

# MMMI NEWS

SPRING  
2020

Helping military Christians follow Jesus Christ in armed forces around the world



## MMI NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

EUROPE 04

AFRICA 09

SOUTH ASIA 14

MIDDLE EAST 17



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



# UP FRONT

Major General Roddy Porter MBE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE - TEAM LEADER



Welcome to this first edition of MMI News. We have made major revisions to reflect our new brand, purpose, logo and revised Vision and Mission statements. Our long-standing supporters will find content in keeping with past newsletters, but our aim has also been to reach out to a wider cross-section of Christians to tell them the joyful news about what the Lord is doing in the armed forces of the nations.

MMI News seeks to inform, inspire and encourage more Christians to join the mission in support and prayer. We rejoice that we have been entrusted with helping military Christians around the world follow Jesus more actively and passionately whilst they serve in their armed forces.

Of course, this edition comes out as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis bites. This has led to the cancellation of conferences, seminars and mission trips in Europe, Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. Unable to travel, what is MMI doing to pursue our mission in this period of enforced rest?

The answer is, "An enormous amount!" We are excited that the MMI team has the opportunity to go deeper in our personal and team relationships with God, to dig deeper wells of prayer for the world's armed forces and to seek more of the Lord's direction for the ministry. We are meeting weekly on Zoom, to study God's Word, pray and discern his will for the future.

We have been inspired in our meetings so far and we are enjoying good fellowship and receiving exciting insights in God's Word for these unprecedented times.

We will also build a much more effective online presence through the launch of our new website, more up-to-date Facebook material and a improved platform for international video conferencing so that we can hold regular online meetings and reach out to MCF leaders, our co-workers and contacts in the regions to encourage them and pray with them. As an example, we are investing deeply in our relationship with the people (from India, Mozambique, Nigeria and Cameroon) who we had invited to our cancelled Poland conference and who we believe are of strategic significance in their armed forces. We want to do likewise with others, including in the Middle East. We believe that greatly improved cyber capability will be more efficient, reduce the number of air journeys and will enhance our reach and impact for the Lord.

So we are busy in prayer, planning, communications and preparations. Like the wise virgins of Matthew 25, our aim in these coming weeks is to ensure that our lamps are full of oil, our flasks have full reserves and so when the Lord says, "Go," we can respond immediately. Every blessing and please join with us in prayer at this time.

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## International Orthodox Consultation (IOC) 3

RTL EUROPE REV GROZDAN STOEVSKI

**Although initially we were not sure if it would take place due to lack of resources, the IOC3 did happen, as God had something slightly different in mind than we thought.**

Regional Team Leader (RTL) Grozdan was contacted in August of 2019 by Prof Kostadin Nushev, who invited him to organise the IOC 3 in partnership with the Theological Department of Sofia State University, and MMI served in the capacity of a catalyst and consultant. The meeting, which took place in November, provided an international exchange of experience in the field of spiritual care for the Armed Forces from an Eastern Orthodox perspective. Besides sharing

some best practices of how MCFs and Principal Support Organisations (PSOs) partner with Orthodox Chaplains, the participants also discussed the need, challenges and opportunities to re-establish Orthodox Chaplaincy in Bulgaria.

The conference was formally opened by the Deputy Dean, Prof Adrian Alexandrov, at the main auditorium of the Theological Department. The first presentations were delivered by Bulgarian speakers on the general theme: "The mission of the Church – tradition, contemporary challenges and perspectives".

The second half of the event was dedicated to the ministry of the Military



**LEFT:** Fr Jordan Bozhilov, Chaplain at the General Staff College, Fr Konstantin Tatarintsev (Russian MCF) and Rev Grozdan Stoevski. **ABOVE:** His High Eminence Metropolitan Grigori, Bulgarian Holy Synod, Fr Konstantin Tatarintsev and other participants at the IOC 3. **RIGHT:** His High Eminence Metropolitan Grigori, receiving a piece of holy relics of St George from Fr Konstantin during IOC 3.



Chaplain, as a practical expression of the mission of the Church, drawing from the experience of Russia (Fr Konstantin Tatarintsev), the UK (Rev David Gilchrist) and the USA (Dick Barnes).

