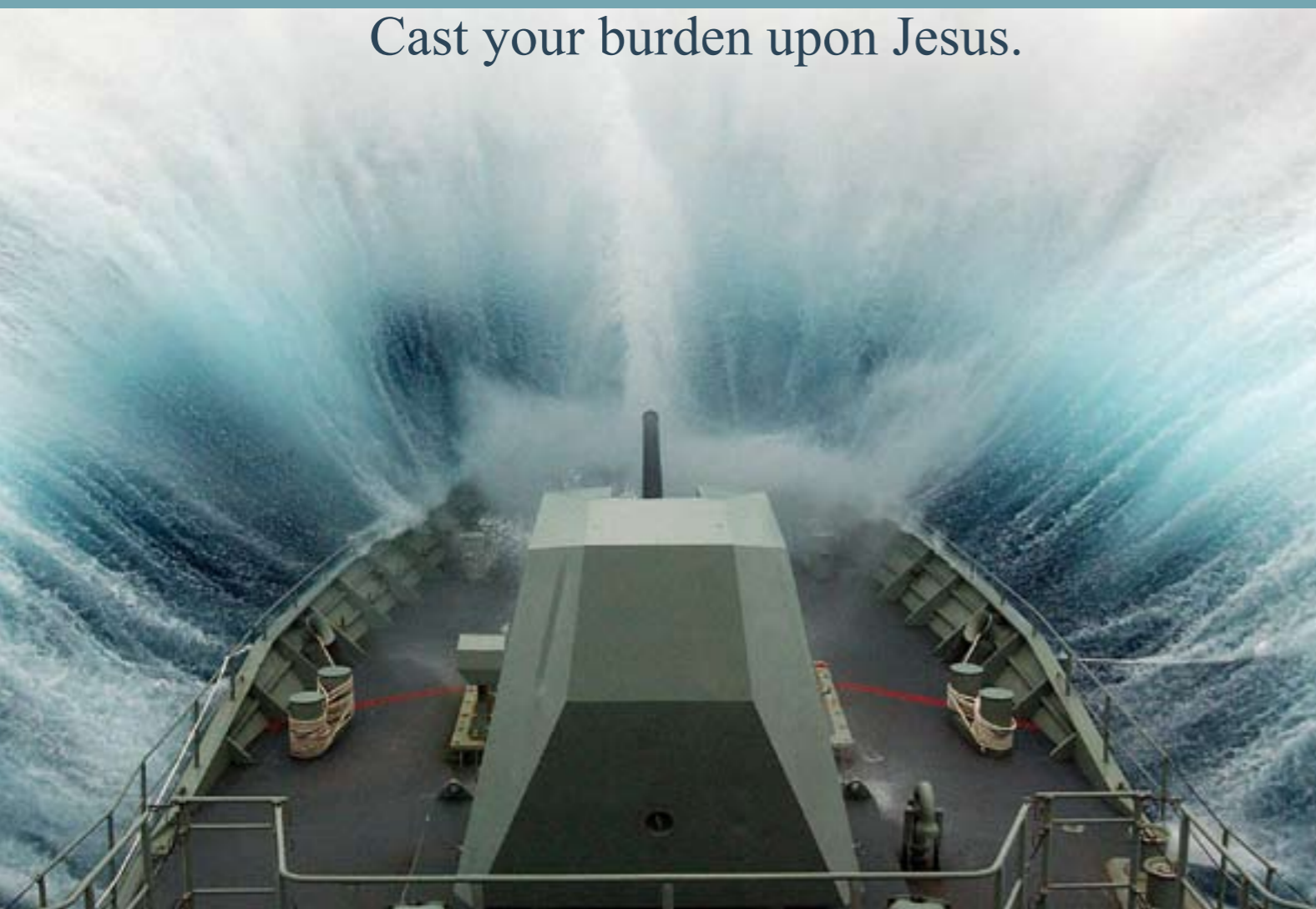


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CROSS FIRE

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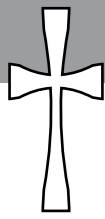


Christian Ethics Part 2

Post-Traumatic Faith

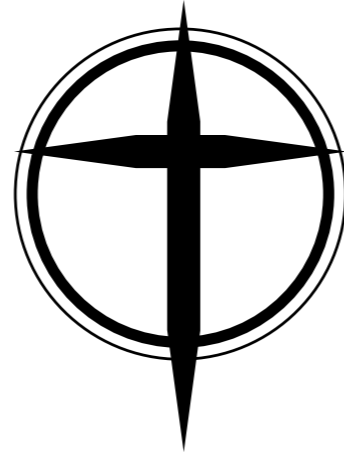
MCF Retreat 2006





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From the Editor

Send us a short story of your experiences as a Christian in the military. Highlight what God has done for you!

Articles for Cross Fire should be no more than 500 words long, focus on military Christian issues and experiences, avoid denominational commentary, and will be subject to approval from the National Council before publication. Photos are encouraged and should be of maximum resolution to ensure production standard. All submissions should be in electronic format. Stories from operational service are especially encouraged.

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Chairman's Report



By Mick Mumford, Chairman

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

As I sit and write this in Dili, East Timor, I am reminded of the fragile nature of humanity. One of the questions I am asked by soldiers here in Battlegroup Faithful (the name of the 3 RAR Battalion Group) is why do people commit violence against their neighbours and friends and then go to church as if they had done nothing wrong. As one soldier asked me, "What is the deal with that?" It has reinforced to me the difference between religion and Christianity. In my experience "religion" is something done for our own spiritual advantage, like forgiveness or comfort from our sins. Christianity is a much harder road. Christians are motivated by love of Christ, not by what they get out of their belief. There is no ceremony that makes a Christian able to justify sin, just the sad recognition that we are unable to live a sinless life and a reliance upon the grace and mercy of a God who detests sin and yet loves us like the Father He is. How reassuring it is for us to know that God has a plan for every one of us and, for those that have chosen his Kingdom, a life with Him that will not end. I'll take that deal, anytime.

