

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

### Presenting the Global Interaction Story

**MMI Supporters' Weekend** looked back on Global Interaction and forward to the follow-up

By MMI Secretary Mike Paterson

The MMI Supporters' Weekend, the shop window for our ministry, was held in Salisbury on 21-22 February and presented, first-hand, the Global Interaction (GI2014) stories. Many of these were highlighted in our Winter Newsletter but to hear it directly from the MMI staff members that were there as well as our guests from Croatia and Israel (see pictures) who had also been in Cape Town brought it all alive.

In this edition we look at how we follow up GI2014 applying MMI's developing twin track operating strategy:

Track 1: Pioneer, Outreach and Strengthen :

† **Pioneer** – Explore new countries, new dimensions of ministry, new activities, new initiatives.

† **Outreach** – Reach out with the Gospel message to the

non-Christian military community through the work of the MCFs (wherever there is one) or through the ministry of chaplains (wherever there are some) regardless of their respective tradition of the Christian confession (Protestant, Catholic or Orthodox).

† **Strengthen** – Encourage and equip existing MCFs to fulfill their mission and vision amongst the military communities in their countries.

Track 2:

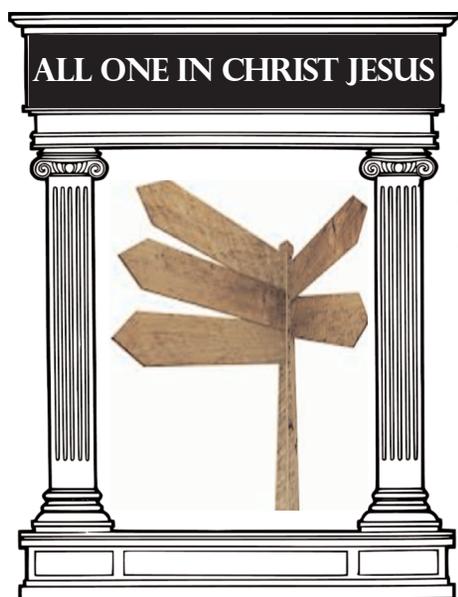
† **Moses events** – Activities that encourage, support and equip MCF leaders, or potential leaders.

† **Joshua events** – Activities for younger military Christians to encourage, support and equip them as future leaders.

It is exciting to have a fresh vision as we move into a new year.



Photos: Above - Supporters in St Paul's Church  
Below: Dražen (Croatia)(left) & Michael (Israel)  
Foot: Supporters, Anthea F. and Sue P. reporting & Paddy Hughes and Michael P.



### Prayer Day

#### Signposts & Pillars

Join us to thank God for last year and to pray-in our MMI programme for 2015-16.

**Saturday**  
**20 June 2015**  
**9.30 - 4.30**

**Winchester**  
**Vineyard**

See enclosed flyer

## Prayer and Perseverance in Africa

*By Regional Team Leader (Africa) Jos McCabe*

Throughout AMCF GI2014 the theme of the Moses and Joshua generations came out again and again for Africa. It was evident in the teaching, seminars and Bible Studies, it was evident in the prayer times and commissioning and it was visible in the form and presence of current African Military Christian Fellowship leaders and younger African military Christians, particularly the young warriors. It is difficult not to come to the conclusion that the Lord is clearly speaking to us and that we must humbly discern and obey his leading in what this means for the work of MMI.

We perhaps already have seen some signs of what this means in real terms whilst preparing some of the ground for AMCF GI2014 and we need to carry it on. The East African Prayer Convention, held in Uganda last March, an event planned and organized in the main by Africans for Africans, has shown that events for existing MCF leaders and younger serving Christians to meet and pray together are possible. The East Africans have certainly set an example and grasped that without prayer as the basis nothing else is possible and we are delighted they are planning another Prayer Convention in May. The Warriors training sessions in South Africa have also shown what is possible and that there are young and capable military Christians waiting

to be trained and willing to serve. We are praying that we will see other events springing up for the Joshua generation. In partnering with local MCFs and the appropriate AMCF Vice President, we believe we are called to encourage and equip the Joshua generation for works of service and witness in their own countries' MCFs. We will therefore be looking for an opportunity to hold a young peoples event in Africa in the next 12-14 months.

In the last 2 years it has also been encouraging to see some other MCFs reaching out to touch military Christians in Africa. The Portuguese MCF invited Portuguese-speaking African Christian leaders (the Moses generation) to Portugal 2 years ago and it may be this event is repeated in the coming year. In UK we hope to invite some African Christian leaders to attend our Sharing in International Military Ministry (SIMM) programme in June and, on a much smaller scale than AMCF GI2014, to give them the opportunity to meet each other, be encouraged and better equipped to work together.

