

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

### Relationships are the building blocks; Travel is our bread and butter

*MMI Executive Secretary, Mike Paterson reflects on how our ministry works.*

As summer arrives in the Northern Hemisphere we remember our summer in the Southern Hemisphere in Cape Town just before Christmas. We remember the venue, the wonderful worship the inspiring Bible teaching and the envisioning seminars but as we look forward this Summer it is the people we are thinking about. The relationships that have been established or developed. We have been delighted to see posts on Facebook with good news of the young South African "Warriors" who hosted us magnificently and are now meeting together regularly bound in the Spirit by their collective experience at Global Interaction.

Facebook was also our first contact with our friends in Nepal after the first earthquake hit on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Read more about this on page 6 of this Newsletter. The immediacy of contact in this digital age is something we now take for granted and we are often annoyed and take it personally if we are denied instant messaging around the world. In our archives in the MMI office we have correspondence from the pre-digital age such as carbon copies of letters and faxes that are from an obsolete era. Relationships are the building blocks of our ministry. The immediacy

of texts, Facebook and emails allows us to maintain more relationships than sending letters enabled and that is a such a blessing to our work. It is also good to be aware that a Facebook post is no substitute for a face to face conversation that allows a relationship to go deeper although now Skype allows something of the face to face meeting. In the end though it is the visit, the missionary journey to meet somebody face to face and share the same space on earth with them, to listen to their problems, to pray with them and sometimes just share silence that really cements the relationship. That is why we say that the missionary journey is the bread and butter of our ministry. MMI staff will travel as far as it takes around the world to meet maybe just one person for fellowship if that is what we believe the Lord is calling us to do. It may not sound cost effective but in our experience it is God effective and from such journeys God's people in the armed forces are inspired to build the Kingdom in the midst of their garrisons, cantonments and lagers. Your prayers and gifts enable this to happen. Thank you so much for taking your time to read this Summer Newsletter. We pray that it will bless you.



The Ukraine crisis: Chaplains and Refugees - Page 2



Meetings in Uganda and Tanzania - Page 5



Devastation in Nepal - Page 6



A new AMCF VP for the Middle East - Page 7

MMI's new website address

**www.mmi.org.uk**

Email addresses now use @mmi.org.uk

Contact the office on **headoffice@mmi.org.uk**

Messages to @m-m-i.org.uk will be automatically forwarded



## MCFs bringing God's love to Ukraine: Chaplains & Refugee support

Reports from the MCFs in Ukraine and Moldova through MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Rev Grozdan Stoevski.

### Ukraine

In mid-May Rev Grozdan Stoevski, MMI Europe RTL, as well as Lt Col (Retd) Torbjörn Böstrom, AMCF VP Europe North & East visited Ukraine, at the invitation of Col (Retd) Sergey Lysenko, President of the All Ukrainian Military Christian Brotherhood. The two met with Sergey and his Board (consisting of two generals and three colonels – all retired, but now very active in business and politics). Sergey shared about the various activities of the Brotherhood, especially in light of the on-going armed conflict in the eastern part of the country. Torbjörn presented the AMCF – its history and current status, while Grozdan “introduced” the Board to the Centurion from Luke 7, as well as presented the ministry of MMI. As a result, Sergey and the Board expressed appreciation of the MMI and AMCF work and declared a willing-

ness to join the international military Christian community.

Torbjörn and Grozdan also met with Vasili Khimich, President of the Protestant MCF in Ukraine. He has recently been ordained by the Kiev Baptist Church as a chaplain and travels regularly to the front line with a small team to deliver food, supplies, visit wounded soldiers in hospitals etc. Sadly, for now the chaplaincy issue has reached a “dead-end” street. The Government has published a decree to institute chaplaincy, but nothing has been done thereafter. In the meantime, various churches and denominations send their teams and ministers who fulfill the function of chaplains, but these are not centrally coordinated nor supported officially. The Government says it would do it, but it does not, while the churches are not asked to do it, but they do! (Matt. 21:28-31).



Photos above and left: Vasily Khimich (with guitar) with Ukrainian soldiers on the Eastern Front.

### Moldova

In November 2014 Eduard Rosca, President of the Military Christian Fellowship, “Cornelius” of Moldova, and Pastor Ivan Ivanovich of “City of Light” Military Church recognized the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian refugees coming to Moldova fleeing the war areas of neighbouring Eastern Ukraine. These people have lost their homes, their clothing, their possessions, and have come to Moldova with just the shirts on their backs.