March hard for the Lord,

Mick Mumford
Chairman



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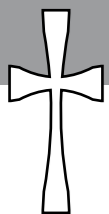
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Email the office if you know a member who needs congratulating for either promotion, a family increase, awards, or special appointments.

In the next edition of Cross Fire:

- Ethics and the Military Christian - Final Part
- Bible Battlefield Commanders (Continued)
- Christians in Defence Dinner



Christian Ethics and Military Service



by Dr Tom Frame,
Anglican Bishop to the ADF

Can Christian men and women render military service? This question has been a matter for conscientious reflection since the second century AD when Roman converts to Christianity were expected to serve in Caesar's armies. There is still a great deal of anxiety, confusion and disagreement about this matter because it is frequently intertwined with political considerations. Not surprisingly, debate within the contemporary Church continues. The foremost difficulty in coming quickly to a firm answer appears to be the apparent equivocation of Jesus himself on a series of related issues.

For instance, Jesus is recorded as giving his disciples 'a new commandment that you love one another, even as I have loved you' [John 13:34]. This would seem to preclude any activity that involved violence. When he announced that those who 'lived by the sword will die by the sword' [Matthew 26:52] he appears to rule out a military career for his disciples because of its dire human consequences. And in replying to a charge of sedition against Rome with the words 'my kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world my disciples would fight' [Romans 18:36], Jesus would appear to imply that this world's political struggles are not the concern of his followers.

Yet, Jesus recognised that force was integral to the regulation of civil affairs and that the 'sword'—symbolising coercion—had been entrusted to civil authorities by God to restrain evil and protect the weak. In another instance

recorded in the Gospels, Jesus did not command the centurion who sought his help to abandon his occupation before acceding to his request. Indeed, he commended the centurion for his unexpected faith. And we should also note that the ministry of Jesus is marked by involvement in the struggles of the day from debates over inheritance law to the political fortunes of occupied Israel. The Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus would begin to arrive in this world.

Despite nearly 2,000 years of almost constant deliberation, it is impossible to declare a single position to be the Christian view. There are a range of contrasting theological interpretations and conclusions about war and military service. How you read the Bible will, for instance, affect the position you take. By way of illustration: scholars who assert continuity and agreement between the moral teachings of the Old and New Testaments take vastly different positions on war from those who stress the discontinuity and development. The former—those stressing continuity—are more likely to admit the tragic necessity and moral legitimacy of certain wars while the latter—those who see a difference between the Old and New—are inclined to interpret the New Testament as entirely pacifist.

Let me quickly explain my approach. It begins with the responsibilities accorded to the state before shifting to the obligations imposed upon individuals. I find in the Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments) sufficient

evidence to persuade me that civil authorities have a 'divine' mandate for restraining evil and promoting justice. These authorities are to use their power—and sometimes this includes coercive power—to reflect the divine purpose for humanity—that people should enjoy the fruits of the earth fairly and equitably and that the powerful should not exploit the weak. Given the reality and pervasiveness of human sin, there is no peace or justice without the application (or threatened application) of coercive power. Therefore, states must protect the people for whom they have accepted responsibility from internal and external threats to their safety: crime and invasion.

Most of us do not take issue with the right of the police to use physical force on our behalf. They use that force with permission from the civil authority, within a rule a law and in accordance with some ethical parameters that our society embodies and seeks to have reflected in the attitudes and actions of the police. We could not imagine how our society would function without the presence of the police and the authority they have to resort to force when necessary. If, then, we begin to think of the armed forces as a constabulary whose jurisdiction transcends our national borders, we might be able to remove many of the more philosophical objections to military service that have been raised in the past. Let me explain how the armed forces might be seen in this way by using a case study.



Continued from Page #2

In September 1999, the UN sanctioned an Australian-led international force (INTERFET) to restore civil order in East Timor. INTERFET's task was to protect the Timorese from Indonesian sponsored violence while giving effect to the UN plebiscite over sovereignty. The ADF personnel who deployed were accountable to Australian and International law, and they were part of a multi-national force operating within strict rules of engagement. In effect, the Australian personnel were acting as a kind of 'international constabulary', sanctioned by an international authority to enforce international law according to internationally agreed conventions. A similar account can be offered of Australian involvement in UN missions in Rwanda, Somalia, Cambodia, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. The same can be said of Australian contributions to multinational operations in Lebanon, Kashmir, Ismailia, Rhodesia and, to a lesser degree, Kuwait, over the past thirty years.

The main point to be noted is that the use of force across international boundaries has changed considerably over the last century to the extent that I believe we can now refer to much military service as 'constabulary duty'. The purpose of much of this activity concerns the restoration of the rule of law, giving effect to democracy and the expression of individual human freedoms, promoting peace and justice, and, finally, protecting ordinary people from violence, intimidation and exploitation within their own nations and across national boundaries. This is not to say that military activity will always be directed towards these very laudable and entirely Christian goals. But it is to say that the political and legal context and circumstances in which operations are staged and in which military service is rendered has undergone a steady transformation so as to remove many of the previously insurmountable ethical objections that could be raised.

To answer my own question: can Christian men and women serve in the armed forces? I would say yes. They can serve and, for the greatest part, find that their service will not present any ethical difficulties that cannot be readily resolved.

