

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

Warrior Training for Global Interaction 2014



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

The Global Interaction 2014 (GI2014) "Warriors" are the young men and women, mainly from Southern Africa, who will be our hosts. They will receive the participants and ensure that they are settled into their accommodation; they will be the small group hosts; they will be each participant's first point of contact for any questions or concerns. Warrior Training over the last 18 months has been a key part of preparation for GI 2014 and you will have read about it from time to time in our Newsletters. MMI Africa Team members Max Mupondi and Eddy Amponsah both took part in the final training session in June 2014 and have given us an inside perspective. Read on ...



Eddy writes:

We, Max Mupondi, Samuel Coias and I travelled together to South Africa and were met by MMI's Team Leader, Jos McCabe. We had a lovely ride through the mountains and experienced some beautiful views en route to Wortelgat, Western Cape, South Africa. During the training, the groups were made up of nationals from Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and

those of us residing in the UK (Max & me). It was quite disappointing to realise that some participants dropped out at the last minute. From the first to the final day of the training, we were engaged in a variety of sessions and activities. These included

- Hosting of small groups,
- Inductive Bible Studies,
- Leadership development & team building activities,
- Conversational Prayer,

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Max writes:

It was a great experience to attend the recent Warrior Training event in Wortelgat, Western Cape, South Africa. I had the opportunity to learn effective leadership skills, meet and build relationships with new people, draw nearer to the Lord and have fun. As most of the participants were young adults who required guidance from mature people, I was often asked for my advice on personal matters. The programs were well planned and coordinated. Looking back, I can justifiably say that the course exceeded my expectations. It equipped me with the tools I needed to be an effective leader so as to fulfil the high calling of God. The course challenged me to once again reflect on God's call upon my life, servant leadership, role modelling, and how to be effective salt and light. The outdoor activities and practice sessions brought a new dimension in my understanding of the critical need for self-awareness, leadership, planning, communication, listening, team work, trust, and control in any given task. We saw too clearly from our

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To be more involved
find this enclosed slip

Military Ministries International 2014 Programme

July
26-2/8 New Wine (UK)

August
25-30 Summer Adventure Retreat
(Bulgaria)

September
October
Regional Marriage Seminar (Moldova)
Romania MCF meeting
24-1/11 GDS & Bob Elliott to Latvia

November
December
30/11-5/12 Global Interaction 2014, Cape Town
6-8 AMCF President's Quinquennial meeting, Cape Town



GI 2014 - Providing Scholarships to be there

A quick overview of the nations MMI is supporting to send participants to Global Interaction 2014

Generous MMI supporters as well as churches and grant making trusts have responded to our appeals for funds and now MMI is anticipating providing financial support for over 50 participants to attend Global Interaction. Here

is an overview of some of the countries we are privileged to be able to support. For security reasons and because we still have 5 months to go, not all the countries being supported can be mentioned.

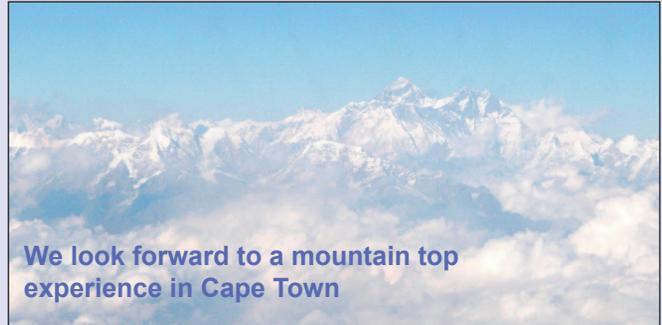
Thank you for your help!

