

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

MMI Staff Visit More European Military Christian Fellowship Meetings than ever before

Reports from Regional Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski and Team Member Rainer Thorun.

God has clearly been working in and through the MMI Europe Team, as we have registered the greatest number ever of MCF gatherings being visited in just one season.

Poland and Finland 20-21 September

In one weekend of September, two (Military Christian Fellowship) MCF conferences were visited. MMI Chief Executive & Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe, with his wife Ruth visited the Polish MCF gathering, which took place at the Baptist Seminary in Warsaw. About 20 members of the Korneliusz MCF attended. It was so encouraging to meet and to see some young members of the fellowship. The programme concentrated on practical stories and testimonies of how to preach the Gospel in different

contexts - the Border guards, the Military and the Police. The Lutheran Military Bishop Wola attended these sessions where members of the fellowship shared their experiences.

Some good practical teaching and encouraging testimonies were heard.

At the same weekend, MMI Regional Staff Member, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Rainer Thorun attended the Annual Conference of the Finnish MCF, PHS (Päälystön Hengellinen Säätiö). The theme of the event was, *Seuraa Minua - Follow Me* and it started on Friday evening with a solemn communion service in the main church of Lahti, Ristinkirkko (Church of the Cross), led by the Field Bishop, Pekka Sarkio. Overall more than 100 participants took part although many



Romanian MCF Annual Gathering

could not attend every session. All in all it was a very spiritual event, very appropriate for personal edification and strengthening the belief of everybody.

Romania and Czech Republic 4-5 October

MMI Regional Team Leader (Europe), Rev Grozdan Stoevski, accompanied by two Bulgarian MCF members, Captain Valentine Valkanov and Captain (Retd) George Stoyanov attended the Annual Conference of the "Corneliusz" Romanian MCF at the Christian Retreat Centre in Selimbar, near Sibiu. The event was attended by 25-30 participants, as well as Moldovan MCF leader, Eduard Rosca and Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Dick Barnes from our USA sister organisation, ACCTS.

Grozdan was given the opportunity to share some Biblical Stewardship concepts as well as promote the upcoming AMCF Global Interaction 2014 (GI2014).

Romanian chaplain, Gabi Gheorghias shared about the success of the book, which he published containing testimonies of military Christian leaders. He has now published a second edition due to the high demand.

At the same time, on Friday, October 4th almost 30 participants, including children, met at the "Pastorační centrum" (retreat center) of the "Duchovní služba Armády České republiky" (CZ-MC) in the small Moravian village of Luleč, east of Brno. This was the Annual Gathering of the AKA, the Czech MCF, which was attended by Rainer and

continued on Page 2

Participants at the Finnish MCF meeting



Military Ministries International 2014 Programme

January
13-16 MMI Staff Retreat

February
2-8 Skiing Retreat (Austria)
14-17 EMCM (See Page 4)
17-3/3 AMCF President to UK

March
1-2 Supporters' Weekend (Salisbury)
21-23 Marriage Seminar Lithuanian
20-30 IAEC Chaplains training (Lesotho) (tbc)



The 2014 programme will be greatly influenced by the AMCF world conference, Global Interaction 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. For the latest news go to Page 3.

Europe

MCF meetings in Europe

(continued from Page 1) Karin Thorun who also provided a marriage talk, as well as briefing on the AMCF and GI 2014. Sue and Earl Casner from ACCTS USA also participated. The meeting was led by the new AKA chairman Vladan Vlček and also attended by the Chaplain of Czech Academy in Brno, Jan Pacner.

The Netherlands

19 October

In October Grozdan and Rainer combined travel plans and together visited the annual gathering of the Netherlands

MCF, NCOK, which took place at the Chaplains' Retreat Centre at Huis ter Heide, not far from Utrecht. On Friday, 18th October Navy Commander Niels Woudstra arranged for Rainer and Grozdan to meet

with the Protestant Chief Chaplain in the Army HQ in the Hague.

Grozdan and Rainer were very warmly received and were given the opportunity to brief the NCOK about MMI and the

AMCF GI 2014. The meeting was also attended by Captain Pascal Andre, from Belgium. Rainer stayed on for another day with him, encouraging him to re-establish MCF activities in his country.