Chaplain's Corner



by MCF Chaplains' Representative,
PCHA Eric Burton, RAN

I'd like to briefly address two questions.

By PCHAP Eric Burton

In some churches today traditional hymns are rarely sung. They have been replaced by modern music. There is however a lot of wisdom in old hymns. One of them written hundreds of years ago by a man called George Herbert has a line that runs; "and the cream of all my heart I will give you". What George Herbert was saying is that God wants the best of us, - the 'cream' of our hearts, - not 'the left-overs.'

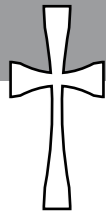
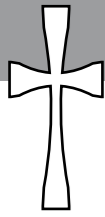
Sometimes in the busy lives we lead our private prayers and, bible reading and even worship can be squeezed out and

something God does not get the best he gets the rest -- 'the leftovers'. To live balanced lives we simply have to make time to spend with God in meditation, - just as we would spend time with a close friend or partner.. If you do not think you have time then tot up the time you spend in exercise or in front of the TV. Jesus wants to be in the centre of our lives not on the margins it is then that we will experience the power and perspective that comes from that.

Some months ago I recognised that God was not getting the cream of my heart he was getting the dregs. The symptoms were that worries were starting to mount up - I was looking more at pleasing people than pleasing God. - My family noticed I was pretty distracted from day to day.

I instigated some major surgery in my life, - making more time to spend in prayer, - re-starting a daily journal and consciously looking to God for guidance in a more definite way. Whether you are on deployment or at home think about that George Herbert line: "and the cream of all my heart I will give you". If you need to take that step, if the wheels are starting to come off in your life determine now to move our Lord from the margins to the centre.





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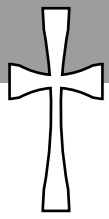
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Greater Love Hath no Man

SPEAKING OUT Post-Traumatic Faith

Understanding the plight of Christians who have killed in combat.

By Professor Patrick Stone

Like most Americans in November 2004, I wanted to shield my eyes from the TV images of a Marine shooting a wounded enemy insurgent in a Fallujah mosque. For me, it was a reminder of events 34 years ago when I served in the infantry in Vietnam.

I was 20, a squad leader of 12 men, and a dedicated Christian who was serving my country just as my brother, father, uncles, and grandfather had in earlier wars. In late November 1970, on a Sunday morning around 9:00 a.m., we were in the jungles of the central highlands of Vietnam. One of our booby traps exploded. I followed three blood trails a short distance and saw movement in some bushes 15 yards ahead in the tall elephant grass.

I was afraid. Whatever was hiding in the bushes could kill me before I killed it. The idea that I should try to take this potentially deadly man prisoner did not seem an option. Instead, I fired almost 60 rounds of ammunition into those bushes, and when the movement still did not stop, I fired a rifle grenade. The explosion was higher and closer than I anticipated, causing a knee wound which finally sent me home, safe and sound. It also killed the teenaged enemy soldier who had lost both legs in the initial blast of our booby trap.

In 1995, when my wife, Barbara, and I revisited Vietnam, we came upon a graveyard for Vietcong soldiers. The graveyard faced the mountainside where I had killed my enemy and wounded myself. I carried his memory home and back again, and I was grateful for the opportunity to visit what was likely his grave.

Taking and handling prisoners in combat is always risky, difficult business. Stories abound among combat troops of suicidal enemies who want to take others with them to their graves and of booby-trapped bodies waiting for the uninitiated to make final and deadly searches. Soldiers learn not to take unnecessary risks with an enemy, living, wounded, or apparently dead. In each case, a soldier has only milliseconds to decide.

These facts in no way absolve soldiers from their obligations for the fair handling of enemy wounded. But the killing of fellow humans is a deadly necessity for a combat soldier. Fine lines between lawful and unlawful killing are drawn in retrospect, rarely under the watchful but often distorted eye of the television camera.

A larger truth

A truth that does not receive enough attention is that killing in combat is the beginning of a long journey for most soldiers. At the moment of killing, a soldier may experience relief, excitement, rage, sickness, sadness, exuberance, numbness, or even satisfaction.

It is in the years that follow that the decision of an instant works itself out within the life of the individual. The vestiges of these intense memories play out in the dreams, marriage, parenting, and work relationships of a former soldier

On the home front, most non-combatants do not wish to confront the emotions these TV images engender. They rarely make the connection of their own personal involvement in these moments. The soldier is only the tip of the spear. The voters and taxpayers do not see their participation as meaningful, yet without them, young soldiers would not be in deadly positions that require killing.

The returning soldier often, though not always, feels a sense of estrangement, of being different, even when welcomed home. Medals and speeches about duty, honor, country, courage, and heroism all ring hollow and feel disconnected from the images of death, both of friends and foes, that are the reality of combat. No justification ultimately satisfies the soldier who has killed or witnessed killing.

Last year, while I was working as a congressional fellow in the U.S. Senate, advising on veterans and military mental health matters, I spoke with a senior Army officer who had recently returned from a month-long visit to Iraq. His convoy had been attacked and some enemy combatants had been killed. It was his first brush with combat, and he said it was changing him, though he could not articulate how.

As Christians greet and welcome home the men and women who have served in Iraq, we should not be naive about what they have seen and done. Many are committed Christians who will spend the remainder of their lives trying to make sense of the events they have endured. It is work they must labor on with God. Jingoistic, rehearsed responses will only put would-be comforters in the same league as Job's friends. Listen to their stories, and let your life be challenged and changed as God's way is revealed in their lives.

Patrick Stone is a psychology professor at George Fox University. He has worked extensively with Vietnam veterans.