From South Asia:

Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Indonesia
Nepal	India	Bangladesh

From Africa:

South Sudan	Tanzania	Burundi	Uganda	Chad
Mozambique	Lesotho	DRC	Cameroon	
Madagascar	Mauritius	Ghana	Zimbabwe	Zambia
São Tomé et Príncipe	Swaziland	Comoros Islands		
Cape Verde	Sierra Leone	Guinea Bissau	Cote d'Ivoire	



We look forward to a mountain top experience in Cape Town

Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem



From The Middle East:

Jordan	Israel
Tunisia	Egypt

From Europe:

The Czech Republic	Albania	Moldova
Croatia	Greece	Romania
	Russia	Greece
Belarus	Macedonia	Bulgaria
		Latvia

Teams of Warriors forged for God's purposes

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Eddy writes:

- Sharing of testimonies,
- Understanding the MCF and chaplains relationship.

For me the training was exerting to some degree, but not so demanding and some was a revision of previous experiences while others found it a completely new challenge. However, I relished everything offered and truly enjoyed the training. The results of these interactive activities helped identify certain challenges that individuals and groups in the military face and gave us the

opportunity to reflect and pray together for one another. Parliament - We created an interaction group dubbed 'Parliament' especially for the male participants; where we engaged in a series of conversations, both with elements of humour and serious minded issues revolving around and involving men. Some topics of discussion centred on what men should or should not spend our money on as single/married individuals? And what issues affect men, mostly? The joy of the fellowship was just inevitable!



Warrior Team training

Max writes:

own behaviour that people don't listen or ask questions in order to understand instructions but often rush to carry out delegated tasks without clear vision. During the event I learnt about Inductive Bible Study, Conversational Prayer and telling my story. The event also equipped me with skills in cross-cultural communication, welcoming, hosting small groups, prayer ministry, stewardship and team building in preparation for GI 2014. War-

rior Training lived up to the AMCF motto of being 'All one in Christ' as people of different backgrounds laid aside everything to focus on the triune presence of the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ the Son of God alone. I can still hear the resounding echoes of the song which to me became the anthem of the event, 'Here I am Lord, is it me Lord, I've heard your calling in the night, I will go Lord, where you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.'



Warrior Training June 2014

“If my people would walk in my ways, then ...”

Psalm 81:13

The AMCF East Africa Prayer Convention - 24-28 March 2014

Report by MMI Staff Member, Max Mupondi

The event was truly a prayer convention as much time was spent on confessions from Psalms, repentance and prayers for the countries represented as well as those not represented; for God to use their MCFs as the salt and light. The VP for East Africa, Brig Wakaalo presented the theme from Psalms 81 v 13 “If my people would walk in my ways, then I would quickly subdue their enemies.” The VP encouraged delegates to fast and have just one meal by the end of each day. The convention hall was opened at 3am every morning for intercessory prayers and praise and worship. Apologies were received from Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Ethiopia and as expected there were no delegates from the countries of Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti, but we pray on. A documentary on ‘The Unconventional War’ about the host nation’s fight against the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and how the military joined forces with Christians in the spiritual element of this war in northern part of the country which resulted in the rebels fleeing. Testimonies were

heard from the South Sudanese of how the Lord had helped them in their struggle for independence, from MCFs of Uganda and Kenya of how the Lord had given them victories in Somalia, South Sudan, DRC, including over the LRA and Somali insurgents. Outstanding was the testimony of S/Sgt Jackie Eyokia, a soldier’s spouse who was abducted, raped and held captive by the LRA for six years before she miraculously escaped to safety and, to prove that what God has put together no man can separate, was later reunited with her family even though her husband had remarried and moved on. Guest speakers spoke on “Why prayers of confession and repentance”, “The legacy of the East African revival”, “Counter insurgency operations”, “Israel and God’s Plan for the Nations”, “Destiny for Africa”, “Unity for Advancing God’s Work among the Forces”, “Chaplaincy in the liberation struggles” and “Principles of Leadership”. Delegates were encouraged to register for the forthcoming AMCF GI 2014. A delegation of soldiers’ spouses

made a farewell presentation to, outgoing MMI Regional Team Leader, Homfray Vines who was obviously touched by the gesture. By the end of the convention, all delegates testified that they had been revived and were going back to strengthen work colleagues, their families and friends.



