

## **Current Status of the MSO's World Missionary Ministries**

June 23, 2022.

MEO 2022

### **1. Introduction**

Good afternoon, General Essel Soriano, 3 PSO's executive directors, and AMCF brothers and sisters. I am Colonel Lee, Jangsong, the Overseas Mission Director of MSO. I am very grateful to have this opportunity to inform you of the missions and ministries of MSO. First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to General Soriano, our 7<sup>th</sup> AMCF President. I'd let you know that all the members of MSO will always be with you when you strive to extend the Kingdom of the Lord on this world through military missionary ministry. We are very happy to work with you, General Soriano. I earnestly wish that the Almighty Lord be with you and AMCF and bless all abundantly.

In this presentation, I will first introduce the mission, the objective, the history, the organization, and the ministerial works of MSO focusing on its Leader Development Program and perspectives on the future ministry.

### **2. The Mission, the Objective and the History of MSO**

The mission of MSO is to support the activities of the AMCF and to evangelize the soldiers of the world through cooperation with relevant mission organizations including 3 PSOs. Its objective is to contribute to the fulfillment of the Lord's Great Commission by supporting and cooperating for the establishment, nurturing and development of MCFs in all countries of the world.

MSO was founded on a very special occasion. When General Lee, Pil-seop was nominated as the 5th AMCF President in 2000, the 'AMCF President Takeover Preparatory Committee' was launched in Korea to support his ministerial activities. In June 2002, the committee was renamed as 'The Mission Support Organization of the AMCF, in short, MSO' and was reborn as one of the AMCF Principal Support Organizations. The former Minister of National Defense of ROK, General Lee, Jun inaugurated as the first chairman of MSO, and faithfully supported the missionary efforts of AMCF for 15 years. General Lee, Pil-seop took office in September, 2002.

Meanwhile, MSO successfully supported the hosting of the 12th AMCF World Conference in 2004 in Seoul, making it a conference with delegates from 134 countries. During the 10 year tenure of President Lee, Pil-seop, the number of the MCFs increased from 78 to 148. In January 2020, retired Army Major General Park, Nam-pil took office as the 3rd MSO Chairman and is currently leading MSO. The chart below summarizes the history of MSO.