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*Article provided by:
Pete Boreham - Area Rep RAAF
Forest Hill*

Sacrifice

By CHAP(FLTLT) Russel Avery

Sometimes history can be a confusing thing. It is said that "Those who fail to learn the lesson's of history are doomed to repeat it". And that's not even talking about those history lessons we went to sleep in.

About the turn of the century (six years ago) as part of being Chaplain for English-speaking people in all of northern France I was Chaplain to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Sometimes soldiers of The Great War were discovered and a proper funeral was held. It was usually sombre but moving. Particularly moving for me was burying an Unknown Australian Soldier at Pozieres, a significant site in Australian military history.

About that time I had a broken driveway at my house and decided that I would lay cobblestones instead of concrete. A friend told me of a chap who wanted to sell some cobbles. "The stones are not ALL cobble stones" he told me. As his farm had been on the Front Line in World War 1, some were from a pill box at the bottom of the garden. "It was terrible" he said, "there were three headless soldiers in it". I was interested and asked if he had reported it. "Oh, no", he said, "I just filled it in. They were only Germans"..... So much for history and the new Europe.

Earlier this year I visited the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for the umpteenth time and looked at exhibits I had seen before. Except this time one stopped me in my tracks. It was a large photo of a group of Australian soldiers laughing together and having their photo taken. The caption under it read "Australian soldiers before the battle of Pozieres".....I looked long and hard at it. Was one of those happy faces the soldier I had laid to rest 85 years later?

I was asked after an ANZAC Day ceremony where the words "...greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" come from ? I

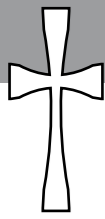


I have had the privilege of conducting the services on about six occasions from 1999 onwards at Villers-Bretonneux (the better known) and also at Bullecourt (my favourite because it is a little more homely and held in the second half of the day). This shows some of the Australian presence, both military and civilian, and myself looking suitably RAAF (perhaps for comic relief). The Mayor, M. Lord, (would you believe?) is the man with the tricolour sash. (Russel Avery)

answered that they came from the Bible. In fact from St. John's gospel in the 15th chapter and 13th verse. "What does it all mean then?" was the next question. I explained that it is Jesus telling his disciples what he would do for them, his friends. Jesus went on to say "You are my friends if you do what I command".

War and our memory of history around ANZAC Day remind us of noble sacrifice for "God, King and Country" by our nation's forces in war. Jesus too, made a sacrifice. It was of himself. And he made it for us. And what he did in history for us, when we are his friends, means we can have a future worth looking forward to, with him.





For the Wives of MCF ...

By Janet Mumford

"A Friend loves at all time and a girlfriend is born for adversity" Proverbs 17:17. I know that isn't exactly what it says, but I think in our case "girlfriend" is more meaningful than "brother"! God reminded me of that verse as my husband departed at extremely short notice to go on an Exercise early which then rolled into a deployment to East Timor. I immediately thought of the last time Mick was in East Timor and the beautiful friends He gave me to love me and our (then) 3 daughters. The friendships which were forged are so strong. It was those women who were among the first to make contact with me when they discovered that Mick had gone to Timor again. While they are now 1000's of kms away their friendships are just as valuable.

I was privileged to be able to speak at the first brief for families that 3RAR held to explain to families what was happening. The above verse was really on my heart, through times of adversity we need girlfriends, we need to have those friends who will love us no matter what and who will walk alongside us and share our load. The following is a little of what I shared with the ladies. I believe the message came from the heart of God and is so useful to all of us during the times when our husbands are away, whether it be for deployments or other reasons



The message consisted of 5 points (easy to remember as I have 5 children!).

1. It's okay to cry. Women, God created us as emotional human beings, we are relationship oriented and we should have soft hearts. Don't harden your heart, allow yourselves to feel sad and to cry. That does not mean that you aren't coping or that you are suffering from a major mental illness, it just means that you are sad and that is okay. A good cry often makes us feel a lot better doesn't it?
2. Keep yourselves busy. Plan things to look forward to, especially on the weekends which seem to be the hardest for most of the women that I talk to. Planning takes a bit of work, but reaps great rewards. Now, I can add in here for you Christian women, use the time to get closer to God. Spend more time in prayer, read a few more books, do a bible study of women in the bible, do something that you never seem to get time for when your husband is at home and that will fill in those long nights.
3. Make sure you have a girlfriend. This is where our verse comes in! We need each other. We need the body of Christ to love

us and support us. I expressed my desire to ensure that every woman at the meeting did have a girlfriend...whether it be another army wife, a civilian friend, a sister or a mother. One lady did not have that friend, she was newly married and new to military life. Do you know what was beautiful? As I mentioned this lady to a couple of Christian women in the battalion both immediately offered to be her friend, to love her and be a blessing to her. Isn't that awesome?!

4. Build each other up and encourage one another. Not only do we need a girlfriend but we also need to be a girlfriend. Reaching out to others and being a blessing is a wonderful spiritual principal. It stops us looking inwards and feeling "down" and it helps someone else. I encouraged the ladies to call one another and encourage one another, lift one another up and care for one another. As wonderful as the organisations are that support defence, often what we really need is just another person to give us a word of encouragement and to listen.
5. Finally, I reminded the ladies not to gossip. If they had a problem or it appeared that others were receiving benefits that they were not, I reminded them to call the unit and ask for clarification. Mostly there is a simple explanation. Gossip never helps a situation. As women, we are prone to fall into the trap of gossiping and as Christians we should constantly be reminding ourselves that this is not Godly

behaviour. Gossip pulls down and negates the good work of encouragement.

I hope that these points are helpful and a useful reminder for you in your role as a Christian military wife!