EAPC delegates at Prayer Mountain



United in prayer



MMI Supporters off to East Africa

East Africa is a crucial region for MMI activities and we have enjoyed some great contacts and activities there in previous years. Now two MMI supporters are going to live there, at least for a while. Ronnie Westerman goes to South Sudan as the Defence Attaché in Juba in August. Unfortunately, because of the deterioration in the security situation,

her husband, Ian is no longer able to accompany her. Instead, he will be following his post-military career as a teacher in Uganda where he has taken a job with an international school in Kampala. Ian also attended the East Africa Prayer Convention in April and the photographs above are his work.

Europe

Encouraging and being encouraged by Military Christian Fellowships in Europe

MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Grozdan Stoevski reports on a busy 3 months with different travelling companions

Biblical Stewardship in Russia

At the end of April, Major (Retd) Mark Hibbert-Hingston and I travelled to Russia in response to the invitation of the Russian MCF. We had been invited to lead a Biblical Stewardship Seminar at the House of Cornelius, near the town of Broneck, about 40 km south of Moscow. The seminar was attended by MCF leaders and local pastors and was received very well, since it encouraged the partici-

pants to acknowledge and mobilize local resources to help further develop the ministry. In addition to the teaching, we shared at length with the Russian MCF about the upcoming AMCF GI 2014 and helped them with the registration process. By doing this trip, MMI demonstrated the "All one in Christ" fundamental principle, despite the complex geo-political situation.



Russian MCF gathered for fellowship and learning

Faith and Honour in Belarus

Colonel (Retd) Sergey Kraule attended the European Military Christian Meeting in Lübbecke in February 2014 and invited MMI and ACCTS USA to send a joint team to visit Belarus. LTC (R) Dick Barnes and I were very pleased to respond and visited Minsk from 19-22 May. We began with two excellent days introduction to the Belarusian Orthodox tradition. We visited the Jirovichi Monastery, a very important Orthodox place of worship for the Russian-speaking world, located in the

western part of the country. The time there was filled with activities, organized discussions and participation in the Holy Liturgy, which wonderfully enriched our Orthodox worship experience. The visit to the St Elizabeth Orthodox Mission Station in the centre of Minsk was even more inspiring, informative and enriching. Sergey had also organized for us to meet with the Director and speak to the cadets of the Minsk Cadet High School. A talk on the divine origin of military service from Romans 13 was very well received by both staff and cadets alike. "Faith and Honour", Belarus' Orthodox Christian military association has true faith and a strong concern for the spiritual wellbeing of the military community in the country. Both MMI and ACCTS USA look forward to further partnering with this organization for the advance of God's kingdom in Belarus!



Grozdan speaking from Romans 13

Bulgaria's St George MCF celebrates 15 years of fellowship with a seminar on Biblical Stewardship

The Bulgarian MCF was founded in May of 1998 by Cadet (at the time) Grozdan Stoevski, together with two other cadets and two officers. The organization reached its peak in 2008 numbering over 120 members from across the country and also went through some difficult days after 2009. In December of 2011 the organization was relaunched under the new name of "St George the Victor". Last year the new leadership of the MCF invited MMI to run its

Stewardship Seminar for them and combine it with the 15th Anniversary celebration. The conference took place at the "Momina Krepost" Retreat Centre, nearby Veliko Tarnovo, a venue with a historic importance for the MCF. LTC(R) Dick Barnes represented ACCTS USA and there were delegations from Romania and Croatia. Chaplain Gabi Gheorgias from Romania introduced his "Shield of Faith" book of military testimonies, which is being translated into Bulgarian

and will also be published in English too, in time for AMCF GI 2014. It was a wonderful time of re-

union and mutual encouragement in the spirit of Gal 3:28.