EMCM - Developing European MCFs

A key message from AMCF President, General Weerasooriya in his recent inaugural address was his desire to see MCFs develop and mature in order to be able to withstand the pressures and spiritual attacks of the environment in which they exist. However, for the last 10 years the annual EMCM (European Military Christian Meeting) at Church

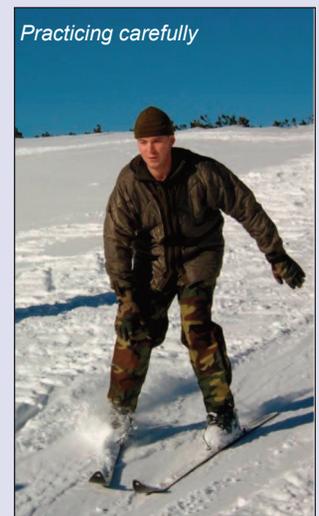
House, Lübbecke has been run with just this aim in mind. Maybe the high number of MCF meetings reported on in this Newsletter is evidence of God's blessing on these meetings and the resulting fruit. For many European MCF leaders EMCM is an essential oasis as well as a power point for recharging spiritual batteries.



Skiing in Faith in the Austrian Alps 2-8 February 2014

Once again MMI has teamed up with the Austrian Chaplaincy to deliver a "Skiing Retreat" designed to encourage and develop young leaders in the application of their Christian faith. This event, traditionally the first in MMI's new year's calendar, depends on our prayerful support. Please remember it each day you see a crisp frost and/or a blue sky. Remember to pray for the right people to be there, safe journeys, safe and fun skiing, the speakers and the hearers and the anointing of the Holy Spirit on all those taking part.

We look forward to reporting on new births and developed faith as well as excellent skiing and lots of fun.



**Book your place now!
See enclosed flier**



AMCF GI 2014 Venue - Jubilee Community Church, Cape Town



Jos McCabe (MMI's Chief Executive & Team Leader) reports on AMCF GI 2014 Pray and Plan #4

Homfray Vines (MMI's Regional Team Leader (East & Southern Africa) and I were part of a strong UK contingent which took part in the, fourth AMCF Global Interaction 2014 (GI2014) Pray and Plan in November. It took place in Wortlegat bush camp, Western Cape, South Africa. The AMCF World President, General Srilal Weerasooriya and his wife, Dilhani were also present. The Conference Director, Captain Klaas Steyn, chaired 2 meetings, the first of these considered strategic issues, and confirmed Jubilee Community Church Cape Town as the venue for the event. This church has a capacity for over 1,200 people, has numerous breakout rooms for seminars and ministry sessions and can provide catering facilities. Homfray Vines visited it with General Srilal and Dilhani and confirmed that the General

was very happy with it as the GI2014 venue. There is suitable accommodation available close to the church and the South African Team will make transport available. All the Pray and Plan participants were united in believing this was God's choice of venue to hold the event and that we were now moving forward together under Him to make it work. The second part of the Pray and Plan was centered on detailed planning concerning participants, programme development and consideration of the many other jobs that will need to be undertaken in order to make the event successful. The South African Team has already worked wonders to progress the planning and they are continuing to grow the administrative organisation that will be necessary to run the event. However, it is clear that our South African

hosts in the SAMCF and the Joshua Trust will need the assistance of all the AMCF family under God, to bring about a successful event. The importance of prayer to our gracious heavenly Father was emphasized and will be critical to success. The growing number of Prayer Beacons all around the world encouraged the GI2014 team. In MMI it is now sleeves up and shoulders to the wheel as we enter the final year and run up to GI2014. It is our priority

event for 2014. The Lord has blessed us to be able to offer financial support but there is still a considerable amount of funding required to allow many of the world's MCFs to attend. We continue to value your prayers and ask you to also consider if you can help with further financial resource or by asking your church mission team or other appropriate group to sponsor a particular country's delegate.



God is building the Body!

Warrior Training 2 - December 2013

Homfray Vines reports from South Africa

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.
(Eph 4:11,12).

