Church and then Sarum College in the Cathedral Close. AMCF GI2014 is our focus for 2014 and thus generated the theme, **Partnering with South Africa**. Elsewhere you can read about the South African Military Christian Fellowship in the Western Cape and see below MMI CE/TL, Jos McCabe and Regional Team Leader, Homfray Vines introducing the President of the SAMCF, Colonel Blessings Mbuyazi and Hendrick Swarts. GI2014 Director, Captain Klaas Steyn and Programme Director, Rhett Parkinson updated us on the planning for the event and you can read the latest detail on the front page.

AMCF President General Srilal Weerasooriya updated us with

his global perspective of MCFs around the world and spoke of two new potential fellowships in Europe. Our supporters were also one of the audiences privileged to hear Dilhani’s testimony.

As always we were delighted to have representation from our sister organisation, ACCTS USA and to hear what they have been doing in the military mission field.

The facilities at St Paul’s are excellent for this event and we were again fed very well by a team of supporters under Mrs Sonia Sandy’s leadership.

It is our flagship event for supporters and if you missed it then we would encourage you to look out for the announcement of next year’s event in February or March.



1



2



Pictures from top:
 1. MMI RTLs and Secretary face their supporters’ questions in an open forum.
 2. Supporters in St Paul’s Church, Salisbury.
 3. Dilhani Weerasooriya tells her amazing story.
 4. Jos McCabe introduces our South African guests



3

Prayer Day

14th June 2014

WINCHESTER VINEYARD

† Coffee from 9.30 am

† Closing prayer 4.00 pm

For more details see the flier enclosed



South Asia

Paddy Hughes, Standing in the Gap

While Chris West continues to rest from his MMI duties Paddy Hughes continues to stand in the gap. Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Paddy Hughes has been a long time supporter of MMI since its foundation and as a member of the Pray and Plan Group for South Asia was well placed to step up to the mark. Moreover, Paddy was with Chris in 2012 when he made his first visit to North East India. Clearly there was a divine hand on the events of the last 2 years which should not surprise us.



Paddy Hughes (centre) with trustee, David Baldwin and Rev Robin Hungerford, at the MMI Supporters' Weekend

Deferred Bangladesh MCF Meeting Scheduled for May

We are delighted to hear that the BMCF meeting deferred from last year due to the national elections has been rescheduled to take place in May. The Papal Nuncio will be the guest speaker.

AMCF regional vice president, Commander Mathew has been invited and will be encouraging the BMCF's participation in Global Interaction 2014. Watch out for a report in our Summer Newsletter.

AMCF President returns to Pakistan

From AMCF VP, Commander Mathew

It was a great honour for the AMCF family that in March General Srilal Weerasooriya was decorated with Sitra-e-Pakistan by the Government for his services as Sri Lankan Ambassador. Benaiah took the opportunity of his presence to hold Praise and Worship Gatherings on 15 & 17 March at Rawalpindi

and Lahore respectively. The events were well attended and were blessed times of fellowship and sharing. On 17 March, Bishop of Lahore, The Right Reverend Irfan Jameel joined them at St. Mary Magdalene Church,

Lahore Cantonment. The presence of the President AMCF was an immense source of encouragement particularly for the participation in the forthcoming AMCF Global Interaction 2014.



AMCF President meets with Benaiah members in Rawalpindi

Middle East

A Key Visit To The Region

by Richard Sandy, Regional Team Leader (Middle East)

In the last Newsletter I reported on new contacts made in Israel through an intermediary in the country and the need for a follow up visit. This visit will now take place in March and will be combined with a visit to Jordan. The main object will be to identify and confirm the delegates from these countries who will attend Global Interaction 2014 in South Africa later in the year. A further purpose of the visit will be to discuss the subject of a Middle East Vice

President with the MCF leadership in Jordan.

A visit to this part of the world is always interesting and often exciting! It will give opportunity to assess better the mood of Christians living in these countries amongst the turbulent effects of the so-called Arab Spring, which are having such a significant impact, particularly in Jordan with the huge influx of refugees living in camps along their border.



Young Israeli Believers

AMCF President visits UK

It has been a privilege to have the AMCF President, General Srilal Weerasooriya and his wife Dilhani in UK again but this time as AMCF President. It was a very busy schedule and as you will have seen on Page 2 they attended the European Military Christian Meeting in Germany (barely 24 hours after they arrived in UK!). They also went to Scotland to meet the Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Scotland at Perth Cathedral which is linked with the Anglican Church in Kolkata; the link that enabled our visits there in 2012 and 2013. They also visited Chris and June West there and attended the South Asia Regional Pray and Plan Group meeting.

Back in England they went to Shrivenham and spoke to the Defence Academy fellowships, visited the British Army Chaplain General and the Chaplain to the Fleet as well as the Armed Forces Christian Union, SASRA and the Naval Christian Fellowship.

The key events on which the rest of this trip hung were the MMI Supporters' Weekend and the AMCF GI2014 Briefing held the following day.

In each major location Dilhani also told her own challenging and encouraging testimony which intertwines much of their joint story. It was an additional privilege to be blessed with the message from this wonderful international speaker.



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

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Ian Willis

Stop Press from Max in Zimbabwe:

Praise the Lord, I was able to secure a meeting with the Chaplain General Colonel Nyakudya, who already knew me before ... They were having a week long revival meeting and invited me to join them ... wonderful service ... well attended by both officers and other ranks. I was intro-

duced as one of their own and asked to give the closing prayer.

There is a long existing, vibrant fellowship of officers and other ranks in the Zimbabwe military under the chaplaincy. They are also willing to organise a similar event and receive AMCF VP General Mohapi and an MMI team in May. Hallelujah, what a start!



Above: AMCF President encourages MCF leaders at EMCM - see Page 2.

Below: AMCF President with the AMCF GI2014 team meeting at Salisbury.



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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