His High Eminence, Metropolitan Grigori, was also able to join the conference. He was presented with a piece of the holy relics of St George, brought from Russia by Fr Konstantin and delivered with a humble solemn ceremony at the end of the conference. Other talks were dedicated to the Early Christian witness in the Roman Army (Dr Krustu Banev, Durham University), the History of Military Chaplaincy in the Bulgarian Armed Forces (Svezdi Kazmenarski) and the ministry of St George MCF and MMI (Rev Grozdan Stoevski).

On the last day the international delegation had lunch with Fr Jordan Bozhilov, who is the part-time Chaplain of the Military Academy, and spent the

afternoon with him in fellowship, prayer and spiritual conversation at his Orthodox Church Complex.

IOC 3 was again a demonstration and practical expression of the unity of Christ, regardless of Christian tradition and human divisions. The MMI team operated in a different role – as a catalyst and consultant instead of being the main sponsor – which allowed us to achieve the same impact with a minimal investment of resources. ●

"We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails."  
(Proverbs 19:21, the Message)



## Adria Interaction

A true expression of the 'all one in Christ Jesus' principle

RTL EUROPE REV GROZDAN STOEVSKI

**It has been an amazing journey to witness how Adria Interaction has evolved since 2014 as a development of the annual Croat MCF meeting.**

One of the reasons for the success is the committed leadership of Dražen Hrženjak, MMI co-worker Europe also President of the 'Together in war, together in Christ' Military Christian Fellowship of Croatia. In his own assessment, of the five conferences so far, this last one had the highest number of participants (over 50), a well-balanced programme with a variety of speakers and, most important, a strong presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the whole event.

The meeting took place in October in a Christian Conference Centre in Crkvenica, on the Adriatic Coast. The wide range of speakers included Mark

Hibbert-Hingston, Grozdan and Slavica Stoevski (MMI), Vlado Hobljaj (Croat MCF), Roberto Cataldi and Rosario Paparo (Italian MCF) and others. One of the highlights of the event was the second morning, led by Slavica, who took us on a deep spiritual journey on the 'Problem of Pain', drawing from the rich spiritual well of the great theologian Henry Nouwen. This talk was not only well received but it moved a number of people to tears in the small group Q&A session which followed. It was a true expression of the 'all one in Christ Jesus' principle to see a Serbian woman, surrounded by a dozen Croat war veterans, discussing the healing power of God's grace and love.

Another highlight was the formal commissioning of Dražen as an MMI

co-worker, by RTL Grozdan Stoevski, Mark HH and Eric Mandille. This was followed by a screening of the Storm of the Soul film.

This film was Dražen's idea and he has worked hard to produce it. It is the documentary about Croatian veterans - their amazing spiritual journey through the Croatian War of Independence and their battles with PTSD. Dražen says, "Our main intention with this project was to give a powerful testimony of the saving love and healing power of Jesus Christ." The film now has sub-titles in various languages and is being used in military ministry around the region. If you would like more information about the film, contact [comms@mmi.org.uk](mailto:comms@mmi.org.uk).

The work of the Holy Spirit was as obvious this year as ever, revealed mainly in the area of spiritual transformation of the participants,



especially the Croat war veterans. It has been also very encouraging to experience Christian fellowship in spiritual unity between Roman Catholic and Protestant believers, a true expression of the 'all one in Christ Jesus' principle. ●

LEFT: MMI Secretary Mark HH, MMI RTL Europe Rev Grozdan Stoevski, MMI RTL Francophone Africa Eric Mandille commissioning Dražen Hrženjak as an MMI Europe co-worker, during the Adria Interaction. ABOVE: Slavica Stoevska, delivering a talk on 'The Christian Response to the Problem of Pain'. BELOW: Slavica Stoevska, leading a Bible discussion with Croat MCF members and war veterans.





## European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) Update

After a great deal of heart-searching, prayer and discussion, the AMCF VPs for Europe, Revd Cdr Mike Terry RN (ret'd) and LtCol (G.S.) Timo Vehviläinen, have taken the painful decision to postpone this year's EMCM, which was due to take place at Želiv in the Czech Republic.

It seemed God was opening many opportunities through this conference for fruitful dialogue across many different nations and Christian traditions including the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches, to move forward his work in the military. Yet, the realities of the COVID-19 situation, with many borders being closed to travel, is that it is not feasible to run the conference as planned. Consideration was given to postponing until later in 2020, but waiting until May 2021 is now the

best option.