Twenty seven warriors, 9 mentors (graduate warriors) and 13 leaders came together for 6 days at the Gecko Bush Camp in the Western Cape at the beginning of December 2013. This was a vital learning experience for everyone. For the leaders it gave the opportunity to test and refine the plans for GI 2014; for the mentors it was the opportunity to refine their leadership skills

and for the warriors it was the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to be small group leaders at the AMCF Global Interaction 2104. This was all carried out within a framework of worship, prayer and Bible study. Isak, our worship leader summarised it by the song: "Here I am Lord." T A Malesa, a warrior said: "I learnt everything I lacked in leadership and this camp has changed me and improved my leadership. I know that in future I will be the great leader that God wants me to be to lead his children. Thusnelda Kauaria from Namibia said, "God had plans for sending me to Warrior

Training in order to confront my weaknesses that I'd not paid attention to before. This was quite tough in practice, but with God's help the impossible is definitely possible." Kabelo Sharoma, the leader of Simon's Town Christian Fellowship said, "Being a mentor this time was good for me. The warriors said that this training

was a life changing, mind blowing, eye opening and character building unforgettable experience. It changed them from self-leaders to group leaders." Lieutenant Colonel Hwang, Inkew from South Korea said, "The event was effectively discipling the next generation of AMCF leaders."



Small is beautiful and so was the Africa meeting in Lisbon!

MMI Regional Team Leader (East & Southern Africa), Hornfray Vines reports on the attendance of Portuguese speaking Africans at the MEP annual meeting

The MEP (Portuguese Military Christian Fellowship) leadership very kindly facilitated this meeting by inviting the 5 Portuguese speaking African countries to send representatives to their annual MCF meeting in Lisbon, whilst MMI agreed to pay the airfares. The MEP Conference provided an excellent opportunity for the African participants to have fellowship, learn more about how the MEP operated and receive some excellent teaching from AMCF regional vice-president, Commander Brian Parker on the theme, "Be bold and very courageous". On Monday the 5 African participants, the leader of the MEP and MMI staff member, Colonel Samuel Córias and I spent a day together hearing each country's stories, praying for them and identifying any future actions that needed to be taken. Later in the day the participants received briefings on future activities in the Southern Africa AMCF Region. These include: 'Warrior Training' (See Page 3), the IAEC Chaplains training to be held in Lesotho in

March 2014 and AMCF GI 2014 next December. They were encouraged to register and sign up to be AMCF GI2014 Prayer Beacons. Whilst discussing camouflage cover Bibles and how Operation Africa based in Australia could help procure them, we found ourselves on a 'Face-Time' call to Roger Kayler the leader of Operation Africa, who was about to get into bed in Mongolia! Roger said that he would welcome applications for bibles from each of the countries. The MEP Portuguese Camouflage New Testaments that had been produced by their Bible Society and printed in Korea impressed him. This meeting was a great encouragement to each of the participants. Major Feliciano from Mozambique said that she had recently taken over the leadership of the MCF. She was greatly encouraged that 25 people had recently contacted her to let her know of their interest in joining. However there were significant problems to overcome in order to set up a mature a develop-

ing MCF. WO Moto from São Tomé et Príncipe reported that the MCF was functioning well with meetings occurring on a weekly basis around the islands. He requested a visit in the first quarter of next year by Samuel and if possible one other, possibly Colonel Fernando Freire. The visit programme could include encouraging MCF members, briefing senior officers on the AMCF and possibly participating in a symposium on faith in the armed forces. Pastor Felix told the story of recent events in Guinea Bissau. The situation was improving for the MCF especially after Captain Suma had successfully prayed for the healing of the animist Chief of the Defence Force's (CDF) leg. The CDF has now requested prayer everyday! Ten people at the HQ meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. His request was for an English language camp, which he believed would significantly improve relationships. In Angola the MCF was continuing to thrive with groups



meeting all over the country. They were working on the Parliament introducing and passing a bill providing for chaplains in the armed forces, police, prison and fire services by April next year. Many senior military officers were supportive of having military chaplains. Teodoro, the MCF President, was looking for help in learning about how chaplaincies should be set up. He was keen to attend the forthcoming IAEC chaplains training event in Lesotho. His main request was for us to provide high-level support for the military chaplains initiative. This was a very valuable meeting – thank you, Lord!



Pictures: Delegates from 5 Portuguese speaking African countries. Right: The delegates with AMCF VP Brian Parker and Jean and MMI Portuguese Staff Member Samuel Córias

South Asia

Bangladesh MCF Meeting deferred until 2014

There has been very little in the UK press about disturbances in Bangladesh. In fact unless you were sensitised to such events you might well have missed it and could be forgiven for being taken by surprise by the sad news that the Bangladesh MCF had to postpone its annual meeting.