Eduard Rosca reported recently, “We are in awe at how God has blessed this effort. When we first became aware of this tragic refugee situation ... we prayed how we might provide humanitarian assistance. Starting with very little

money, we stepped out in faith and prayed that God would bless this project. Within a few weeks, we received confirmation that this project was of the Lord.

“Here is what happened:

† Members of “City of Light” church secured two large warehouses to store non-perishable food, clothing and building items. A congregation of just 55 has now donated more than \$3,000.00.

† Five Moldovan churches and four in Romania have raised about €20,000 towards food packets.

† A former Austrian chief chaplain of has gathered used clothing and sent three

*Continued opposite*

Photos:  
Right: Moldovan MCF President, Eduard Rosca with bags of emergency supplies for refugees.  
Below: A beneficiary family.



## Marriage Seminars in culturally very different countries

A report by MMI European Staff Member, Oberst a.D. Rainer Thorun.



Marriage can be a bit like a three legged race



Karin and I led two marriage seminars in very different countries recently. The first in the Baltic nation of Lithuania (March 20th – 22nd) and then in the very different country of Albania (April 30th – May 1st); both with special characteristics.

In Lithuania everything was prepared perfectly as always by Fr Remigijus of the Roman Catholic chaplaincy. Some of the participants had attended such a seminar in previous years and wanted enhancing information while other, new participants sought the basic material. Even when some repetitions occurred there for the “experienced” couples, they all appreciated the event. As two of them expressed it :

*“It is incredible, my first love is renewed. I have new eyes for my wife. I have to edify and respect her. The husband has to go ahead also in all spiritual aspects and dimensions. Love in marriage needs to be nurtured.”*

and

*“At the first Seminar I was very relieved. Now I am full of thankfulness, I have received*

*new fire for our relationship. This must be maintained.”*

Six weeks later in Albania the participants from and around the capital Tirana came together in the home of the Shuli-family; only few of them could manage attending the entire seminar. Not all of them were married couples, some were engaged or still looking for a partner. Among them was one couple without a personal relationship to Jesus or even a church affiliation, but they listened very carefully. Divorcing is not frequent in Albania. But the comprehension of marriage is very traditional with fixed roles for wife and husband including their embedding within an extended family. The sessions had to be adapted to these conditions. The seminar, loosened up by sport activities and games for partners, was very much appreciated. It is most important to mention how Elizabeth Shuli managed to provide amazingly delicious meals never knowing in advance how many she had to feed! Both meetings were blessed very much. Thank you for your prayers.

**Moldova** *contd from page 2*  
truckloads to Moldova for the refugees.

† MMI and ACCTS have also provided generous financial support.

As of mid-May, we have prepared more than 20,000 food packets each sufficient to sustain two people for almost one month. (See photo opposite)

The number of refugees is constantly growing. We know that this is God’s plan, and He will provide. The Lord has generously provided resources to date, and we are convinced He will continue to

do so - not only to provide more food packets, but also clothing for the refugees, as well as building materials to renovate existing housing for refugee use.”

The war in Eastern Ukraine is not over yet and the humanitarian crisis will continue. What Eduard and Ivan Ivanovich do is in harmony with the words of our Lord Jesus who said: “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” (Mat 25:40)

### SUMMER ADVENTURE RETREAT

24-29 September 2015 - €190 per person + travel

Would you like to enjoy the Black Sea Coast with good military Christian fellowship with friends from across Europe while taking part in inspiring seminars, crazy dingy runs, riding horses and off-road jeep driving?

Topics proposed for discussion in main sessions and small groups:

- Practical Leadership
- Team work is Dream Work
- Principles of effective communication
- Profession, Vocation, Calling in Life
- Christian faith and Military Service
- What the Bible teaches about War

Contact: [europe@mmi.org.uk](mailto:europe@mmi.org.uk) or +359 896 685 672

## Commander (RN Retired) The Reverend Mike Terry is appointed European AMCF Vice President

Mike Terry served in the Royal Navy for 31 years as an engineering officer. He left in 2006 and attended Ridley Hall before being ordained into the Church of England. Mike is married to Nicky-Sue whom he met at Ridley Hall and who is also ordained. They are joint part-time vicars in the Diocese of Portsmouth (UK).

