



ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS Newsletter November 2017

All One in Christ Jesus

In This Issue:

Romania: MCF's 10th Anniversary

Jesus with those who don't know Him. Among the MCF's ministries is its close work with the military chaplaincy to meet the spiritual needs of cadets, soldiers, and officers. *See page two for MCF member testimonies!*



The military Christian fellowship of Romania, *Corneliusz*, celebrated ten years of outreach in October. The MCF's goals are to encourage the personal growth of its members through the use of their spiritual gifts and to share



Romanian MCF.....Page 1
Romanian testimonies.....Page 2
Central Am. Conference.....Page 3
Southern Africa VP Chosen...Page 4
Ukraine/Israel MCF News....Pages 5
Military Ethics.....Page 6
Canadian MCF Meeting.....Page 7
We Need Your Help!.....Page 8
S. Korean Day of Prayer.....Page 8



Testimonies from Romania's Military Christians

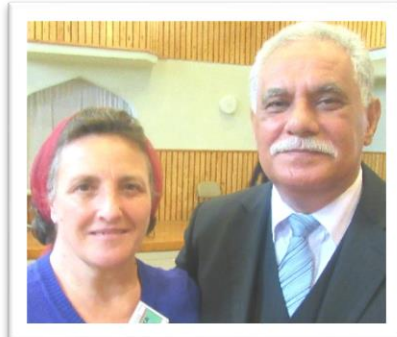
Vasile grew up an atheist and, as an adult, was completely dedicated to his military career and service. When he married his wife Cornelia, he initially refused to allow her to mention God in their house -- but as result of her faithful prayers, he came to know Christ. Today, Vasile is a committed and active Christian, ministering to Christian policemen

George's father was an artillery officer, and George was a non-commissioned officer in Romania's military. In 1989, while attending military school, God gave him three dreams which led him to repent and turn to Christ.

In 1997 an unnamed officer was not a Christian. Some Christian officers visited his home, and he joked about Christianity and their faith. Yet during that visit, he had a life-changing experience. He was invited to attend a church in Craiova, and that led to his eventual conversion. He regrets taking so long to become a Christian.

Daniel will retire next year as a warrant officer and plans to go into full-time Christian service then. His church has 225 members, and he ministers to children on Saturdays. He talks to their parents about Christ, and the parents often come to church because of the children.

Raou, a former artillery office, was expelled from the army when his brother left the Soviet Union. In 1988, the Lord led Raou to a church, where he repented from his sins. Five years ago, he began theology training in Bucharest and is now working on a Master's degree at a Romanian seminary.



Out of Darkness and Into His Light: AMCF's Central American Conference



“Out of Darkness and Into His Wonderful Light” (I Peter 10:9) was the theme of October’s AMCF Central American Conference. Hosted by the MCF of Guatemala, military believers from ten nations attended and learned from challenging, practical teachings and discussions about leadership principles, military ministry, and including the Christian walk in one’s everyday life.

Some conference sessions focused on reminding MCF leaders to find

and mentor younger leaders, just as Moses mentored Joshua. These sessions asked MCF leaders to consider how Moses chose Joshua, what qualities Joshua had that made him stand out, and how Moses interacted with Joshua. Joshua himself didn’t mentor a successor, so when he died everyone in the nation of Israel “did what was right in their own eyes” because of a lack of leadership. MCF leaders and members are in the process of failing unless they were actively finding and preparing someone to take over their ministry.

Other sessions focused on finances, pointing out the need for each military Christian fellowship to be financially independent, encouraging members to contribute toward the MCF’s ministries and the work of the regional AMCF vice president.

Seminar Highlight: In the military, no one moves from lieutenant to general without specific training. This is also true of Christian leadership in a military Christian fellowship. MCFs can help people progress in their spiritual lives by having different training and mentoring at each level of a believers’ lives, so that eventually they are ready to take on the mantel of MCF leadership.

Many participants noted how encouraging it was to learn what other national MCFs are doing, and planned to share what they had learned with military Christians who couldn’t attend the conference.

ACCTS’ director, Col. (USMC, Ret.) Phil Exner, stated, “It was good to see so much true fellowship and interaction among the participants. You could tell they were well-connected personally in each other’s lives. It allowed participants to share the pressures of spiritual leadership with others who understand those tensions. Some of those who attended don’t have the benefit of frequent Christian fellowship, so the conference was a much-needed injection of reassurance that they aren’t alone.”

Seminar Highlight: When sharing your personal testimony, be willing and prepared to answer questions, including, “Why are you a Christian?” and “Why is Jesus so important in your life?”

AMCF Southern Africa Vice President Confirmed



Commander Peter Louwrens

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When our dear brother General Victor Mohapi went to be with the Lord, I requested Commander (Ret.) Peter Lourens to overlook the duties of the vice president in an acting capacity, which he willingly undertook to do.

Peter has continued to serve faithfully during the past two years and we have not been able to find a person to take over on a permanent basis.

I therefore, invited Peter to join the AMCF Presidential Bench as vice president for Southern Africa since he was qualified in all

respects, having served a full term as vice president previously.

I am pleased to state that Peter, after seeking the Lord's will, informed me of his willingness to be vice president.