Much prayer, hard work and perseverance will be required in the coming year but we believe the Lord will be with us as we seek to obey his calling.

*At the East African Prayer Convention 2014*



*Warrior Training*



## Missionary Journeys in Africa

By Regional Team Leader (Africa), Jos McCabe



Jos McCabe with Kenyan Chaplains at GI2014

MMI staff met in January to prayerfully reflect on AMCF GI2014 and to discern how the African programme should be run in the coming year. We have been led to continue our operational strategy of Strengthen, Outreach and Pioneer but with this to concentrate on “Moses” leaders and the “Joshua” generation, who will, God willing relieve them one day.

So what in real terms does this look like? At its heart is the requirement to continue to build relationships and to humbly serve those we encourage and support.

I am currently planning to attend the East African Prayer Conference (see previous page) and en route visit Burundi to encourage and strengthen the newly revitalized MCF there and look at the scope for holding a Joshua style training event there early next year. I also hope to visit Tanzania at the invitation of the Anglican Bishop of Tabora. This is a pioneering and outreach role and whilst we have visited Tanzania before political considerations make it very difficult for military Christians to form an MCF.

Ghana saw the birth of the first MCF in Africa, many years ago but it now needs more Joshuas and whilst we have contacts in

The Gambia the MCF there has never effectively got off the ground. So MMI Africa Team Member, Eddy Amponsah will be traveling to Ghana and The Gambia to pioneer and strengthen.

In Southern Africa, MMI Africa Team Member, Max Mupondi will be travelling to his home country, Zimbabwe in a pioneering role. We know there are many military Christians there but it still has no official MCF and we are anxious to encourage the establishment of one. Max may also be able to journey to Zambia to assess the situation and offer fellowship to our contacts there that were not represented at AMCF GI2014.

In Portuguese speaking Africa MMI Africa Team Member, Samuel Coais is hoping to visit São Tomé and possibly Mozambique. São Tomé was also unrepresented at AMCF GI2014 and they need encouraging. Samuel is also working to see if the Portuguese MCF can bring African Leaders to their conference in Portugal in October.

Finally, we welcome Eric Mandille as an MMI Team member for Francophone Africa to the African Team and pray for God’s leading for him as he establishes relationships in this hard area.

### New Francophone Africa Staff Member



Eric was born near Paris in 1960 into a non-Christian family and wanted to become a soldier since early childhood. He served in the French Army for 33 years as a Signal Officer. In 1985 he married Anke, who is German, and they have three sons.

Eric came to faith after the local pastor at their first posting invited them to a study about soldiers in the Bible. A few decades later he got involved with the French Military Christian Fellowship of which he had been the president since 2014.



Max, AMCF VP Daniel Njoya & Eddy at GI2014

# Europe

## Moses and Joshuas in Europe

### MMI continues to support MCF leaders and bring on new ones

MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Rev Grozdan Stoevski looks forward with excitement to two major events in Europe

**Be strong and very courageous” (Joshua 1:7)** are the words on a green bracelet which AMCF GI2014 participants were given and which I wear daily. “Therefore go and make disciples...” (Matt 28:20a) is the theme chosen by the European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) pray and plan team led by AMCF regional Vice President, Cdr (Retd) Brian Parker. There is definitely a correlation between the two messages given to MMI as marching orders for 2015. The meeting of the European MCF leaders (“Moses”) takes place, again at Church House, Lübbecke, but this time it will be in the summer, 10-13 July. In unison with the Inductive Bible Study guiding principles, Brian has set the stage for each session with key questions such as, What did He say,? Who is He talking to?, What does He want? etc to enable the respective session leaders and the participants to explore the Great Commission. Judith Hillary, the former MMI

Admin Secretary has rejoined the EMCM Team bringing to bear her experience and expertise. EMCM at Church House in the summer, exploring the Great Commission – **I am ready to go now!**

**T**he Summer of 2015 will be packed with action for MMI. A little over a month after EMCM, young officers, cadets and MCF members (“Joshuas”) will gather again at the Primorsko Club Resort in Bulgaria for a week full of adventure, inspiring Bible discussions and seminars and, most important, international fellowship in the spirit of “All one in Christ Jesus”. The launch of the Summer Adventure Retreat in 2014 proved very successful as already people from different countries have indicated a desire to attend and are looking at their flight options. The dates will be 24 to 29 August, with an extra day on each end for travel. **Are you strong and courageous? Therefore GO to the Summer Adventure Retreat 2015 in Bulgaria! I am ready to go now!**



Photos:  
Top: SAR 2014  
Above: EMCM 2014  
Right: AMCF President's passion for Godly leadership.