He has supported many MMI conferences and events in Europe and Africa. Mike and Nicky-Sue are often invited to officiate jointly at services at such events. Mike has been, and will remain, a Regional Staff Member of the MMI Europe team where he and Nicky-Sue are regular participants at the European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) in Lübbecke, Germany.

At Ridley Hall Mike's dissertation considered European Christianity and military parishes. The abstract ex-

plains- *This research project is intended as the basis for a handbook to help field workers of military Christian parishes, from largely Protestant, western mind-sets, to engage sensitively with those of different theological and ecclesial understandings within Europe. This required appraisal of a wide range of aspects of modern European Christianity as well as the para-church environment.*

Most recently Mike was invited by the AMCF President to write a paper on the future of the Association for consideration by members of the Presidential Bench at their quinquennial council after the Global Interaction.

Mike could hardly be better prepared for his new appointment, none the less he and Nicky-Sue would value all our prayers.



## MMI events, activities and missionary trips still to come in Europe

Our MMI programme is very full and focuses on following up the AMCF Global Interaction in South Africa last December. Many of the events are familiar but in seeking participants and designing programmes GI 2014 has been in our prayer and planning.

Forthcoming events in Europe:

**RIMP, 19-22 June:** The French Protestant Chaplaincy's international conference. An excellent event for meeting existing and new contacts from around the Francophone world.

**EMCM, 10-13 July:** The annual European Military Chris-

tian meeting held in the British Army's Church House, Lübbecke, Germany. Fifty participants in all; led by AMCF VPs and the MMI European team.

**SAR 24-29 August:** The second Summer Adventure Retreat to be held on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast. Details on the MMI website.

**Military Veterans Meeting Belarus, 24-29 August:** This event helps veterans from both sides of the second World War meet in reconciliation and healing of past wounds.



Above: At RIMP MMI European Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski and his wife Slavica meet French Foreign Legion NCO Capral Chef Nikolai Yotov from Bulgaria.

Right: AMCF VP Brian Parker with his able assistant Joe Crow. A familiar partnership at EMCM.



## Tanzania and Uganda but not Burundi this time

*MMI Chief Executive & Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe tells the story of his curtailed missionary trip to East Africa.*

My plans to visit 3 countries in East Africa had to be changed at the last minute because of an attempted coup in Burundi and the on going political situation there. We are praying and have heard that our military contacts in Burundi are safe and are able to be salt and light in a very complex situation. However, I continued on my visit to Tanzania to meet with Bishop Elias Chapukewa, the Anglican Bishop of Tabora. Bishop Elias represented Tanzania at the AMCF GI 2014 in Cape Town and has ministered to soldiers in his country. In Tanzania, MMI believes the local church is the most effective conduit for being able to encourage and support soldiers, as there are difficulties in a formal MCF being able to exist in barracks. Bishop Elias had invited me to his Diocese when next due in East Africa and had hoped to arrange a meeting with a military representative. Unfortunately this meeting was not able to occur this time but I was able to brief Diocesan clergy about MMI and

had the privilege of preaching in Tabora Cathedral to a capacity congregation of 500. I concluded this East African mission trip with a visit to the regional AMCF Vice President, Brigadier General David Wakaalo and his wife Ruth in Kampala, Uganda. Brigadier Wakaalo was able to tell me about the East African Prayer Convention, which had to be postponed from May to later in June because of concerns about the venue. I was also able to meet with some other members of the Ugandan MCF and to listen to their views about the East African region. It was a very valuable visit even if some aspects remain a mystery for the time being!

*Photos (top to bottom)  
Uganda MCF members  
with Brig David & Ruth  
Wakaalo.*

*Jos With Uganda MCF  
meeting.*

*Tabora, Tanzania Cathed-  
ral where Jos preached.*

*AMCF VP West Africa  
teaching Inductive Bible  
Study in Guinea Bissau.*



## Sharing in International Military Ministries (SIMMs)

After a lull last year, the AMMI SIMMs programme is taking place here in UK as we go to press. Participants from Nigeria, The Gambia and Ukraine will be attending. It is an opportunity for our guests to learn about Chaplaincy and other military Christian organisations and enjoy military Christian fellowship.