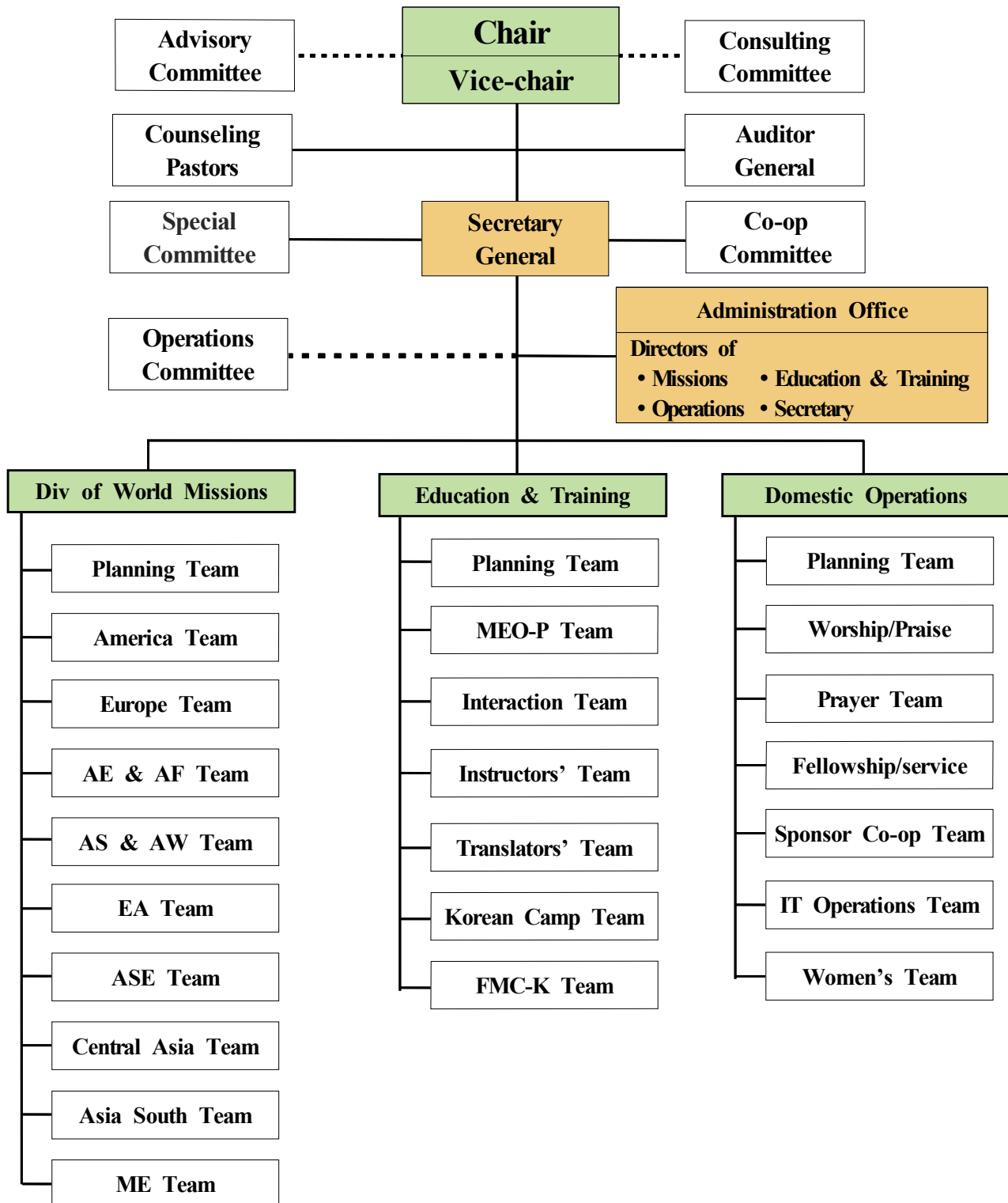
#### (A) The History of MSO

- ➡ Apr 7, '00 General Lee, Pil-sup nominated as 5th AMCF President (by Sir Laurence New, 4th AMCF President).
- ➡ Jun 1, '02 Renamed the AMCF Presidency Takeover Committee as AMCF Mission Support Organization (MSO). General Lee, Jun Inaugurated as 1st Chairman of MSO.
- ➡ Sep 15, '02 Thanksgiving worship for Inauguration of General Lee, Pil-sub as 5th AMCF President.
- ➡ May 22, '03 AMCF World Conference Preparation Committee organized with MSO assuming Central Role.
- ➡ Sep 14, '03 MSO Articles of Incorporation Enacted and Promulgated (General rules, members, organizations, ministry activities, finances, etc.)
- ➡ Sep 14~18, '04 Held 12th AMCF WC with 134 Countries Participating.
- ➡ Dec 2, '04 Opened MSO Office, Fulltime Servicing System Established.
- ➡ Jan 16, '17 MG Yoon, Yeo-il Inaugurated as 2nd Chairman.
- ➡ Jan 23, '20 MG Park, Nam-pil Inaugurated as 3rd Chairman.

#### 3. The Organization of MSO

In order to effectively carry out its missionary ministries, MSO recently underwent a major reorganization. MSO, like any other organizations, has executive and decision-making bodies, advisory boards, and audit bodies as shown in chart B.