Shalom,

Janet Mumford

Ladies can I invite you and encourage you to seriously consider coming to the MCF retreat in October if you live within travelling distance? Some of us will be there without husbands due to deployments etc. Last year the children had an awesome time in the children's programme and once again this year we will be running a crèche for the under school aged children. The crèche workers are a beautiful, very experienced Godly (and retired RAAF) couple who love children. How do I know all this, they are grandparents to our children! I have a team of ladies praying and preparing ways that they can bless you. We would love to have you come along so that we could bless you and encourage you in your role both as a Christian and a military wife!

The retreat is open to all. Last year we had a wonderful mix of singles, married couples, families, older couples and families with only one parent attending. Our desire would be that all who come feel the bond of unity in Christ and that all will be touched by the awesomeness of God over the weekend. You do not need to be a member of MCF to attend. Come and be blessed!



Why do we "Troop the Colour"?

A reflective look at this ancient custom.

By Lt Colonel J.T.Strong (retd) MLM., BCR



On a cold and cloudy Saturday in June my wife and I attended the Trooping the Colour parade held at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra. 400 cadets marched on parade, immaculately turned out in their "blues". They were preceded by members of the College Military Band, resplendent in scarlet tunics and white helmets. On the command "Present Arms", the colours were marched on and then "trooped" through the ranks. The explanation of this ceremony read "The custom of carrying the colours has its origin in ancient and mediaeval times when, during battle, warring factions carried flags bearing family badges or armorial bearings to show the positions of commanders and to serve as rallying points."

Exodus Chapter 17 v 9 describes the rallying and encouragement of soldiers in battle when the Israelites were about to engage in battle against the Amalekites. Moses said to Joshua, "choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

The ebb and flow of battle in correlation with Moses' uplifted or drooping arms imparted more than psychological encouragement as the soldiers looked up to their leader on the hill top with the rod of God raised high, and Moses' interceding for them. It demonstrated and acknowledged their having to depend upon God for victory in battle and not upon their own strength and zeal.

In Exodus Chapter 17 v 15 we read of the word 'banner' for the first time "and Moses built an altar and called it's name, 'The Lord is my Banner'."

If we now turn to the Book of Numbers we learn about men being conscripted into the army for the first time. Numbers Chapter 1 v 2-3 tells how the Lord instructs Moses to "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. You and Aaron are to number by their divisions all the men in Israel twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army." The army numbered over 600,000 fighting men covering an area of approximately 12 square miles!

In Numbers Chapter 2 v 2 we learn that for these 'clans' (regiments) to be effectively controlled, God required the Israelites "to camp around the Tent of Meeting some distance from it, each man under his standard with the banners of his family." The people followed the tribe's standard (colours, emblem, ensign) thus staying together, and keeping from getting lost. God ordered the twelve family clans of Israel into these marching units in order to better defend themselves and to conquer the country east of the Jordan River. They were to set out in the same order as they encamped with those assigned to the Camp of Judah setting out first.

So now we have:

- banner declared by Moses (Exodus 17 v 15)
- army formed through conscription (Numbers 1 v 2-3)
- order of battle given by God to Israel for the defeat of her enemies. (Numbers Chapter 2 v 1 - 34)

"..each man under his standard with the banners of his family." (Numbers 2 : 2)

"..under their standard ." (Numbers 2 : 3, 10, 17, 25, 31, 34)

The 'standards' used by the clans (regiments) were the forerunners of today's 'Colours'. In the turmoil of battle they were a rallying point for the fighting soldiers. In "Trooping the Colour" before battle, each soldier had the opportunity to closely observe his battalion's standard/banner as it was trooped down the ranks. Thus, if separated in the heat of fighting, he could rejoin his comrades by recognising his colours and its' locality.

Similarly, such vivid imagery well describes the Christian soldier in the spiritual war against evil. When disorientated in the heat of battle we need a 'rallying point.'

"O our God...we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2 Chronicles 20 : 12)

Sin separates us from God. If we look to Jesus our 'Standard,' united under His Banner, He will reinstate and lead us through to victory.

When the Queen's standard flies over the fortress of Windsor Castle or any of her other residences, it indicates that the Monarch is in residence.

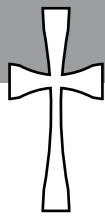
Is our 'Lord's banner' flying high over the fortress of our hearts, showing the King is resident therein?

Bible references: 'New International Version'



Jeremy Strong attended the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in the United Kingdom where he was awarded the Sword of Honour. He later served in the Rhodesian Parachute Battalion (RLI) and in the formidable Selous Scouts Regiment where he actively fought in a full-scale guerrilla war for 13 years. Now retired, Jeremy and his wife Deanne, live in the Southern Highlands, NSW.





Letter from Abroad

Letter of Encouragement from Abroad

From Cdr Brian and Mrs Jean Parker

Australia is more than three quarters the size of Europe with its 42 countries and has about 3% of its population. It is, without doubt, the most intriguing country in the world, its unique flora, fauna, people and landscape, evoke wonder alike from the sombre scientist to the inquisitive child.