## Cantus Firmus, Heaven is open

European Staff Member, Rainer Thorun reports on the 2015 Skiing Retreat

**I**t was sad that several delegates had to cancel their participation – including the entire delegation of the Slovakian Academy. Nevertheless we had 14 international participants and it was a very special and blessed event, since all the delegates were mature Christians, making the talks, presentations and discussions very deep, rich and prolific.

We were blessed with good and sufficient snow, very fine weather with lots of sunshine and the venue, Camp Walchener Lizum proved to be a good one: delicious food,

nearby ski lifts; all in the high mountain Military Training Area southeast of Innsbruck. As before, the conference was perfectly prepared and organised by the Austrians. The skiing instructors did a great job this year again in a way that even a first-timer was able to go on the steep slope at the end of the second day. It was a great shame that Greta from Lithuania fell the second day. She could not ski again but is well on the road to recovery now; thank you, Lord. We had no special theme except our general one of “A

Christian in Contemporary Armed Forces” but all the talks, presentations and Bible studies were founded on ‘Cantus Firmus’, “Heaven is open”. The Lord provides recommendations for effective life wherever He sends us to live. The highlight of all was the final service held in the cosy but cold chapel on the hilltop above the camp. Using torches for illuminating the way up was impeded by a strong wind. In a short sermon Chaplain Johannes Dopplinger summarised our talks and discussions.



## Pioneer, Outreach and Strengthen MMI's events in Europe in 2015-16

By Regional Team Leader (Europe) Revd Grozdan Stoevski

### Orthodox Consultation

A pioneering event (see front page) in the region is the International Orthodox Consultation of Christians in the military which is to take place in mid-November in Bulgaria. MMI will be partnering with a local Orthodox Charity,

"Pokrov Bogorodichen" hosting the event in a local monastery. Father Konstantine from Russia and Colonel (Retd) Sergey Kraule from Belarus have already confirmed their participation. Please pray for all the right participants to join us.



### "Who is my neighbour"?

This question that Jesus asked (Luke 10:29) will be the theme of the first sub-regional conference for the MCFs of South-Eastern Europe, which will take place in Zagreb from 5-8 October 2015 and will be organized by the young Croat MCF, *Together in War, together in Christ*, with the assistance of the MMI Europe Team. One of the points we made about the gathering at Global Interaction was that it included many who the world would not see as natural friends but for whom "All one in Christ Jesus! is the simple reality of the Kingdom of God. What better place to demonstrate Christian reconciliation with your neighbour than to reach out from Croatia?"

A poster for a conference. At the top, it says "u suradnji s in association with" and features logos for NCOK and military ministries INTERNATIONAL. Below that, it says "organizira lokalnu organizes lokal konferenciju conference". The main title is "TKO JE MOJ BLIŽNJI? WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" with the subtitle "LUKA 10,29". The background shows a white building and a bridge over water. On the right side, there is a vertical strip of various national flags. At the bottom left, there is a map of Croatia and contact information: "Life-center Crikvenica Vladimiro Nazora 51 5. - 8. October 2015. information: e-mail: crikvenica2015@gmail.com mob:+38591 3874478".

### Ministry trips in Europe

In addition to the above events, the MMI Europe Team will be travelling to many countries to fulfill one or all three of the aspects of the P-O-S strategy. As we go to press, Col (Retd) Igor Sawicki and I will be traveling in Belarus. and Rev Mike Terry will be travelling in Italy together with AMCF regional Vice President Cdr (Retd) Brian Parker. Among other journeys for me, later in the year, I will be traveling to the Netherlands to at-

tend the NCOK (Dutch) Annual Conference. The latest plans for 2015-16 are in the programme on the back page. Activities and trips are very important, but more important is that the name of the Lord Jesus is being glorified among the military Christians in Europe, with gratitude to God the Father! "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col. 3:17)



Photos:  
Left: Belarus 2014  
Below, Right: At home in Moscow. Left: At home in Albania.