(B) The Organization of MSO



Advisory Committee consists of senior pastors and elders of the military mission related organizations and churches. The standing members of this committee are former AMCF President, General Lee, Pil-sup, former AMCF East Asia VP, General Lee, Kap-jin, former MSO chairmen, Gen Lee, Jun, General Yoon, Yeo-il, and 4 elders who have served for MSO from the very first. They are still providing very precious advise to the current MSO Chairman General Park. Rev. Kwak, Seon-hee former MEAK (Military Evangelical Association of Korea) President, Rev. Kim, Sam-hwan, current President of MEAK and the senior pastor of Myeongseong Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kim, Jang-hwan, the CEO of Far East Christian Broadcasting System, Rev. Lee, Yeong-hoon, the senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, and about 30 pastors and elders are helping MSO as its advisers.

Consulting Committee is composed of the representatives of military and civilian missionary organizations and churches who are actively and regularly sponsoring MSO ministries. MSO has also appointed 5 senior pastors as its counseling pastors including the senior pastor of the Central Military Chapel, the mother church of all the military Christians of Korea.

Cooperative Operational (Co-op) Committee consists of the domestic co-op officers and international co-op missionaries. Domestic co-op officers are military and civilian church working-level managers who are in charge of the administrative matters related to MSO including personnel and financial sponsoring, attending AMCF global and regional meetings, executing MEO/FMC-K programs and other MSO ministries. MSO are also cooperating with Korean overseas missionaries around the world. Currently, MSO is working with 75 overseas missionaries. Specially, MSO are fully sponsoring 2 overseas missionaries: Rev. Lee, Jae-youl, whose ministry spans over the armed forces of 4 Indochina countries—Cambodia, Vietnam, Mianmar, and Laos. He has been a MSO cooperative missionary for 17 years now. Rev. Kang is preaching the Gospel in the armed forces of former Soviet Countries including Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asian Countries. He has worked with MSO for 20 years so far.

Now, we will take a brief look at the executive branch mainly responsible for executing MSO's world missionary work. As shown on the chart, MSO's executive branch is largely composed of a headquarters and three executive divisions. The headquarters consists of a chairperson, vice chairpersons, secretary general, and the office of administration which in turn consists of the overseas missions director, the education and training director, the domestic operations director, and a few secretaries. The directors of the office assume the role of staff who assist the chairman in the main functions of MSO: education and training ministries, international cooperation and support ministries, fund raising and other administrative ministries.

The World Mission Division, which performs MSO's international cooperation and support ministries, is composed of the division director, the Mission Planning Team that plans and coordinates the missionary activities, and the regional teams approximately corresponding to the AMCF regions. The regional teams are the European team, American team, and 2 African teams; and for the Asia-Pacific Cluster, 5 teams are organized such as the East Asia team, Southeast Asia team, Central Asia team, South Asia team, and Middle East team.

Many of the regional team leaders have valuable experience as military attaches to a country in the corresponding region. For example, the Southeast team leader, Colonel Choi, Shin-il was a defense attache to Myanmar. Colonel and Rev. Shin, the European team leader was a defense attache to Germany.

The World Mission Division Director is a retired colonel Chang, Yong-kwan, who served as a defense attache to Poland and was later in charge of all attache affairs of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces.

The Education and Training Division is in charge of creating conditions for nurturing AMCF leaders through education/training, interaction, etc. The division has, under its control, the education and training planning team, the MEO Program team, the interaction team, the instructors team, the interpretation team, the Korean language and culture team, and the foreign military soldiers in Korea (FMC-K) interaction team. The director is Rev. Yoon, Young-soo, an army retired brigadier general.

The Domestic Operations Division is in charge of fund raising, domestic ministries and administration. The Director is a retired army colonel Lim, Cheol-su, an elder of the Central Military Chapel. It has the domestic operations planning team, worship & praise team, intercessory prayer team, fellowship and service team, sponsor cooperation team, IT operations team, and women's team.