AMCF regional vice president, Commander Mathew from Pakistan had been due to attend along with other participants from neighbouring countries but they all plan to be there early next year as soon as BMCF announces the new date.

Only recently (26 November)



On the outskirts of Dhaka

the BBC reported: *At least six people have died in Bangladesh as opposition activists blocked roads, ripped up railway tracks and clashed with police in a protest against forthcoming polls, reports say.* If the unrest is news to you the link below will give you an introduction to the problem. Please pray for Bangladesh.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-25099474>

Thank you for your Prayers for Chris West

Thank you for your prayers for MMI's Regional Team Leader (South Asia), Chris West during his recent "adventure", as he describes it, in India. There is no doubt that the prayers of the saints, at home and abroad, brought Chris home safely. The help of the Bishop of Calcutta, Revd Canning, General Mukharjee, Dr Changsan and Colonel Khongmen must also be mentioned as they all went that extra mile to look out for Chris and help him home. Sadly as many will know the "adventure" was the result of a hitherto unknown brain tumour finally making its presence felt as Chris arrived in Kolkata. Chris has had an operation and 90% of the tumour has been removed but what remains is an aggressive cancer. We pray on



Chris & June West

for Chris and covet your prayers for him, his wife June and the family. While Chris is hors de combat to MMI we have asked Major (Retd) Paddy Hughes to stand in as the point of contact for South Asia matters. Paddy is part of the MMI Regional Pray & Plan Group for South Asia and visited the NE of India with Chris last year. Indeed Paddy's experiences with Chris on that trip were vital in helping recover Chris after his illness struck.

Middle East

"Light in the Darkness"

By Richard Sandy - MMI Regional Team Leader (Middle East).

The Middle East remains a troubled area and we so much need the light of Christ to shine into the darkness! In Syria the security situation has worsened, as far as our contact there is concerned. The electricity regularly shuts down, sometimes for up to 6 hours a day, meaning homes are without light and heat as winter approaches. Basic essentials are very expensive and our contact has been forced to sell his car to provide funds for food. Whilst all welcome the destruction of chemical weapons in the country they see no immediate prospect for a comprehensive peace, although Christians pray hard that something will

come out of recent discussions about peace talks.

In Egypt the situation has improved marginally, with the security forces taking more effective measures to bring security to the country, including the protection of churches and minorities. Christians, as well as moderate Muslims, in the country are waiting anxiously to see the result of the re-write of the constitution which, it is understood, is to be voted on very soon.

In Israel new contacts have been made with believers through an intermediary living in the country. We need now to follow up these contacts to identify a coordinator for the

ministry to believers in the IDF and suitable delegates to attend AMCF Global Interaction 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. (See Page 3) We continue actively to seek

the Lord's appointment as Vice President for the region.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it – John 1:5.



The Star over Bethlehem

Judith, MMI's Fin & Admin Sec for over 7 years, bids her farewell

“What will you treasure the most from these past seven years?” This prompted me to write down the many blessings felt, but this list would undoubtedly be endless and it was evident that the greatest blessing by far has been the people: the very special people welcoming me into the family of MMI all those years ago, co-workers within AFCU, ACCTS, MSO, MCFs and AMCF, dear friends at Havelock House and the many unique people I came to know and love along the way at Supporters' Weekends, and other events and conferences - people from all around the world. Praise be to God for leading me to MMI but as he now leads



me onwards I am left to say goodbye (tissues please!) with Christian love and a massively heartfelt thank you. It's been a privilege and tremendous joy

Judith

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thes 5:11



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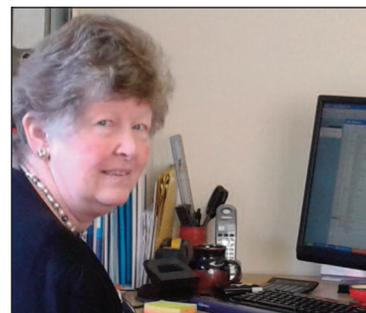
See flier enclosed to book your place

Welcome to Andrea,

our new

Fin & Admin Secretary

Andrea Wylie joined our AMMI office team on Monday 2 December. She is both British and South African and very much looks forward to meeting our MMI supporters and globals colleagues and contacts.



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