# Middle East

## So much exciting potential in the Middle East MMI's perspective is quite different from the world's post GI2014

*Regional Team Leader (Middle East), Richard Sandy looks to the year ahead*

Identifying and equipping young leaders for the future ministry – the 'Joshua' generation (see front page) is a particular problem in the Middle East where seniority and primacy are very much linked with age. There is a general reluctance to allow the young to take up positions of influence or to demonstrate initiative and thus simply to emerge as potential leaders. Nevertheless, we sense things are beginning to change and we are making a conscious effort to identify young believers within the countries where we have contacts and to encourage them to attend suitable AMCF training events.

In anticipation, and to act as a goal for our visits and regular communications this year, we are proposing a Young Leaders Retreat in Cyprus in March 2016. There will be an emphasis on outdoor activities and com-

mand/leadership tasks rather than talks and lectures. The programme will pick up aspects from the highly successful Warrior training programme held in South Africa in preparation for GI2014. We believe we have identified a suitable venue but will need considerable prayer support to make it happen – not least in identifying the right delegates to attend.

In Israel, meanwhile, the situation is very different. The pre-Army courses and Soldiers' Conferences, already being held for young Messianic believers about to join or currently serving in the Israel Defence Force, are providing the type of imaginative programmes we would like to see used elsewhere. Their programmes are designed to strengthen and equip young Messianic believers to be more effective disciples of Christ and in so doing, we believe, make them better soldiers.



Photos above and left top from Israeli young Messianic believer events.



### “Go therefore ...” Matthew 28:19

Although we had a fair representation from the Middle East at Global Interaction 2014 in South Africa, there are still over half the countries in the region where we do not have functioning MCFs or even regular contact with believers linked to the uniformed forces. Therefore, we are giving a focus in our praying and planning this year to identifying suitable contacts in the countries of Sudan(Khartoum), Tunisia and Algeria, where we already have contact with a believer. We have previously visited Khartoum but, since the formation of the separate state of South Sudan, many of our Christian contacts have moved to the

South and yet we know there are believers still remaining in the north. In Tunisia we have contact with a believer but a ministry to the uniformed forces has not yet begun. We believe a further visit to pursue our ministry is possible later in the year, although the recent terrorist incident in Tunis is a concern. We have not previously visited Algeria but exciting things are happening within the Christian church in the country and we believe there is opportunity this year to make a pioneering visit. We would value your prayers as we make plans for these proposed visits, whilst also being open to new opportunities that may arise.

## India - The Prize

Regional Team Leader (South Asia), Paddy Hughes reflects on our MMI Indian journey

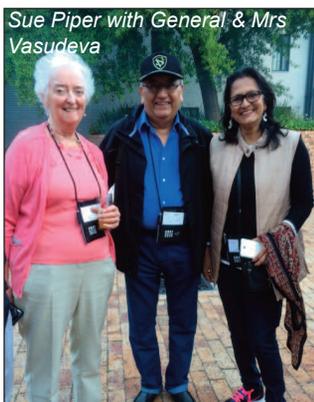
India seems to be constantly in the world news these days. The Indian army is highly regarded and competition to be commissioned is fierce.

In MMI, we have been focusing for many years on trying to encourage Christians in the 1.5 million strong Indian military, to establish an effective MCF. Chris West, our late South Asian Team Leader, felt the predominantly Christian Assam Regiment, would be worth contacting. But how do you make contact with an active service regiment when the Indian Ministry of Defence, prohibits contact with foreigners?

Our God is a God of “co-incidences”. The Bishop of Calcutta “co-incidentally” was a guest of the Scottish Episcopal Cathedral in Perth in 2012. At a lunch party in Perth, he offered to help MMI. “Co-incidentally” there was a high ranking Army Officer in his congregation in Calcutta. “Co-incidentally” the high ranking officer was ex-Assam Regiment and in 2012 Chris and I were taken by him to North East India where the Assam Regiment are based. We met a lot of Indian military Christians and the leaders of some very effective local churches.

It seemed there were too many co-incidences not to believe the Lord’s hand was at work in all this.

However, on his second trip out to India in 2013, Chris took ill and at that point things in



Sue Piper with General & Mrs Vasudeva

India seemed to unravel – again. On top of all that, our senior Indian army officer was seriously ill and as we approached the closing date for GI2014 registrations last year, no one from India had signed up. Things looked bad but a lot of people had been praying for India and by God’s grace, these prayers were answered comprehensively.

Lieutenant General Ashok Vasudeva and his wife Neena, came to South Africa and were sufficiently touched by the AMCF vision to want to go back to India and establish an MCF. Moreover, a Pastor came from Lucknow and he was already working with prayer and Bible studies amongst the Indian Army. His wife being a serving officer.