It was our privilege and pleasure to visit family and friends down under during the month of May and, using the home of my brother in Healesville near Melbourne as our base, Jean and I ventured as far north as Nambucca Heads in NSW to encourage friends with whom we had shared the gospel back in the 70s and as far west as Ballarat to visit Tony and Ethel Holloway, ex Royal Navy and MAF (explanation required). In between we had a happy return to the home of Lt Cdr Ron and Gloria Robb in Toongabbie, Sydney during which I stood in the car park slot of Darlene Zschech at Hillsongs Church!! Ron and Gloria very kindly drove us to Canberra where we were mistaken for someone important and given a delightful lunch by the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia in the Defence HQ. It was most encouraging to see how seriously the Department of Defence takes the spiritual dimension of life in the military, affording MCF of A office space and facilities within an ADF building. Time spent around a coffee table with Principle Naval Chaplain Eric Burton was for us inspirational and we hope for him at least useful! A gathering of MCF folk at the home of Russell and Helen Bielenberg, who were our gracious hosts in Canberra, gave us an opportunity to share something of what is happening in Europe and to give a word of encouragement concerning imminent deployments of Australian defence force personnel to such troubled regions as East Timor

and Sudan. Since returning home we learned with great pleasure of Helen Bielenberg's award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List "For service to the community in the area of chaplaincy services, particularly through the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia."

Overshadowed by Asia but retaining something of the British ethos that saw the ANZACS heroically prominent in two world conflicts, Australia's political

influence in its region and in the world, its renown sporting prowess, (3 - 1 against Japan in the football world cup!) and its adherence to its spiritual heritage reflect a strength of character from which we Europeans could learn much. We were grateful for hospitality received, fellowship shared and the overriding sense of oneness with God's people in this great country.

Pax Vobiscum,



Cdr Brian and Mrs Jean Parker recently visited Australia from the United Kingdom. In this letter they provide encouragement for us all as we work for God's Kingdom.



"Jesus. All About Life"

Media Campaign in Major Defence Cities

By Peter Ellis (LCDR, RAN)
Webservant www.mcf-australia.com

In late 2005 the first "Jesus. All About Life" (JAAL) media campaign was run in Adelaide; in March and April 2006, it ran in Canberra; in 2007 it is planned to be run in Brisbane and Darwin, with a possibility of it also being run in Sydney.

The point of this media campaign is to raise awareness that Jesus is relevant to Australia, and to give an opening for Christians and their churches to meet and talk to people who are seeking meaning in their life.

The campaign was devised by the Bible Society (NSW). Its public face for internal teaching materials is Pastor Karl Faase (pronounced Fay-zee), a well known Baptist minister in Sydney and previously presenter of Christian Television's "Face to Face" program. He also fronts the 5 session video course that is available to participating churches and groups.

It's important to realise that Christians are familiar with the jargon of the church and, from the perspective of people not familiar with church we often use jargon to 'bore' people who come to a church "out of the blue". The campaign seeks to lighten the feeling of the community towards Jesus and faith, and open a route for them to seek more information. For those who were not in Adelaide or Canberra, you can see the TV ads by going to www.allaboutlife.com.au and downloading the mini-screen versions.

The Canberra campaign began with meetings of a steering committee in the lead-up to Adelaide's campaign in late 2005. I was a member of the media strategy sub-committee, that determined that we would run ads in the lead-up to Easter: on the three commercial TV channels, staggered around the

Commonwealth Games; in the city-wide community newspaper's weekly TV guide; on bus sides; on commercial radio; in several community radio stations, including the local Christian station; with flags along the poles on one of Canberra's major thoroughfares; in regional newspapers and radio stations; with the JAAL banners at participating churches. A finance sub committee then had the job of working out how to reach the required financial target, by approaching businesses and individuals. Another sub committee activated a booth at the Canberra Show, and trained operators for the call centre that ran at a church complex. A local Anglican bishop headed the main organising committee. In all, over

160 churches from the greater Canberra region (TV viewing area) participated. They branded specific events for JAAL and got publicity for these through the web site.

The Canberra response centre answered many hundreds of emails, calls and SMS messages, and despatched the JAAL booklet with its testimonies by leading community figures and a Gospel to those seeking the information.

If you would like to know more the organisational web site for the campaign is at www.jesusalaboutlife.com.au where some pictures are available.

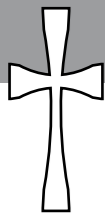


Baptism

Holy Water: Recently Chap Kent Williams, Chap for the Defence Intelligence Training centre Canungra (DIntTC), took the plunge when he baptized Air Force Cpl Shane 'Donny' Donaghy from DIntTC. With the current water restrictions enforced throughout Queensland, Chaplain Williams opted for the only large body of water in the area, the Kokoda Barracks swimming pool. The baptism took place in lane six, with the other lanes booked for practice for the upcoming Kokoda swimming carnival. Chap Williams said, "Not only do I get to perform a baptism, but I also get a chance to have a quick swim after to cool off".

(Reproduced with permission from Army News March 23, 2006. Photo by WO2 Wayne Ryan.)





MCF CENTURIONS

"I tell you the truth; I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." These were the words that Jesus used to describe the Centurion in Capernaum. Imagine that; a military Christian getting such a rap from the Son of God. The bible tells us only a little about this man in Luke's gospel, Chapter 7. We do know he cared for his men, loved and served his nation, was generous in supporting his local ministry, was humble, was decisive, and had a very simple but rock-steady faith.

Why aren't we all like this Christian?

Why is he so rare?

The ADF needs Christians like this Centurion. MCF needs members like this Centurion, members who are willing to support with prayer, finances, and faith. We need members who are willing to go beyond just reading about military Christianity in Cross Fire. We need members who want to see MCF impact the ADF for Christ. We need members who are so led by the Lord to achieve our mission and objectives that they will partner with Council in providing prayer, encouragement, regular financial support, and rock-like faith.

So, MCF announces the launch of the MCF Centurion program. This program aims at finding 100 MCF members who will become Centurions.

