



Onward!

July 2019

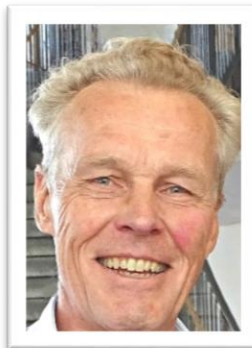


The newsletter of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships

90 Years of Military Ministry in Sweden!



Congratulations to the military Christian fellowship of Sweden, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in May with MCF members, AMCF President General Srilal Weerasooriya, and other international guests. Sweden's MCF was formed in 1929 and was the fourth MCF ever established. Please pray with MCF leaders and members as they move forward in sharing Christ with their nation's military personnel.



AMCF Prayer

“Heavenly Father, we thank you that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Bless the service men and women of all nations, and grant that we who know the joy of being ‘all one in Christ Jesus’ may be filled with your love and pass it on to others through the power of the Holy Spirit until His coming again.”

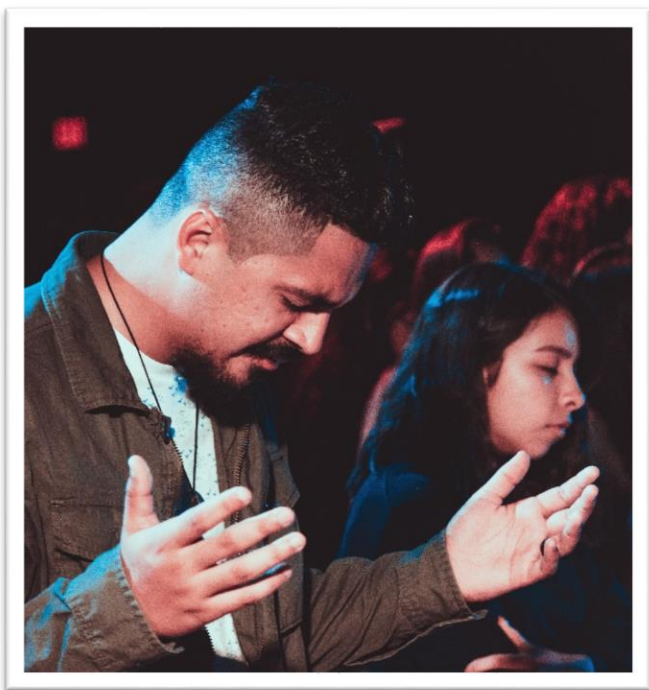
-- this prayer was adopted by AMCF in 1930 with the suggestion that it be prayed each Sunday

South African Adventure Program Reaches Young Military Personnel

The South African Military Christian Fellowship (SAMCF) recently hosted a Table Mountain Top Interaction in Cape Town to develop MCF members who will serve as ethical Christian leaders within their respective defense forces.

TMTI encourages believers in their Christian faith through teachings on biblical leadership, MCF/chaplaincy interaction, inductive Bible study, conversational prayer, and other pertinent topics. The program culminates in a challenging hike to the top of iconic Table Mountain.





Prayer:

Our Connection to God

by Anton Topilnyckyj, MCF of Canada Prayer Coordinator

We are drawn towards God because, when He created us, He implanted His characteristics in us. Although the sin in the garden destroyed our perfect relationship with Him, it did not remove God from our minds. Since the beginning of recorded time, humanity has prayed to God. There are at least 650 recorded prayers in the Bible. People spoke to God about their circumstances, their relationships, and their desires. The content of many of those prayers are somewhat similar but all share a common feature; **humanity seeking assurance from God that He is there listening to them.**

We all know that when we want a relationship with someone, whether for casual friendship or something deeper, we must find a way to acknowledge them. Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God. **It has been the primary way we acknowledge God.** People struggle with prayer because of their expectations. They treat God as a magic genie to whom they go to with their wishes. They become discouraged because they don't seem to get the answers they were looking for. Many pray, but few listen.

In the 1944 classical movie, "To Have and Have Not", Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall are the main characters who are going through their own life struggles but at the same time developing a relationship with each other. Both are trying to act cool and indifferent towards each other while at the same time they want a relationship. In one scene Lauren, for no reason, kisses tough guy Humphrey and he pretends to be shocked and asks why she did that. As she leaves the room, she says to him "You know, you don't have to act with me. You don't have to say anything, and you don't have to do anything. Not a thing. Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and... blow." She was telling him to let their relationship fall out naturally and don't try any gimmick or anything else to impress her. Just be present and from time to time acknowledge her.

We should want more than what Bogart and Bacall were seeking of each other. **We should want a deep, ongoing connection to the God of the universe so that we can get back to how it was when He created us. We pray based on how God designed us to communicate.** We don't have to pretend with Him, and we don't have to try to do or say anything special to try to impress Him – we just have to open our lips and talk.

Serve to Lead

“...research shows that when leaders do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons, putting their ethics before the bottom line – their teams are more likely to be loyal, dedicated and ethical...in the Kingdom that Jesus is bringing in, leadership will be defined not by authority, power and position, but by service.

“Jesus is here to turn the world upside down and that includes our values and how we live and

lead. Jesus tells us that if we want to lead we must serve, saying, ‘For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’ (Mark 10:45).” -- RAF Chaplain in Chief (Ret.) Rev. Ray Pentland, from the AFCU magazine, Contact

Papua New Guinea
believers with AMCF Vice
President Van Heel



URGENT PRAYER NEED:

TWO MILITARY CHRISTIANS THAT WE KNOW OF ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING PERSECUTION BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH. BOTH ARE AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR JOBS AND MAY BE IN PHYSICAL DANGER AS WELL. PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE BROTHERS IN CHRIST, AND ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST.

Resources for Military Christian Fellowships

AMCF has three partner organizations that can help military Christian fellowships in their outreaches. One of these three organizations is ACCTS, and it can assist MCFS by:

1. Helping organize outdoor adventure events for young enlisted personnel and/or officers.

These events will be held in the MCF's nation, with planning assistance from ACCTS, and include spiritual lessons and outdoor activities such as hiking, rafting, etc.



2. Helping plan and organize English language training camps so that MCFs can minister in a new way to both non-Christian and Christian military personnel who want to increase their conversational English skills. These lessons can include Bible studies and other Christian materials, if that is allowed in the host nation.

3. Bringing a chaplain training program to your nation to help chaplains, or those who minister unofficially as chaplains, learn new ways to minister to their nations' armed forces.

4. Providing speakers for regional and/or national conferences.

5. Inviting MCF participants to attend ACCTS events in the US, such as Chaplains Interaction and Interaction-RMH.

6. Sending this AMCF newsletter (which is produced by ACCTS) to MCF members.

If you are an MCF leader and are interested in learning more about how ACCTS can help your fellowship expand its outreach, please contact them at accts@accts.org.

If you want news or prayer items from your military Christian fellowship included in upcoming AMCF newsletters, please send that information to amcf@accts.org. You can also request that MCF members receive this newsletter directly by sending their email addresses to amcf@accts.org. Please also visit our website at www.amcf-int.org. This newsletter is produced by AMCF's ministry partner, ACCTS (www.accts.org).