#### **4. Cooperating and Supporting Ministries**

Under the AMCF's motto of being one in Christ Jesus, to carry out the Lord's Great Commission to spread the gospel to the ends of the world, MSO has closely collaborated with the AMCF President, 14 regional Vice Presidents, national MCFs, 3 PSOs and other various mission support organizations at home and abroad. Let's look at the missionary cooperation ministry, first. Missionary cooperation ministries are grouped into 3 types: the first type is related to planning, coordinating and implementing AMCF missionary ministries; the second one concerns the ministries aiming at strengthening the network of AMCF ministry by participating in various activities such as conferences, seminars and prayer meetings of AMCF and its regions; and the third one is to work with Korean civilian overseas missionaries.

### **(1) Development and Implementation of AMCF Missionary Ministries**

MSO, as one of the principal support organizations of the AMCF, has involved in planning and developing AMCF's global and regional ministry activities. The MSO currently participates in the following Prayer and Plans (P&Ps) for the preparation of world or regional conferences and interactions:

- (a) P&P for the Brazilian AMCF World Conference 2024
  - moderator: AMCF President Gen Weerasooriya
  - members: 3 PSO representatives, Brazilian MCF Preparatory Committee representatives, South America VP, etc.
- (b) P&P for the AMCF Global Interaction
  - for an interaction to resume disconnected AMCF interactions
  - members: 3 PSO representatives
- (c) P&P for the East Asian Interaction
  - moderator: Col Andrew Tzeng, VP of East Asia
  - members: East Asian MCF representatives and MSO representatives
- (d) P&P for the Central Asian Conference (STAD-DART)
  - moderator: Kyrgyzstan MCF or MSO Central Asian Team
  - Central Asian MCFs and the MSO representatives

### **(2) Participation in Regional Conferences & Prayer Meetings**

MSO emphasizes cooperation with AMCF regional VPs and 3 PSOs. MSO is equipped with regional mission teams and regularly attends diverse conferences and prayer meetings. Through these conferences and prayer meetings, MSO is strengthening ties with each region and solidifying the capacity for world missionary work. Here are just a few of these:

- (a) European Military Christians Meeting (EMCM)
- (b) Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
- (c) American Regional Meeting
- (d) African Regional Meeting
- (e) Central Asian Conference (STAN-DART Conference)
- (f) East Asian Conference, Interaction
- (g) West African Prayer Meeting
- (h) MMI Prayer Meeting
- (i) ACCTS Staff Meeting

### **(3) Cooperation with Korean Overseas Missionaries**

One of the major cooperation projects of MSO is the cooperation with civilian Korean missionaries dispatched to around the world. From them, the missionaries with outstanding interest and enthusiasm for military missions are selected and appointed as MSO cooperative missionaries. MSO connects them with the MCFs of the respective countries to help vitalize the MCFs, playing a bridge role between them. MSO has an objective to appoint cooperative missionaries in all countries around the world, and is currently working with 75 cooperative missionaries around the world. In particular, MSO regards Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union countries as hubs for its overseas missions. With the purpose of discovering dedicated missionaries who are interested in world military missions, MSO is strengthening cooperation with the association of Korean mission organizations. We are actively participating in meetings and gatherings of Korean missionaries at home and abroad, such as the Korean World Missionaries Conference.

### **(4) Supporting Ministries**

The MSO provides personnel and materiel to projects and organizations to support AMCF's world mission activities. First, the Combined Assistance and Training Team (CATT) was organized with ACCTS and MMI to support AMCF's diverse educational projects, trainings, and interactions by providing necessary instructors, advisors, and mentors. The MSO also supports AMCF Presidential Bench's mission expenses, international and domestic transportation expenses for necessary personnel, finances for cooperative missionaries, and other expenses needed for the participants in the education and training programs and conferences hosted by AMCF and some AMCF regions in cooperation with ACCTS and MMI.