The VPs strongly believe that if God has allowed this opportunity to slip, he has something even better planned as, *"We know that in all things God works for good for those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Rom 8:28). So please pray for his purposes to come from this.

The VPs thank those who have worked so hard to try to make this conference happen, particularly the Czech Military Christian Fellowship, AKA, the team at Želiv monastery, and those behind the scenes at ACCTS and MMI. We look forward to their work bearing fruit in 2021.

The VPs for Europe extend their love, blessings and prayers to all in the region and gratitude for sharing in this Gospel work.

This is a disappointing step but God is greater than our plans. ●



## The East Africa Prayer Convention

Solving issues which seem impossible for conventional intervention.

HERMANN MEYER, FIELD WORKER  
AFRICA EAST & SOUTHERN

**Aimed at the Military Christian fellowships (MCFs) of the National Defence Forces of Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Seychelles, a significant regional event is in preparation - the East Africa Prayer Convention (EAPC) to be hosted by AMCF's Regional VP, Brigadier David Wakaalo, in Kampala. EAPC's purpose is to bring together military Christians from the region in a 5 day and 5 night corporate time of fasting and praying.**

The main themes will be reconciliation and stabilisation in war-torn or politically fragile countries; encouraging emerging MCFs to discern and to live their divinely given vision with zest and joy; consolidation and rejuvenation of MCFs where necessary, encouraging strong and durable evangelism in the region's militaries through their respective MCFs and the scope for the role of military Christian wives'

fellowships in regional military ministry.

The event will be a key witness of what God is doing to solve issues which have seemed impossible for conventional intervention and it is intended to become a special opportunity to deepen the soldiers' and their families trust in God. Pray that many countries will follow this year's call to corporate prayer at EAPC.

As there are severe obstacles for Tanzania's military Christians to attend EAPC, MMI intends to conduct an adjoining ministry trip to encourage, strengthen and spiritually support the development of MCF-elements in the land of Kilimanjaro.

The original plan was for the EAPC to be held in 1-6 May 2020, but it has now been postponed to the 2nd half of this year, due to the coronavirus. However, AMCF VP David Wakaalo will call all the potential delegates to meet as an online prayer group each day for daily prayer 01-06 May2020. ●



# Ghana Military Christian Fellowship is Spreading The Word

EDDY AMPONSAH (FIELD WORKER WEST AFRICA)

Ghana Immigration Service Headquarters staff presented with Bibles by Ghana MCF.



Hospital Nursing Training School to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. The nurses were reminded to demonstrate Christ's love and compassion in the discharge of their duties at all times. They were also urged to show themselves as salt and light and bring hope to all the patients in the hospital.

They were presented with Bibles, New Testaments and Our Daily Bread devotionals. GMCF has agreed to partner with the Nurses' Christian Fellowship in other activities. To this end a joint programme has been agreed for them to visit some villages for a field evangelism programme.

Praise God for these developments and please pray for GMCF to continue to take great strides in military ministry. ●

Since its revival, the Ghana Military Christian Fellowship (GMCF) have stepped up with tremendous intensity in ministry work and activities amongst the military and security services in Ghana.

The GMCF have been able to collaborate with Gideon International to embark on donating and distributing Bibles and Christian literatures to military working communities in a 'Bible walk Outreach'.

During March they visited the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) Headquarters. The aim of the visit was to introduce the GIS to the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCFs).

Brig Gen Mike Akpatsu (Ghana MCF President) and his team shared in a period of fellowship with the gathering and used the occasion to share the

history, vision and mission of the Fellowship and to explain the objectives of the GMCF. He reminded them that, as Christians in uniform, they automatically belonged to the Fellowship and encouraged them to set the pace in moving Christianity from the church pews in huge auditoriums to homes, workplaces, offices and communities.

In his address Brig Mike said, "The time has come for people to see Christ as a shining light in individual Security Service personnel - at the roadblock, border post, at the sentry post, on patrols and in offices. If we can do that, we will be boldly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ wherever we are and that can contribute significantly in reducing corruption, illegal activities and all kinds of

anti-social behaviour in our country." The GIS branch of the Ghana Military Christian Fellowship was officially inaugurated and presented with Bibles, New Testaments and Our Daily Bread devotionals.

GMCF also visited the Military



Brig Gen Mike Akpatsu (right) President of GMCF presenting bibles at the Military Hospital Nursing Training School.