Our guests stay in the Armed Forces Chaplaincy School at Amport House and receive

briefs about Chaplaincy, MMI and AMCF. The programme included visits to HMS Sultan, a Navy training establishment, and to the Army Training Regiment in Winchester to meet and hear from serving Chaplains. At Havelock House they meet the military Christian organisations there including our own office staff. During their last weekend in UK, the participants stay with host families and take part in the MMI Prayer Day.



*SIMM Week 2013 - Participants  
from Nigeria, Pakistan, Lesotho*

# South Asia

## News from South Asia on:

- † The appalling earthquakes in Nepal.
- † Terrorist attacks on 2 churches in Pakistan.
- † Kingdom work in India. *This item is available on request only; please email the office.*

### **“I grab my son and run out of the house for the second time.”**

*Posted on Facebook by Chiranjivi (Steve) Sharma, Nepal MCF's International Secretary, immediately after the second of the major earthquakes in Nepal.*

The worldwide news media has given a lot of coverage to the appalling earthquakes in Nepal, the first on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, and the numerous after shocks. The damage and destruction to life and property has been catastrophic, with over 8,000 feared dead and whole villages destroyed. Governments, including our own, have been quick to respond but Nepal is in dire straits and complete towns and villages will have to be rebuilt. The impact on the minority Christian community including those Christians in the Nepal MCF (NMCF) branches around the country, police and families, is dreadful. Around 300 Christian individuals have been killed. The message from Nepal is, “Please continue to pray for the grieving families. Many of the

Christians who survived are struggling to find answers. This is a hard time for NMCF leaders, particularly when difficult questions are being asked by non-believers. Pastor Eliya Ghale, a retired British Gurkha who served at Mukti Darshan Church, Sita-paila died along side 17 believers. One of his sons also was killed when their four storey building collapsed. NMCF member, Govida Deula had his house severely damaged making it uninhabitable. Writing after the latest earthquake, Steve Sharma said: “Thank you so much for your concern and prayers and for standing with us in the hour of need. I am getting news that some of our soldiers in Makwanpur and Gorkha have lost their houses. I would like to visit Gorkha and the affected

soldiers in the region. “Many of our Christian friends in Dolakha have lost their properties. Pastor Indra [NMCF President] visited some of the worst stricken areas of Dolakha and distributed some relief materials. Dharma K.C, one of our committee members, is also in Dolakha meeting some soldiers in that area. And he mentioned that one of the soldiers lost everything and also lost his pension money while being caught in the quake in Kathmandu. “Pastor Indra's old house in Jiri has been completely destroyed and Dharma KC's house has also been destroyed.” Steve goes on to say, “I am very hopeful that a new Joshua generation, full of energy, enthusiasm and wisdom, is coming to rebuild Nepal. Some resources are arriving. God is

good and He will continue to show his goodness despite the present adversity. I heard that some old dried springs have opened and I take this as a prophetic message for my country of Nepal.” Note: MMI and ACCTS plan to send a team to Nepal in November to show solidarity with the NMCF, to meet with grieving MCF families and to support them in their time of need. This is a change to the previously planned fellowship and training trip to celebrate NMCF's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MMI has sent a gift to NMCF to help support the membership and service families as they work to recover from the devastation of the earthquakes.



*Photos - the cost of the damage is so emotional as well as material. A prayer letter is available from the MMI office*

## Churches attacked in Pakistan

*Extract from "Frontier", the Diocesan Newsletter from Peshawar.*

At least 17 people were killed and 80 injured as two churches in the Christian district of Lahore were attacked in March.

An Islamic group, Jamaat ul – Ahar, linked to the Pakistan Taliban, claimed responsibility. The incidents took place in Yahounabad, a poor Christian area of Lahore, outside St John's Catholic church and the Protestant Christ Church, separated by just 400 metres. Two young attackers blew themselves up, one at each

church, when volunteer security guards working with the local police, confronted them at the entrance to the churches. The attacks were timed to cause maximum damage. More than 2,000 worshippers were present in the two churches for Sunday services. But prompt action by Christian security volunteers, prevented the attackers from entering the buildings. Subsequent rioting and reprisals, resulted in additional damage, injury and loss of life.



