

1st Wednesday Prayer Hour March 2013

MMI keeps the first Wednesday of the month as a day for corporate prayer. The hour set aside is 9.00am-10.00am, but for those who are not able to join in prayer then, please use these notes to pray for an hour at some time during the day.

Reflection

Please put on some quiet music and relax – it has been a busy time and God knows you need to rest **in** him. When you are relaxed please read the well known Matt 11:25-30. Allow the words to speak to you. Note down anything God is particularly saying to you.

I am not certain that the title 'Rest for the weary' is particularly helpful as these 6 verses give us deep insights into our relationship with the Father and what Jesus is trying to *reveal* to us and the invitation he gives us:

- Verses 25 and 26 talk about the type of person that is able to receive the Father's *revelation*. Are we surprised sometimes by whom we find is open to the Father's love and willing to have fellowship with us?
- Verse 27 underlines the statement made by Jesus in Matt 28:18: "All authority on heaven and earth ..." but here the emphasis is on knowing the Father through Jesus. To whom will Jesus *reveal* the Father? Are there particular people and groups we should be asking Jesus to reveal the Father to?
- Verse 28 is an invitation to come to Jesus to find rest – how permanent is our coming to Jesus to find rest? What is the secret that Jesus is trying to *reveal* to us about resting in him – does Jesus' revelation in John 16:33 help here? Who should we share this rest with?
- Verse 29 is a further invitation from Jesus. This time it is 2 fold to take up his yoke, rather than that of this world and to learn from him. What does Jesus' words: "for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" mean to you?
- Verse 30 describes what Jesus' yoke looks like. How can this help us understand about the yoke that Jesus is asking us to bear with him?

You may like to finish by praying 2nd verse of the great Irish hymn "Be thou my vision.. :"

“Be Thou my wisdom; be Thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one”

Thanksgiving

- **Ski retreat:** Praise the Lord for Ski Retreat that Rainer and Mike led and spoke at; for good relationships with the Austrian chaplaincy, for the cadets on the retreat and especially for the Poles who had to work so hard to get there. Give thanks for the wonderful fellowship in this intimate group of 35 people from 5 nations and for the atmosphere seemed even more warm and open than before.

- **Africa:** Give thanks for Jos' successful visit to Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya. For the very valuable time with the new AMCF VP for the Franco-Phone region, Colonel Daniel Nyoya and with the former AMCF VP Gaston Gnomou. Give thanks for the warm reception he received in Ghana where they used his visit and that of Ishako Komo to re-launch the MCF. Please also give thanks for the unplanned time in Nairobi that was very valuable in improving relationships and communications with the Kenyan Chaplains and MCF.
- **The European Military Christian Meeting.** Praise God for an excellent Lübbecke. Give thanks that God really blessed the 47 participants with a very rich event, with good conversations, meetings, prayer and fellowship.
- **Hosting the AMCF GI 2014 Pray and Plan 28 February-1 March.** This was a difficult time for some and we need to recognise that; please pray for any healing that is required. Give thanks that despite the struggles good relationships were maintained and there was agreement as the plans were made.
- **Supporters' Weekend 2-3 March:** Please give thanks that this first event at Windmill Farm went so well. Give thanks that the theme we are "All one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28) was truly felt and supported by military Christian speakers from the Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. Give thanks that there was a very good turn out by our supporters and everyone felt very welcomed.

Prayers:

- **AMCF GI 2014:** Please pray that the SA MCF will now begin to take the leading role in setting up and running this event; that the Lord will grow their capacity to do this. Please pray that we shall be able to support them in prayer, with funds and every other requested way to do this.
- **Lithuanian Marriage Review:** Rainer and Karin are going to Lithuania from Fri 22 to Wed 27 Mar 13. During their time they will conduct a 'Marriage Review' for 14 couples over the weekend, have a reception for those who attended last year on Sunday and speak at 5 separate meetings in Vilnius and Kaunas on Monday and Tuesday. Please pray for excellent relationships, for their strength and for the Lord's healing for Karin's knees, which are causing her problems.
- **Biblical Service (Discipleship) Course launch in Pakistan:** Please pray for the intended launch of the course in Pakistan this month. Please pray that publication will be achieved, the launch safely occur and the material used by its intended recipients. Please pray for Chris West as he prepares the audio-visual launch material and the transcript for this event.
- **MMI meetings:** Please pray for the Finance and GP meeting (Thu 7 Mar), the Africa RPPG (Tue 12), the Skype EC and Trustees meeting both on Thu 14 Mar 13.
- **MMI - A Future strategy:** Please pray as we consider, reflect on and develop Jos' paper on the future direction of MMI's operations.

HMV - Mon 4 Mar 13