## Spiritually equipping young, military Christian leaders at TMTI

MAX MUPONDI RTL AFRICA EAST & SOUTHERN

**The Table Mountain Top Interaction (TMTI) is an annual event near Cape Town hosted by the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) VP for Southern Africa, Capt (Retd) Peter Louwrens.**

Participants are invited from regional Military Christian Fellowships (MCFs) and Military Chaplaincies of Southern Africa as well as international observers. The AMCF is a non-denominational worldwide movement of believers in the armed forces. The president is assisted by fourteen regional vice presidents (VPs). Its work is supported by three Principal Support Organisations (PSOs) namely the UK based Military Ministries International (MMI), USA based Association of Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS), and South Korea based Mission Support Organisation (MSO).

TMTI aims to spiritually equip emerging young, Christian, military leaders for future tasks in leading the work of the MCF in their respective countries. TMTI is held at Simon's Town near Cape Town and all military chaplaincies and MCFs in the region are invited to send delegates.

MMI endeavours to support the hosting of TMTI financially as well as providing prayer support through the Africa East & Southern Regional Pray and Plan Group (RPPG), the recently set up German speaking prayer group for Southern Africa, the MMI Africa Team prayer group and MMI supporter prayer groups. MMI ensures that the activities they support in the regions in which they operate are soaked in prayer. The RPPG prays about how best MMI can support the VP's aspirations and how they could use their resources to best effect. MMI field

staff participate at the TMTI annually and after the event they endeavour to visit at least one country's MCF/ chaplaincy to meet, encourage and strengthen both old contacts and build relationships with new contacts and local church leaders. Last year after TMTI 19 the team visited Botswana to meet and fellowship with the Chaplain General and his team in Gaborone. This year plans are underway for the team to visit Swaziland to meet, fellowship and strengthen the revived Swazi MCF.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide AMCF VP Peter and his organising team on how best to design the Interaction; for sufficient financial resources to be set free by both local and International donors supporting the efforts of the three PSOs of the

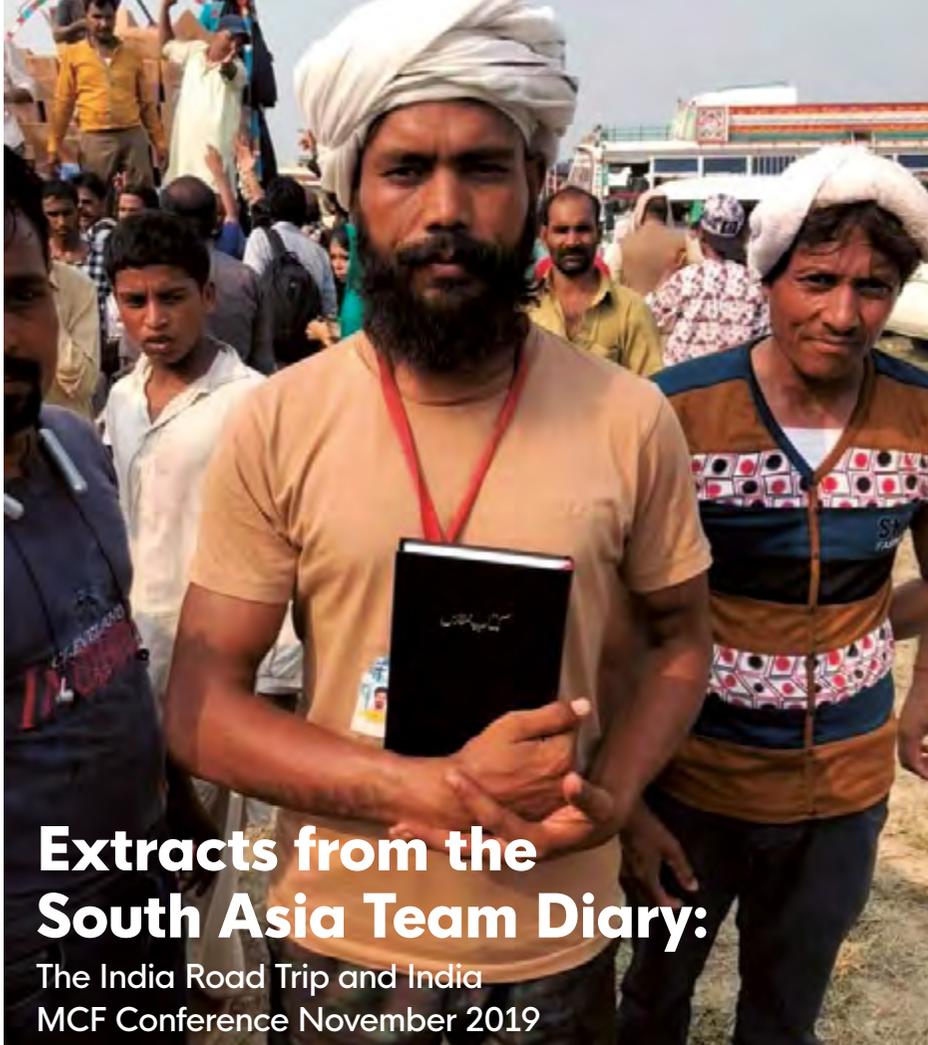
AMCF; for the Lord to put into the hearts of regional MCFs and chaplaincies to send both young delegates and faithful military Christians who are willing to give testimony and witness for Jesus Christ and so bring a harvest of souls in the military forces of their respective countries.