Stewardship Seminar in Veliko Turnova

"Staying Positive Under Pressure"

MMI European staff member, Rev (Lt Comd RN(Retd)) Mike Terry reports on the first joint Armed Forces Christian Union & European Navies Christian Link Up Weekend held at Church House, Germany on 23-25 May 2014

Our guest speaker was Adam Pyrke, a former Royal Engineer, who with his wife, Ruth and children have, at God's leading just moved from Germany, to Croatia. This move into a new job with a totally new culture, where the effects of the civil war are still being felt, means there has been a lot of pressure in the Pyrke family recently so it made him an ideal speaker to talk about our topic of "Staying Positive Under Pressure"; an issue many will identify with! Our key passage for the weekend was James 1:2-5. His key illustration was of a bag of hard, tasteless corn which,

when subjected to heat in a microwave, turns into lovely tasting pop-corn! Thus God will use the pressures in life to grow us in the faith so we depend more and more on him and turn from hard, unresponsive humans into beautiful advocates for the Kingdom.

As well as this spiritually inspiring programme we had our usual times for sharing and fellowship and it was great to catch up with our international AMCF friends from Holland and France, Niels Woudstra, the Jeschkes, Bergelts and Jacquets as well as for us all to meet new friends from the AFCU family.



L to R: Mike Terry, Wolfgang Jeschke, Marco Bergelt, Elisabeth Bergelt, Fleurizia Jacquet, Niels Woudstra, Michael Jacquet

A new MCF in Croatia - Together in war together in Christ

Grozdan Stoevski tells the story of the latest European MCF



Croatian MCF certificate awarded

It all started when our Korean sister organisation MSO (Mission Support Organisation) invited Drazen Hrzenjak from Croatia to the 2013 Military Evangelism Observation in South Korea. Later the same summer a small MMI team visited Zagreb to spend time with Drazen and talk about MMI and AMCF. Then he came to the 2014 EMCM in February and I followed up again with a trip to Vukovar, to see him along with

the leadership of "Together in war, together in Christ" a newly founded Christian organization, which was already in the process of being formed as an MCF. Then on 6th June AMCF VP, Commander (Retd) Brian Parker, accompanied me to Zagreb to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Croat MCF and present Drazen with the official certificate! Praise the Lord for the 149th MCF to be formed in the world.

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.

Deadline for booking is 4 July



Middle East

Encouraging times in Israel

MMI Middle East Regional Team Leader, Colonel Richard Sandy, visited Israel and Jordan with former MMI Trustee Mike Barritt

It had been a while since we last visited Israel and Jordan and we needed to identify delegates to attend Global Interaction 2014 (GI2014) in addition to encouraging the ministry amongst soldiers in those countries and seeing how best we could assist in coordinating the various ministries amongst soldiers in Israel. In Israel we were greatly encouraged by what is already happening amongst believers in the Israel Defence Force (IDF). The visit was very successful, as well as enjoyable, largely due to the considerable organising efforts of a good friend and MMI supporter, Richard Meryon, Director of the Garden Tomb Association in Jerusalem, who had arranged a number of meetings with believers, serving in or recently retired from the IDF, whom we had not previously met. The enthusiasm of the young Believers was infectious. A number of useful conversations resulted

and from these we are hopeful that suitable individuals can be identified to attend GI 2014. Specifically we are seeking delegates who on their return from GI 2014 will be able to take on a co-ordination role for the ministry in Israel. After four days we then crossed into Jordan and met up with a number of old friends. We were hosted throughout our brief visit with typically generous Jordanian hospitality! We also met a couple of new members of the MCF and one of these, Fares, has since registered to attend GI 2014. We would love to have a second delegate from Jordan and are praying this may yet prove possible. The absence of younger members in the MCF was noticeable and we are keen to encourage efforts to engage with younger members of the Jordan Armed Forces and this is very much a matter for prayer.



Young Israeli believers with (R to L):
Capt Richard Meryon RN (Director of the Garden Tomb Association, Jerusalem) and Capt Mike Barritt RN



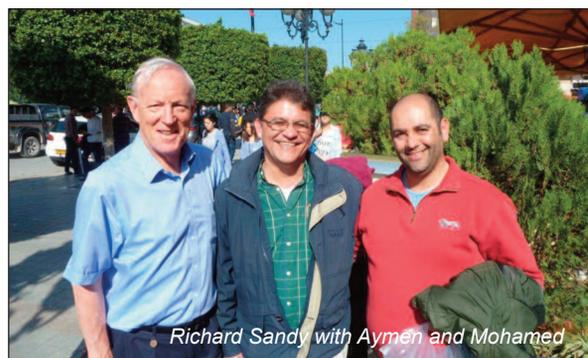
The Upper Room, Jerusalem

Another of the Lord's 'co-incidences' ?