I have the privilege of appointing Peter as the VP for Southern Africa, with effect from 10 November 2017.

It is my sincere prayer that the Lord will bless Peter and his dear wife Di as they once again take on the mantle of AMCF VP. May the Lord give them a new vision for the region for unity among the members of the MCFs and the chaplains in order that the Lord may be glorified. May the MCFs of the region grow from strength to strength. Amen.

In Christ

Srilal Weerasooriya
Gen (Ret.)
President, AMCF

**AMCF VICE
PRESIDENTS ARE
VOLUNTEERS,
OCCASIONALLY SUPPORTED
BY REGIONAL MILITARY
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS,
AS THOSE MCFS ARE ABLE.**

SHARING THE SPACE GOD GIVES US

As the church,
we are in
community
together trying
to fulfill this
Great
Commission that
Jesus left us
with...we form
one thing, His
church. As we
work together,
sharing the
space God gives
us to do His
work, we all
become shaped
a little different.
We all become a
little more like
Him."

– Jennifer L. Lane

International Military Ministry Snapshots



UKRAINIAN
CHAPLAINS
WHO RECEIVED
TRAINING
THROUGH THE MCF
OF UKRAINE,
AUTUMN 2017

ISRAELI MESSIANIC
CHRISTIANS RECEIVED
TRAINING TO SHARPEN
THEM FOR CHALLENGES
THEY MAY FACE IN THE
MILITARY DURING THEIR
MANDATORY SERVICE TIME.



How Do We Live Our Lives?

*excerpts from article by Chief Revd
Ray Pentland, RAF (Ret.)*

Christian
ethics begin
and end
in Jesus.

Ethics is about how we decide what is right and what is wrong. Ethics is the study of everyday behavior and so involves every aspect of our lives.

We might argue that an ethical person acknowledges that the Ten Commandments are a good code, while a moral person lives accordingly. Many would point to the golden rule, from Luke 6:31 – “Do to others as you would have them do to you” – as their ethical base. But would that be distinctly Christian behaviour? I think not, for I know many who would lay no claim to the Christian faith but whose everyday behaviour echoes the golden rule. Indeed, there are echoes of such a thought in many ethical



traditions. So this is a beginning, but there must be more.

Is there really a distinctive Christian ethic? I believe there is. St Ephraim explains it like this,

“The sign that you love God is this, that you love your neighbour; and if you hate your neighbour, your hatred is toward God.”

How does having a Jesus-centered ethic affect what I do every day?

From my perspective as a Christian, ethics is thinking about how I make Christ centered decisions. However, it must go beyond the academic to the practical. How I live my life. How I speak, the language I use, the jokes I tell, the way I treat people, and that means everyone.

An ethical person knows that it is good to live by the Ten Commandments, but a moral

person puts that knowledge into practice. German theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book, *Ethics* (published by Fontana in 1964), suggested that the commandment of God as revealed in Jesus is the only basis for ethical decision.

Whether our questions are of life and death, or the simple task of daily living, Christian ethics begin and end in Jesus.

-- Chaplain in Chief Revd Ray Pentland, RAF (Ret.); excerpts from the Spring 2017 *Contact*.

The entire ethics series by Reverend Pentland can be found in Contact magazines at www.afcu.org.uk.

CANADIAN MCF'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

-- excerpts from a report by MCF
President Gerry Potter



In mid-November, members of the Canadian MCF met in Ottawa at the National House of Prayer for a spiritual retreat and annual meeting. They were joined by the AMCF vice president, Lt Col. Nestor Ogilvie from Grenada.

The weekend launched on Friday evening with shared testimonies of faith and encouragement as well as prayer requests.

The prayer sessions included several themes:

Surrendering to the Lord --
Romans 12:1-2

Being humble before God
and other people

Compassion for the military
community -- Colossians 3:
12

Brokenness before God --
Isaiah 65:14

Being poor in spirit --
Matthew 5:3

Gratitude toward God --
1 Thessalonians 5:16

Boldness in living out one's
faith -- Joshua 1:7

After prayer, the group
attended the Remembrance
Day ceremonies at the
National War Memorial in
Ottawa.

Saturday evening was a time
of discussion, fellowship, and
exploration of potential
future evolutions of the
MCF's ministry.

BE A LIVING SACRIFICE

"Dear friends,
God is good. So I
beg you to offer
your bodies to
him as a living
sacrifice, pure and
pleasing. That's
the most sensible
way to serve
God. Don't be like
the people of this
world, but let God
change the way
you think. Then
you will know
how to do
everything that is
good and pleasing
to him." Romans
12:1-2, CEV

Military Christians gathered in South Korea on AMCF's Day of Prayer and Praise – October 2017



AMCF

Association of Military

Christian Fellowships

www.amcf-int.org

amcf@accts.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need your help to make sure the AMCF newsletter has information and photos from military Christian fellowship events around the world!

Please send reports and photos from your MCF's events, as well as prayer items, to amcf@accts.org so we can include them in future newsletters!

This newsletter is produced by ACCTS (www.accts.org) as a ministry to the AMCF.

Thank you,

E.A. Humphrey,
Editor