TMTI is usually held in May but this year has been postponed until later in the year due to the coronavirus. ●

LEFT: German delegates praying for the Nations of Southern Africa at sunrise on Fish Hoek Beach. Inaugural meeting of German speaking prayer group TMTI 19.

RIGHT: Fellowship on the hike to the top. BELOW: Ready to hike up Table Mountain.





## Extracts from the South Asia Team Diary:

The India Road Trip and India MCF Conference November 2019

There had been a find of explosives in a car at Delhi airport on the day that we arrived in India. However, we quickly met up with our colleague. After dinner and a short sleep, we were up the following morning at 0230 for the flight to Poona. On the descent into Poona we were warned not to take pictures as we were landing at a military airfield. Poona is home to the HQ of one of the four Indian Armies.

We took a taxi down Symbiosis Road

past a vast black, Trump tower hotel to downtown Poona where we stayed for a couple of nights. While there we met a local pastor who runs a large AOG church. His congregation comprises 3000 souls including ex-military people from the Indian army bases close by. There are five services on Sunday all conducted in English and Marathi. We introduced Alpha 4 Forces (A4F) and gave an Alpha memory stick (in English) to the church. We met an energetic young Army Captain who had been wounded in the Kargil War

(Kashmir) and invalidated out. He was a high caste Brahmin who came to faith with his wife through reading the Bible.

We met another pastor whose wife was a former officer in the Indian Army. She left the army early to allow her husband to set up a church in Poona. There are about 120 souls in his church – many of whom are serving and retired military.

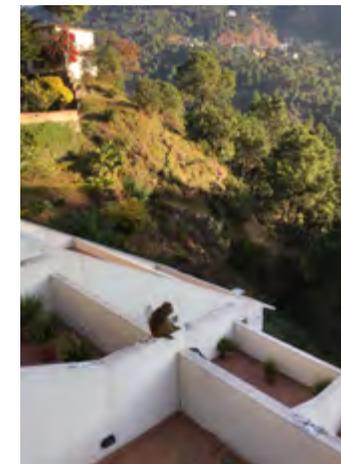
We were invited to the home of a retired Navy Captain and his wife. He came to faith through a near-death experience when serving as a Sea King helicopter pilot in the Indian Navy. He had a head on, high-speed car crash and his chances of survival were minimal. One of the passengers in the car was killed. A nominal Christian, the Navy Captain made a pledge to the Lord that he would serve him if he recovered. A nursing sister prayed for him. He recovered and was back flying in eight months. Despite crushed ribs and many broken bones, he never suffered any after-effects like arthritis. His ministry is media work. He is an accomplished musician and artist.

The next morning we took the bus to Nasik. My colleague was up early, feeling compelled to pray at 01.30 and

at 04.00 he was called by a pastor friend for a time of prayer and encouragement. It took five and a half hours in an old bus to reach Nasik. We were met by the local Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) pastor and after some kindly Indian hospitality, we were introduced to the local MCF group. Amongst the group of about 25 was another JCO who was the Christian teacher with the local Air Wing. We had a wonderful time of praise and fellowship. Several members of the group were professional musicians and could also sing magnificently.