Richard Sandy tells the story of his visit to Tunisia with Mike Barritt



Tunis



Richard Sandy with Aymen and Mohamed

With GI2014 coming up later in the year it seemed timely to make a second brief visit to Tunisia to meet, Mohamed, our contact there, to encourage him and also to identify a couple of delegates to attend GI2014. Our first meeting was with Mohamed and Aymen; the latter a young former soldier who was keen to become involved in the ministry to the military and to attend GI2014. Both stated that they wished to attend but recognised there were a number of obstacles to overcome if they were going to be able to travel to South Africa – not least of which was a passport for Aymen and exit visas for them both. The following day Mohamed had arranged that we would meet a serving soldier, H., a new believer and recent convert from Islam. However, before meeting him H. telephoned Mohamed to

say as a result of family and work pressure he felt he could no longer meet us and had decided to re-convert to Islam - which was hugely disappointing. The planned meeting having been cancelled we decided to use the free time to have a walk into the centre of Tunis. After some ten minutes walking, suddenly, on the opposite side of the road, by sheer 'coincidence', Mohamed spotted the same H. we had been due to meet and called him over! We had a brief conversation on the pavement. It was pointed out to H. that maybe our 'unplanned' meeting had been arranged by God, and if this was the case maybe he should consider more seriously the implications of this God-incident! It seemed to make quite an impact on him. There was no opportunity to take this further in the street and we continue to pray for this young man.

MCF Bangladesh International Conference - May 2014

“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I lack.” Psalm 23:1

From a report by AMCF Vice President for South Asia, Commander Mathew

Sixty people comprising members of the Military Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh, foreign delegates, dignitaries, speakers and eminent Christian leaders were present at this the annual meeting of the MCFB. Dignitaries included Archbishop Patrick D Rozario; Reverend Martin Adhikary, Principal of the College of Christian Theology in Bangladesh; Father Charles Pollett and Father Simon Gomes from St Joseph's Seminary and AMCF Vice President for South Asia, Commander Saleem Mathew from Pakistan. International guests came from neighbouring countries including Nepal. All the international guests had to wait until the last minute to be granted visas which was a matter for considerable prayer as the day approached. Bangladesh has a tiny Chris-

tian minority of less than 0.9% of the population. Within the the military there are very few Christians and we thank God for these godly men and women he has called to establish the MCFB. We know that from tiny mustard seeds a great tree grows and Jesus likened this to the way the Kingdom of Heaven works. In Bangladesh the service of the Christian minority is a light for the Gospel. Our prayers are that the MCFB, in revealing Christ, will draw many to seek him as their only hope of salvation.

Editor's note: The MCFB's commitment is a huge encouragement to us as well as a challenge to the West to seek out those who are complacent in their material comfort and introduce them to the



BMCF Conference participants

Notes from India:

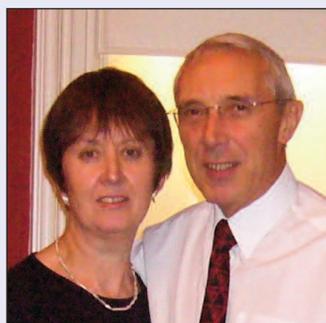
During a recent private trip to India to visit the schools founded there by British missionary Tyndale Biscoe, MMI's acting Regional Team Leader for South Asia, Paddy Hughes along with Biscoe's grandson, Brig (Retd) Ian McGill, met with Group Captain (Retired) David James, pictured below outside the Cathedral Church of the Redemption in Delhi. David is a faithful supporter of military ministry and is helping MMI find the right participants to attend AMCF GI2014. Paddy and Ian were in Delhi when the recent elections

brought the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) into power on a landslide victory and has expressed his concern over the implications of this victory. "There is increasing & strident opposition here, in the capital city of Delhi against the distribution of God's Word. It is only through much intercessory prayer that God will move on our behalf and give us a breakthrough. Victory is assured, but we need to claim it through unceasing prayer, followed by action!" writes David.