There are big challenges in India. Relations between groups of military Christians are not always good. A recent trip to Bangalore, to meet military Christians, was described by a senior Indian Army officer, as a “disaster”.

There is a lot of fear amongst military Christians in India. Career prospects can be limited. Friendships can be broken. Then there is the rise in Hindu nationalism. A programme is running now to convert Christians and Muslims to Hinduism. There is increased persecution of Christians all over India.

Is AMCF making any progress in India? The answer from a secular point of view has to be an emphatic “no”. But there are signs and there are lots of “co-incidences”.

*Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 1Cor 9 v 25*

“The prize” keeps us in the race.



A Christmas service in Lucknow

**There is no one;  
There is no one like Jesus.  
There is no one;  
There is no one like him.**

A battle cry of the warriors in Cape Town.

By Regional Team Leader (South Asia) Paddy Hughes

As the refrain fades away the memories of the AMCF global interaction remain alive. After the euphoria and the fellowship of Cape Town, there was a more reflective time in Paarl, in the Western Cape, when the AMCF World President reviewed the plans of the MCFs. MMI Staff Member, Mike Terry had written a very incisive paper on the way ahead. One of the points to be picked up by the Presidential Bench, was the idea of empowering VPs to carry out their work more effectively in their regions.

If there was a race amongst the VPs to implement this recommendation, the VP for South Asia, Commander Mathew,

would be in medal contention! Looking ahead, Mathew has contacted all the MCF leaders in South Asia, with a view to holding a leaders meeting in Colombo – along the lines of the European Military Christian Meeting held in Church House, Lübbecke for over 10 years (see page 4). The Nepalese MCF have been inspired to introduce Alpha 4 Forces training and marriage guidance for military families. Throw in a visit to Bhutan plus Chaplaincy training and an initiative with the “Faith comes by hearing” material and our VP looks like a busy man. But thanks be to God for the inspiration he and we all received in Cape Town.

Pakistani participants at GI2014



# International update for UK's Naval MCF

By Europe Team Member, Rev (Cdr RN Retd) Mike Terry

**NCF** attendees at their day together at Holy Rood Church, Stubbington, Hants, on Saturday 7 March. Nathan Senior, the leader of NCF, led sessions on the Holy Spirit, which made us think deeply about the Spirit's role and empowering of our lives. AMCF VP South and Central Europe, Brian & Jean Parker and I attended from the

international scene and I briefed on AMCF, MMI and GI2014. I believe it was well received and I had expressions of interest about getting more involved, including one of the serving young ladies who enquired about attending the Summer Adventure Retreat. It was good to enjoy the 'home-base' MCF support.



## Stop Press From Italy

By MMI Staff Member Mike Terry

"It was truly wonderful to witness first-hand the vitality and growth so clearly evident among the Italian military Christians" reports Mike. "There are

now over 300 members in many regional groups. Over 40 gathered from all around the country for this conference to hear about the progress and

vision of MCFI, and reports on international work, including GI2014. They shared a venue with a national meeting of the Italian Evangelical Alliance, and both were visited by the Deputy

Prime Minister who spoke on the Government's commitment to religious freedom."



## MMI 2015/16 Programme

### April

Ministry trip to Ghana & The Gambia  
24-26 ENCLU

### May

30/4-5 Marriage Seminar (Albania)  
4-6 Alpha Leadership Conference  
East Africa Prayer Convention  
Ministry trip to Burundi & Tanzania  
South Asia AMCF VP Ministry Trip

### June

15-19 SIMM Week  
18-21 RIMP  
20 Prayer Day (Winchester)

### Summer 15

European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)  
Ministry Trip to Zimbabwe and Zambia  
Summer Adventure Retreat (Bulgaria)  
Veterans event (Belarus)  
Ministry trip to São Tomé et Príncipe

### Autumn 15

Ministry trip to Tunisia  
European sub-regional meeting (Croatia)  
Nigerian training event  
Portugueses MCF meeting (with African guests)  
South Asia Leadership meeting  
Ministry trip to Sudan  
Ministry trip to India  
Orthodox consultation (Bulgaria)  
Ministry trip to Guinea Bissau  
Nepal MCF 10th anniversary meeting  
Ukraine MCF meeting

### Winter 16

Staff Retreat  
Skiing Retreat  
MCF Leader training (Burundi)  
European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)  
Supporters' Weekend  
Lithuanian Marriage Seminar  
Middle East "Joshua" event  
Ministry trip to Italy



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