Arriving back into Poona bus station at 06.00 the next morning we took a three-wheeler auto taxi to the airport, all the while dodging huge puddles of standing water from the late monsoon. We drank tea in the early morning with a Go-India engineer who we met by co-incidence. In the space of a few minutes my colleague had explained the centrality of Jesus to the Christian life and had prayed for the engineer including asking the Lord to find him a wife! We had just time to check in for the two-and-a-half-hour flight back to Delhi. From Delhi central station we took the train to Chandigarh. →

RIGHT: Dagshai Conference Centre.  
BELOW: Poona bus station.





Pastor B. "The weapons we fight with...have divine power to demolish strongholds."

Next day we visited the home of a recently retired Indian Air Force (IAF) engineer – an expert on Russian Ilyushin aircraft engines. A quietly spoken modest man, our engineer friend was offered a lucrative job on retirement from the IAF but turned it down to focus on village ministry.

From Chandigarh we took the train to Kalka. The onward trip up to Dagshai on the narrow-gauge railway, meandering through the forests and climbing round the mountains, was memorable.

Dagshai is a Cantonment area currently manned by 4 Assam Regiment who are mainly Christian but with a Hindu CO. The original inhabitants in this area were Goorkhas. After six unsuccessful battles against the Goorkhas the East India Company signed a treaty of friendship which paved the way for the Gurkhas to serve in the British Army.

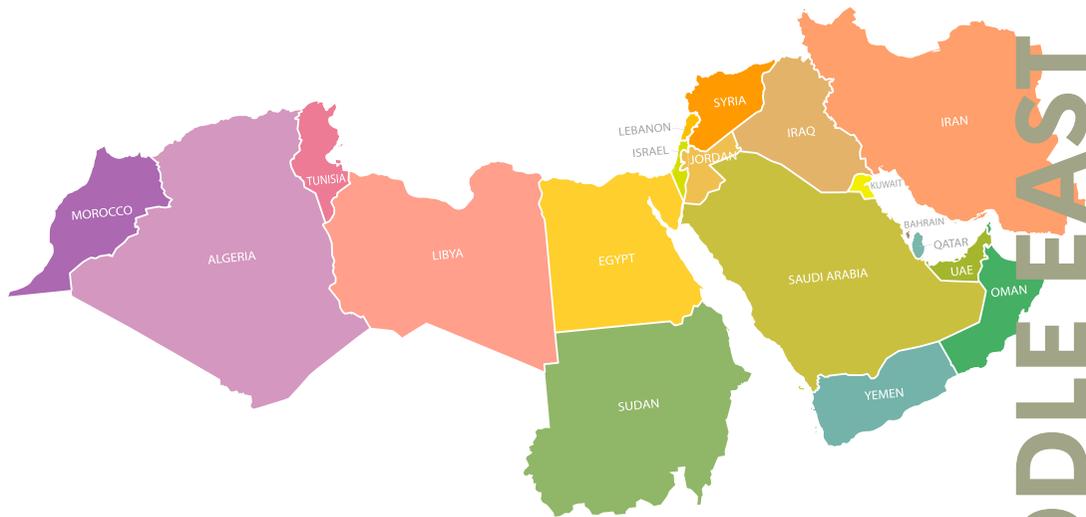
Indian Christians look at the UK and Europe and are envious of the 2000 year heritage of the Gospel light. They point out that despite the Apostle Thomas bringing the Gospel to India in the first century, the church in India did not survive the millennia – similar to the seven churches in Revelation.

We prayed for Himachal Pradesh to be cleansed and Satan's powers

banished. This praying for the land is a common theme across the so called "village ministry" in India. It was encouraging to see retired officers and NCOs at Dagshai. Unfortunately, the local Assam Regiment JCO felt unable to attend the Indian MCF conference.

The keynote speaker at the conference was a retired Indian Army Colonel. He demonstrated through countless unpacked Bible references, that the Holy Spirit dwells in all who are regenerated. He cleverly put his points across whilst walking about with an immaculate former Sergeant at his side depicting the graceful beautiful, perfect person who is the Holy Spirit and all the while without a single note. With amazing pictorial insight, and the ability to quietly but clearly articulate, the Colonel made many gestures with his hands and arms ... like "go" as he banishes Satan from a stronghold... or "come" as Jesus beckons us to the cross. Satan controls strongholds but we were reminded that he was defeated 2000 years ago and has no hold over a regenerated Spirit-filled person. Thanks be to God. ●

India village ministry – Bible gifts.