*Rioting after the bombings*

## Middle East

### AMCF Vice President for the Middle East!

We are delighted to report that the AMCF President, General Sriyal Weerasooriya, has recently appointed a new AMCF Vice President for the Middle East. He is a former officer in the Jordan Armed Forces, Brigadier General (Retired) Isam Oumeish, who was a senior Consultant (Dermatology) in the Armed Forces Medical Services. He is married to Grace, a teacher, and they have two sons (aged 25 and 21 years). They have long been members of the MCF in Jordan and both attended Interaction in the USA several years ago.

We are delighted that Isam has been appointed and, by courtesy of the European AMCF Vice Presidents, Isam and

Grace will attend the European Military Christian Meeting in the British Army's Church House in Lübbecke, Germany in July where Isam will be formally commissioned by the AMCF President. We believe this appointment will bring renewed vigour to the Middle East region for AMCF and the MMI Regional Team Leader, Richard Sandy is very much looking forward to travelling with the Vice President to countries in the region and to making new contacts and encouraging our existing contacts and fledgling MCFs. Please pray for Isam and Grace as he takes on this appointment and particularly for his commissioning in Lübbecke on 12 July.



*Brigadier General Isam and Mrs Grace Oumeish*

### Where are the doors opening?

At our next Regional Pray & Plan Group meeting we will be seeking the Lord's guidance over future visits. Following GI 2014 we thought there was a need to follow up contacts in Khartoum and Lebanon but circumstances have changed and we believe now there is an opportunity to make pioneering visits to Algeria, where we have a contact through the Bible Society, and to Erbil in Northern Iraq through contact with another UK

based Christian charity. We would accompany a contact who travels regularly to Erbil to meet with two believing officers serving with the Peshmerga forces based there. Such a contact may also provide an opportunity to meet with Christians in the Iraqi forces, who have units in Erbil. We are actively following up these leads and would value your prayers as we seek the Lord's leading.

## MMI 2015/16 Programme

### Summer 15

European Military Christian Meeting (Lübbecke)  
Ministry Trip to Zimbabwe and Zambia  
Ministry trip to The Gambia and Ghana

Summer Adventure Retreat (Bulgaria)  
Veterans event (Belarus)

### Autumn 15

Ministry trip to Algeria  
European sub-regional meeting (Croatia)  
Nigerian training event  
Portuguese MCF meeting (with African guests)  
South Asia Leadership meeting

Ministry trip to Iraq  
Ministry trip to India  
Orthodox consultation (Bulgaria)  
Ministry trip to Guinea Bissau  
Ministry trip to Nepal  
Ukraine MCF meeting

### Winter 16

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



On Sunday 17 May, in his home church in Strasbourg, Eric Mandille was commissioned, along with his wife, Anke, to

work for MMI as Staff Member for West and Francophone Africa. MMI Chief Executive, Jos McCabe took part praying for them.

#### 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  
Rev Philip Majcher  
Mrs Janet Seierstad (Norway)

#### Associates

Col Charles Amaning (Ghana)  
Jeremy Clare  
Maj 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 Stewardship's give.net.

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

# Supporting MMI in UK's Armed Forces Week

The MMI Annual Report to the Charities Commission is enclosed with this mailing. It gives an excellent summary of the organisation including the financial report for the year ending 31 March 2015. The Trustees commend this report to you and invite you to consider passing a copy to your church pastor or mission committee with your suggestion that MMI might be considered a suitable recipient for a mission grant. This is especially pertinent as we celebrate Armed Forces week in UK from 20-27 June.



## Executive Secretary appointment changes

You may have seen in our last PrayerLink that Rev Kevin Mentzel is no longer taking over as MMI Executive Secretary. We are now, therefore, looking to recruit again to a similar job specification, or to recruit individuals or engage agencies to cover one or more of the different areas of the work: Financial, Communications, Secretarial and Administration. If you are interested

and think you might be called to any part of this work, full or part time, or know somebody who might be we would be very grateful to hear from you. Mike Paterson, the incumbent Secretary, has delayed his retirement by 2 months to 1<sup>st</sup> September but will leave at that time and we need to have arrangements in place by then. The Lord knows our need please join us in prayer as well.



Follow the **MMI PrayerBlog** on [www.mmi.org.uk/category/prayer](http://www.mmi.org.uk/category/prayer)

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@mmi.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@mmi.org.uk)

Reg. Charity 284203

[www.mmi.org.uk](http://www.mmi.org.uk)