## **5. MCF Leader Development Ministry**

### **(1) MEO Program**

An important MCF leader development program of MSO is the Military Evangelism Observation Program (MEO-P). Christian soldiers of the countries where MCFs have not been established or where MCF activities are weak are eligible to apply for the MEO-program. The participants of the program visit Korea's military ministry sites and observe their missionary activities. They also receive some discipleship training to equip themselves with necessary knowledge and techniques needed to establish and lead their MCFs. The MEO-P has been ongoing since its first implementation in 2005. Last year, however, this program had to be implemented online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Typically, the MEO program participants attend and observe the National Salvation Prayer Meeting of the Korean Armed Forces which is held every year in commemoration of the Korean War. In that prayer meeting, more than 15,000 soldiers gather to pray fervently for their country as well as for the Lord's Kingdom. They also observe the baptism

ceremony held at the Korean Army Training Center. Usually some hundreds, often some thousands, of trainees are baptized at the same time in the ceremony. So far MSO produced 270 MCF leaders of 86 countries through MEO program.

## **(2) Foreign Military Christians in Korea (FMC-K) Interaction**

The FMC-K is the program for foreign military personnel in Korea including the students at various educational institutes of Korean Armed Forces. This program was born in the process of overcoming COVID-19. As the regular MEO Program planned for 2020 became difficult to implement due to COVID-19, MSO, instead, conducted an alternative MEO program for foreign Christian soldiers studying in the Korean Armed Forces. The program was conducted for only one day for two foreign colonels (one Nigerian and one Ugandan) studying at the National Defense University. However, we clearly witnessed the potential of this program.

Last year, MSO conducted the first FMC-K program for 3 days and 2 nights on the beautiful island of Jeju, the southernmost island of Korea. In this program, the interaction among the participants was regarded as the most important factor. Through tours and team activities in the nature of Jeju island, the participants' solidarity was strengthened, with the meaning of life as a Christian soldier confirmed. Education and training were given only for one day. Instead, the participants were expected to take several online lectures on the AMCF ministry in advance before participating in the interaction. Last year 20 officers from 15 countries completed the program. Inspired by the results of this interaction, MSO decided to conduct the FMC-K program every year.

## **(3) Overseas Discipleship Training**

The above-mentioned two programs are the programs conducted at some sites in Korea. MSO is also running some overseas education and discipleship training programs. The Discipleship Training Programs in the four Indochina countries and in Eastern European and Central Asian countries (former Soviet Union countries) are major MSO leader development programs conducted by overseas MSO cooperative missionaries along with local MCF members. The Discipleship Training in the 4 Indochina countries is conducted in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar by an MSO cooperative missionary, Rev. Lee. This program has been ongoing for 15 years. Cambodian MCF leaders including LTG Kap Korn play a central role in this program, and MSO provides necessary personnel and materiel support including the provision of instructors.

The Discipleship Training in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia is a program conducted by an MSO cooperative missionary, Rev. Kang in the five countries of Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. This program has been



conducted for about 20 years now. In recent years, this program was heavily affected by COVID-19. However, the discipleship training program managed to be held in Kiev, Ukraine in 2020, and 7 people completed the entire course. The establishment of the military chaplaincy in Ukrainian armed forces is an invaluable by-product of this program, I believe. In Kyrgyzstan, a one-to-one discipleship training was conducted in its capital city of Bishkek for about a month last year.

## **6. MSO's Perspectives on World Missionary Ministry**

Next, I am going to tell you about the MSO's perspectives on the future ministry. In order to carry out the given missions more effectively under the changing global military ministerial environment, MSO is seriously considering advancing in the following directions.

First, we will continue strengthening inter-operability between the 3 PSOs. AMCF's ministry is essentially a cooperative ministry, and the efforts of the 3 PSOs should create synergy. To do this, the goals of each PSO must be compatible, if not identical. In 2017, ACCTS definitely stated three goals and defined specific objectives for each goal. The 3 goals are “(1) Train and equip Christian uniformed personnel for ministry; (2) Establish and strengthen MCFs around the world; and (3) Broaden ACCTS' support base and expand its ministry.”