## Country by Country in the Middle East

RTL MIDDLE EAST RICHARD MERYAN

**MMI ministry across the Middle East has to be tackled country by country as every country other than Israel is Islamic, and all but Iran and Turkey of these are Arabic.**

Lebanon has the largest Christian population (~30%) and by its constitution a Christian President but since October it has been troubled by both civil unrest at the government's ineffectiveness and by Iranian-backed Hezbollah being increasingly influential. Religion and faith materials are banned in the Armed Forces bases, and the Christian soldiers are reluctant to meet foreigners. In Tunisia serving soldiers are forbidden to meet foreigners, the Turkish Army forbids Christians to join and in Jordan the soldiers cannot meet off-base in groups larger than six, and even in Jordan the Christians are being harassed by Islamic influences.

In the West Bank and in Kurdish Iraq, our contacts are running midweek Bible studies although they are very short of resources. In Egypt there seems to be little restriction on the serving soldiers meeting up in their leisure time, and MMI is endeavouring to get each serving soldier to link with a retired one for mentoring and prayer.

Finally, Israel where we are most encouraged by the Netivah 'ARROW', the 'boot camp' for Messianic school leavers about to join the Israeli Defence Force and also the regular weekends hosted for the serving soldiers.

RTL Richard is in monthly contact with the links in the region through social media and is also wondering if it's time to hold a Middle East regional conference, maybe in Malta in 2021/2022. Please pray for wisdom, guidance and discernment in this decision. ●



## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS:

### VISION

To see what God might do if every military Christian had someone to stand with.

### MISSION

Helping Christians follow Jesus Christ in Armed forces around the world.

## Despite COVID-19, the MMI team continues to:

- Meet via video conference weekly to pray, study the Word, encourage each other and plan ahead
- Maintain contact with our brothers and sisters in our regions to encourage and pray with them
- Seek the Lord for what he has for us in the months ahead
- Cherish our close friendships with our sister organisations ACCTS and MSO
- Explore how we can better use social media to reach even more military Christians with God's Word for them
- Consider how we will get back on mission when the Lord says, "Go!"

We are in no way downhearted but are rejoicing in the Lord's love and grace and are excited that he has called us to prepare and pray in these days for what He has called us to do downstream.

This is not wasted time – it is prayer and preparation time and the Lord is at work.

**9th JULY 2020**  
Trustees Meeting (UK)

**22nd – 25th MAY 2020**  
Marriage Seminar Moscow  
**PROBABLY POSTPONED**

**ONLINE**  
22nd MAY 2020  
EC Meeting  
ZOOM  
.....  
6th JUNE 2020  
PRAYER DAY  
ZOOM

**1st - 4th MAY 2020**  
EMCM - Czech Republic  
**CANCELLED**

**6th JUNE 2020**  
RIMP (France)  
**CANCELLED**

**AUGUST 2020 (TBC)**  
SAR (Bulgaria)

**22th – 29th JULY 2020**  
MEO South Korea  
**CANCELLED**

**6th JUNE 2020**  
SAO TOME  
**POSTPONED**

**1st - 6th MAY 2020**  
EAPC- Uganda  
**POSTPONED**  
Virtual daily prayer meeting

**6th JUNE 2020**  
DRC  
**POSTPONED**

**1st - 6th MAY 2020**  
Tanzania visit  
**POSTPONED**

**8th - 15th MAY 2020**  
TMTI – South Africa  
**POSTPONED**

**8th - 15th MAY 2020**  
Swaziland visit  
**POSTPONED**

**Being 'prayer led' is one of our values, but how does that work? Prayer is the foundation of everything we do in MMI. We have a broad foundation of prayer but as our ministry grows and opportunities open up, so the foundation of prayer has to increase to support the work.**

We pray and then plan. Through the surrender of our plans and agendas in prayer, we seek to follow the plans God has for us as an organisation and as individuals. It is often difficult to discern God's will for the detail, but as we make time and space to 'be still' in the Lord's presence, we believe that the Holy Spirit guides us. There are several ways we encourage and fuel our prayer supporters.