May God bless those who have committed to make a difference in the ADF through prayer and support for MCF:

An MCF Centurion:

- 1) Commits to pray using MCF's weekly prayer calendar; rain, hail, shine, or deployment!
- 2) Receives a Centurion Pack of signature items to personally recognise their commitment. This will include a Centurion coffee mug, limited edition MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores, and Korean War veteran Jim Wilson's handbook on strategic evangelism, Principles of War!
- 3) Commits to give at least \$5 each fortnight, either through allotments or annual lump sum, to MCF!
- 4) Receives regular updates about MCF including emails from the Chairman about the achievements of MCF as they happen, Treasurer reports so they can see where the money is going, and sneak previews of Cross Fire and MCF products!
- 5) Agrees to promote MCF by displaying MCF advertising in their local area and church!

Want to be one of our Hundred? Fill in the application form and send it to the MCF Office.

MCF Date Claimers 2006

- MCF Retreat 2006 - 20 to 22 Oct 06
- MCF AGM 2006 - Nov 06, TBA
- Forum of Christian Military Ministries - 15 to 16 Nov 06

Need to claim a date? Email the office.



I would like to make a difference in the ADF by becoming an MCF Centurion

Rank/Title: _____ Full Name: _____ Employee ID (if serving ADF or APS): _____

Mailing Address (only if your mailing address needs updating): _____

Town/Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____ Email: _____

As an MCF Centurion I:

- 1) Commit to pray weekly using MCF's prayer calendar.
- 2) Commit to financial support of at least \$5/fortnight as follows (select one):
 - I have made a \$_____ per fortnight allotment via DEFPAY to allottee #122.
 - I have arranged an auto transfer of \$_____ per fortnight to MCF's DEFCREDIT account (BSB 803205, Member 66126).
 - Find attached my cheque of \$_____ to cover one year's support. Please contact me in twelve month's time to renew my pledge.
- 3) Agree to promote MCF by displaying MCF advertising provided to me in my local area and church.
- 4) Do/Do not (circle one) wish my name to be listed in Cross Fire as an MCF Centurion.
- 5) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive quarterly updates about MCF including an email from the Chairman about the recent happenings in MCF, Treasurer reports so I can see my gift working, and sneak previews of Cross Fire and MCF products.
- 6) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive a Centurion Pack of signature items including a Centurion coffee mug, MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores, and Principles of War.

Signature: _____

Appointment Approved: _____

Date: _____

Chairman

Return to:

MCF-A
CP4-3-046
Department of Defence, CANBERRA ACT 2600
OR fax 02 6266 2530

Only MCF members can become Centurions.

MCF membership forms are available from the MCF website, National Office, or in Cross Fire.

Centurions appointed before March 2006 will be listed as Inaugural Centurions.

Jonathon Finch
Bob Stephens
Troy Urlichs
Shaun Webb
Glen Chalker
Rob Sutherland

Douglas Randell
Nathan Runham
Mick Mumford
Janet Mumford
Nick Filter
Ernest Horth
James West

Blessings also to those that choose not to be named
Honorary Centurions
Russell and Helen Bielenberg, for long service for the Lord in MCF

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

Campbell Park Offices, CP4-3-046,
Canberra, ACT, 2600
Tel: 02 6266 4948 Fax: 06 266 2530
email: office@mcf-australia.com
www.mcf-australia.com



MCF Prayer Calendar Oct-Dec 2006

Bless you and thank you for praying for MCF! We ask that you pray the points on this calendar once a week, on the week commencing the date listed. Each week has three points, the first relating to all those in Defence, the second relating more specifically to members of MCF, and the third relating to other Christian organisations who also minister and witness to Defence personnel. Our unity with these other organisations is very important. We are all part of Christ's body and each serve a different function to His glory. It is wonderful to be able to bless these organisations with prayer and practical support.

2 October

- ACM "Angus" Houston, CDF, his family & his staff. For strength, wisdom in decision making & safety when travelling.
- MCF Chairman Mick Mumford & his family. That they shine out the glory of God as they serve Him.
- Soldiers for Christ - praise God for these men and women & their heart to serve via Catholic lay ministry. Pray for new doors to open as they complete their studies.

9 October

- The Minister for Defence, Brendan Nelson. For wisdom & discernment as he makes decisions concerning the ADF.
- MCF council members. Give thanks for those that serve military Christians in this way. Pray for wisdom, discernment.
- Chaplains. Pray for these men & women that they find favour with those with whom they work & that many doors would open for the gospel to be preached.

16 October

- The Chiefs of the Army, Navy & Air Force. That they would have good counsel and support.
- MCF retreat (20 - 22 Oct). For safety for those travelling to the retreat, for a great time of fellowship and teaching.
- Everymans. For David Hawke leading this ministry, for courage, strength and God-given opportunities for advancement of this ministry into new areas.

23 October

- For all of our military leaders. That they be men and women with servant hearts, respectful of those they lead and mindful of the responsibility that they carry.
- Deployed MCF members. That they keep the faith, hold on to what is true and grow spiritually as a result of their experiences.
- Salvation Army. For Bob & Mel Stephens as they lead this organization. For wisdom, strength and good health.

30 October

- Chaplains. For Christians within the ADF to provide friendship, fellowship and encouragement to our Chaplains.
- Leaders of MCF groups. That they would be empowered by God in the role they fulfil. That they & their group would be a powerful witness to others around them.
- Fighting Words. For doors to open as they seek to expand their outreach into other training institutions.

6 November

- Deployed Service Personnel. For safety while deployed. For opportunities to hear and receive the gospel message.
- MCF AGM. Pray for God's will to be done. For those who vote to have the mind of Christ regarding decisions that need to be made.
- Navigators. Pray for more ministry opportunities at ADFA.