We implicitly and explicitly accept these goals and objectives of ACCTS so as to make sure that we look in the same direction as ACCTS and MMI. To insure this inter-operability, MSO has taken part in AMCF decision making processes and other planning activities as often as possible to coordinate the 3 PSOs' efforts. To further solidify cooperation among the 3 PSOs, we'd like to suggest some joint projects such as Bible distribution to MCFs which need them. Recently, MSO has also actively participated in relief activities for war refugees of Ukraine. We believe that this kind of joint projects will greatly contribute to promoting mutual understanding and trust among 3 PSOs.

Second, we intend to continuously improve the effectiveness of our leader development programs. With firm determination, we will continue to carry out our education and training programs which have nurtured many leaders of AMCF so far. In order to enhance the effectiveness of these leader development programs, we will set some phases in our leader development process, and adjust the existing programs so that they match respective phases. ACCTS classifies the world MCF members into 5 categories such as (1) New MCF members, (2) Active MCF members, (3) Emerging MCF Leaders, (4) Local/regional Leaders, and (5) Current/Future AMCF VPs & National MCF Leaders. ACCTS is planing and implementing their education and training programs tailored to each category, as far as I know.

MSO also use this classification. So far, MSO's leader development programs have been implemented with emerging or local MCF leaders of each country as main targets. Now is the time for MSO to seriously consider the operation of an Advanced leader development program to cultivate AMCF regional and national MCF leaders. To this end, we are intently studying the programs and educational methods currently being applied to AMCF Global Interaction held in Croatia last year, with the purpose to apply them to the MSO education programs.

Third, by actively participating in and supporting AMCF's various conferences, interactions, and prayer meetings, we will enhance the bond of MSO further with the AMCF and the other 2 PSOs. MSO has been sharing ties with African regions by regularly attending prayer meetings in Africa. It has also participated actively in other AMCF meetings such as AMCF Global Interaction, European Military Christians Meeting (EMCM), Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, Central Asian Conference (so called STAN-DART Conference), East Asian Conference, and ACCTS Staff Meeting, to name a few. However, prayer meetings in the Asian regions have not yet been established. MSO is praying for setting up those regional prayer meetings in cooperation with corresponding regional VPs. In particular, we would like to first establish regular prayer meetings in East Asia and Southeast Asia, and then expand it to South Asia. We are closely examining the prayer meetings in Africa to revitalize or establish prayer meetings in the Asian regions. Furthermore, we are praying for the launch of an Asian cluster conference similar to European and American conferences through the activation of Asian regional prayer meetings. We will closely cooperate with the AMCF President, the VPs of Asian Regions, and 3 PSOs when we plan and design this Asian cluster conference.

Fourth, MSO will further strengthen cooperation with Korean overseas missionaries with the purpose of conducting world military missions more effectively through close cooperation with them. MSO signed an MOU with the Korean World Missionary Association (KWMA) on March 8, and secured the infrastructure for cooperative military ministry with Korean missionaries around the world. We also expect a valuable assistance from KWMA in finding appropriate local pastors who are interested in the military ministry in their armed forces, hoping that the military chaplaincy will be established in their countries ultimately. We firmly believe that the military chaplaincy system of a country will play a crucial role in establishing and activating MCFs there. If necessary we will willingly invite those pastors to Korea to give them a chance to observe how Korean chaplaincy system works.

## **7. Conclusion**

So far, I have briefed you the current state of MSO, and mentioned what MSO is planning to do in the future to effectively conduct world military missions that will please our Lord. We pray that all the military Christians of the world will be one in Christ Jesus overcoming regional and cultural differences and carry out the ministry of preaching the Gospel of life of the Lord to the ends of the world with all our strength, wisdom and will.

MSO always will be loyal to the cause of the AMCF and do its best to support the military ministerial activities of the AMCF which will be led by our dear President General Soriano. Thank you very much.