## PrayerLink

Yes – one word with a capital L in the middle! Urgent or immediate prayer needs and reminders to pray for planned activity are e-mailed in a short succinct form straight to you. We keep the emails to a minimum. To sign up, email [prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.uk)

## TPB - Triannual Prayer Brief (previously known as Quarterly Prayer Brief)

This is in hard copy and accompanies the MMI News, which has, until now, been a quarterly mailing. It consists of 31 prayers covering events and activities taking place over the (now) four-month period as well as the prayer needs in the regions.

The intention is to pray one prayer a day through each month, so each prayer is used four times. After the event, pray-ers pray for the effectiveness of the events in individual lives or for the follow up.

## 1st Wednesday Reflection and Prayer

On the 1st Wednesday of the month a reflection, written by a team leader or field worker and detailed prayer items for the month is produced by the Prayer Team Leader. As the MMI team is spread internationally, this is seen as a time of corporate prayer. This is emailed to supporters on request – to sign-up email [prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.uk). A summary version is available on the website.

## Prayer Days

More detailed prayer needs and answers to prayers are shared at our prayer days. Regional Team Leaders (RTLs) and MMI field workers brief on recent activities, difficulties and future plans; international guests, sometimes in person sometimes via Skype, are often invited to provide in depth and contextual information on prayer needs. Each region is prayed for in depth and a 'Prayer Fuel' booklet

produced. We aim to hold at least two prayer days a year.

Our next planned Prayer Day is 6th June 2020 and although we will probably not be able to meet together physically, we will 'meet' for prayer and briefings via the internet. Details will be emailed and posted on the MMI website and Facebook page nearer the time.

## Pause for Prayer

In Feb 2020 we trialled an additional style of praying together – Pause for Prayer. A group gathered in Salisbury to pray for MMI and was joined, via Skype, by a group in Bulgaria. The Prayer Pause was for four hours and small groups in several countries prayed together at the same time. The intention is to develop the ability to connect with multiple groups for future Pause for Prayer days.

## Prayer of the Day

Every day a 'Prayer of the Day' features on the homepage of our website. This is a cycle of 31 'timeless' prayers covering each of the regions. It is currently in the process of being updated and it is hoped the prayers will be available in other languages later this year, as volunteers are found to translate them – is that something you could help with?

## Regional Pray & Plan Group (RPPG)

The priority for an RPPG is strategic praying for MMI ministry in a particular region and prayer support to the RTL.

Each of the MMI regions (Africa, Europe, Middle East & S. Asia) has its own RPPG -Africa has four groups including French speaking and Portuguese speaking groups. They usually meet around four times a year, to pray more strategically about the

ministry in the region, and to Pray and Plan the regional programme with the RTL. This involves praying for discernment and understanding and may take several days or weeks for some things to become clear. It is not a prayer time to pray blessings over the RTLs plans! Each group has its own chair or leader and 4-10 members including the regional RTL.

To be a part of an RPPG requires a deeper commitment to a region than being part of a prayer support group, but experience of the region is not essential (although helpful in understanding situations). Where possible RTLs are encouraged to find some members from within the region – ideally serving, if not then retired personnel or those involved in ministry to the Armed Forces in some way. Prayer times are often by Skype or a mix of physical meeting with others Skyping in.

To find out more about joining an RPPG contact [prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.uk) or the Regional Team Leader of the region you are interested in supporting. ●

**For further information contact [prayer@mmi.org.uk](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.uk)**



# MMI PRAYER DAY

The MMI Prayer Day is planned for 6th June.

We won't be able to meet in person, so we'll have times of regional update and prayer via Zoom. Please pray for this adventure into prayer – REAL PRAYER in a virtual meeting!

Keep the day free and plan to join us.



# Meditative Prayer picture

This meditative prayer picture was created during two all-night prayer vigils at the MMI Team retreat in January. The meditation was based on Isaiah 43:19:

See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

**Isaiah 43:19**



## Roddy and Eddy in California

Roddy and Eddy, who is the MMI Field worker for West Africa, were both in California for Christmas and managed to meet up for a sunny coffee. Eddy is currently staying in California with his family.

## Sue's Graduation

Sue Millard, our Team Leader Prayer & Communication's graduation at Durham University in January, for her degree in Theology: Ministry & Mission.



**OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!**  
mmi.org.uk

# BACKPACK

This month's thoughts and prayers to take with you and share...

## It's all gone for a ball of chalk!

### But ...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Joshua 1:9**