News on Chris West

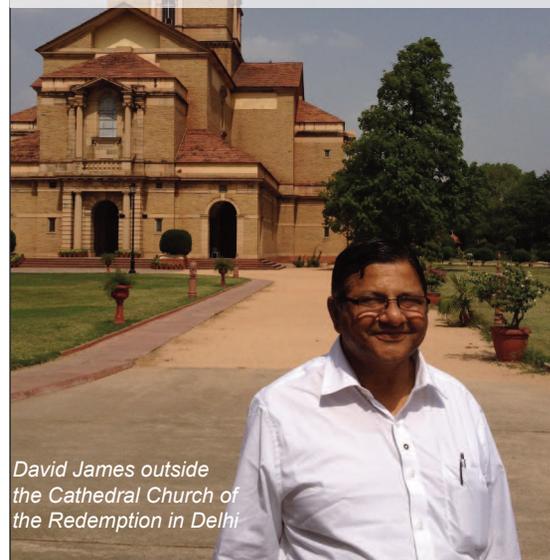
Chris and June are very grateful for all your prayers. Sadly the prognosis on Chris is no better despite the fact that for now he feels quite well. In anticipation of the MMI Prayer Day on Saturday 14th June (report overleaf) Chris and June sent the following message:

Praying for the day tomorrow. Please pass on our very deep gratitude for the prayer of those in MMI, AMCF and AFCU. June and I feel the close fellowship of the Lord as we walk day by day in the light of our Salvation. Our specific prayer for this weekend would be that in this time of world turmoil, the Lord would be Glorified and His



Salvation clearly seen and accepted. With love and great gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ. Chris and June.

Please continue to pray for them both and their family.



David James outside the Cathedral Church of the Redemption in Delhi



MMI Prayer Day

Praying for Nations in Conflict

“Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people”.

Revelation 5:8b

We had an inspiring time of prayer at our Nations in Conflict Prayer Day. Having given thanks for some amazing answers to prayer and had a time praying for the AMCF GI 2014 preparations, the focus of the day was a Prayer Labyrinth created to enable meditative prayer for the nations suffering conflict in our 4 regions.

We are very aware we cannot support people in their Christian life in the armed forces but ignore their local context of struggle, violence, pain and suffering and the desire for revenge that is all around them. We all struggled with the tension of knowing the battle is al-

ready won, that God is in control, is Lord of all and loves each one of us, with the horrors and evil reality of wars and terror.

The labyrinth consisted of 8 mazes, to cover all the regions in which MMI ministers. People were invited to enter the mazes and stop at different prayer points, to consider a specific conflict – reasons, motivation, context and to pray for the conflicts in different ways. This was individual and silent prayer, with people moving through at their own pace. The overwhelming need for forgiveness and love to be released on all sides in the conflicts was clear.

This was a powerful time with the Lord, and there were many pictures and scriptures shared afterwards.



In the Prayer Labyrinth

At the start we each made a simple cross of nails, Coventry Cathedral’s symbol of peace and reconciliation, to carry through the Prayer Labyrinth with us.

We concluded this part of the day at the foot of the Cross praying the Coventry Litany together, confessing reasons for conflict and proclaiming in song “Our God is mighty to save, ... the hope of the nations.”

“Truly he is my rock and my salvation he is my fortress I will never be shaken.”

Psalm 62:2

“The more you are surrounded by violence and bloodshed, the more you have to rely on the love of God and the direction of the Holy Spirit”.

Canon Andrew White, “Vicar of Baghdad”.

From the Coventry Litany ...

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, Our envy of the welfare and

happiness of others, Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God.

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