13 November

- Defence Community Organization (DCO) Give thanks for the provision of DCO to our military families. Pray for those who work in DCO that they will have strength, understanding, and capacity to help.
- Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) meeting 15/16 Nov. For a spirit of unity and encouragement amongst those that meet.
- Association of Christian Conferences, Training & Service (ACCTS). For Russell and Helen Bielenberg as they serve in this ministry. For strength, health and wisdom as they reach out to others.

20 November

- Pray for many lives to be touched & changed through the "Alpha for the Forces" programme being run in some Navy bases.
- Families of those MCF members who are deployed. For continued strength, protection & spiritual growth. For the body of Christ to be a practical encouragement to those in this situation.
- Association of International MCFs (AMCF). For many to step forward to help in the planning of the AMCF regional conference to be held in Brisbane in September 2007.

27 November

- Pray for protection for our Air Force personnel. Pray for Christians to be shining lights on RAAF bases.
- MCF prayer warriors. Pray for their spiritual & physical protection. Give thanks for the increasing number of prayer warriors. Pray for more!
- Reserve Chaplains. Give thanks for these men & women who are willing to serve in this way. Pray that they would feel part of the military Christian network.

4 December

- Pray for protection for our Army personnel. Pray for Christians on bases to be good witnesses.
- For more MCF workers. Pray for an increase in the number of MCF groups that meet, for more leaders & for more "willing hands".
- Soldiers for Christ. Pray for Chaplain Gary Stone as he trains & equips these men & women to "know Christ better and make him known".

11 December

- Pray for all our training institutions. That there would be unity amongst the Christian organisations represented, that God would be glorified & that many will turn to Christ.
- Chaplains who are MCF members. That they be encouraged & blessed as a result of their involvement with MCF.
- Salvation Army. Grant many opportunities for these representatives to witness for Jesus. Guide & bless them in their support to the ADF & provide for their material needs, welfare & spiritual growth. May they stand firm in the truth of your word, keep their eyes on Jesus & be filled with His peace.

18 December

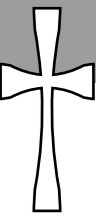
- Deployed military personnel (around 4000). As they face Christmas away from family pray for their protection & that the truth concerning Christmas would be revealed to them.
- Retired MCF members. That they would feel valued & their wisdom & experience would be passed on to the next generation.
- Navigators. For National Director Mike Johnson, for strength, wisdom and good health as he leads.

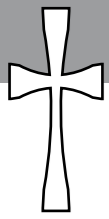
25 December

- Pray for a renewal of the use of military chapels. For their full potential to be met, for new ministry opportunities & for strategically placed men & women to implement them.
- Operation Fruitful Tree. For more of this vision to be implemented in 2007.
- Fighting Words. For Mike Hanlon as he leads this organisation into a new year. ⊕

Not been to church in a while, but got this far and want to know more about being a Christian?

It may surprise you to know that it is not about being religious. "Religious" just means doing something regularly. You can religiously go to happy hours in the Mess for instance. Some people even think being a Christian is a "racial" thing like being of European or Asian heritage. Rather Christianity is about a personal relationship with the maker of our Universe through His son Jesus. It is about admitting we are not good enough to live in this world let alone the next and seeking God's mercy so that we can. The bible tells us that we need only knock on the door of the Lord and He will open it. How do you do this? Go and see a Chaplain. Walk up to him or her and say, "Hey Padre, I was reading the MCF magazine yesterday and was hoping you could tell me a bit about this Christian thing." Or go and see someone you know who practises their Christian faith, perhaps the person you borrowed this magazine from. If all else fails call the MCF Staff Worker! But whatever you do don't wait until it is too late. In the movie "Gladiator" Russell Crowe says, "What we do in life echoes in eternity." Christians would say "Who you know in life (Jesus) determines your eternity."





Praying then planning

By CHAP Peter Robert Rose

We learn as we mature that few things go precisely as planned. We learn to expect the unexpected, to prepare contingency plans and to have alternative systems in place. We practise risk management and value flexibility. We review past activity and then apply lessons when planning future events.

But have we learned about communicating with God, even before the planning begins? Have we established patterns in our lives of looking to God for leadership, listening to Him and only then setting our planning systems in place in accordance with what we believe to be His will?

This article draws on examples from Scripture to remind us to consult fully with God before, when and after we establish our plans. It encourages us to select, adopt and adapt what Jesus taught and practised. Scripture presents diverse models for reaching significant decisions. How do we know which model to apply for each situation?

Acts 13 opens with the church in Antioch worshipping and fasting. We are not told whether they were planning a mission. Yet the Holy Spirit spoke during their worship and commanded they set apart Barnabas and Saul for the Spirit's work. After fasting and prayer, the church placed hands upon Barnabas and Saul and sent them off. The Antioch church evidently was open to the Spirit's leading, and certainly was ready to comply with the command they received. A lesson for us is to be a worshipping community, open to the leading of the Spirit, and courageous enough to comply when directed to do so.

Some have used Acts 1:15-26 to demonstrate the consequences of our planning ahead of the leading of the Holy Spirit. Peter explained to the gathered believers the need to identify another to replace the traitor Judas. They proposed two men, Joseph and Matthias. Then they prayed. They asked God to show them who was to take over the apostolic ministry from Judas,

then they drew lots. Some consider they proceeded without God's guidance. I am less convinced; I believe we do not err in asking God to close doors before us if something we pursue is contrary to His will.

Are we meant to plan at all? Should we just cruise through life looking to God to provide all that He knows we need at the appropriate time? We recall that Jesus instructed his followers not to be anxious about anything. We are more valuable than birds, we are more important to God than the lilies of the field (Luke 12:22-34). We are not to worry but rather we are to seek God's kingdom as first priority. Does this mean that if we plan an activity we are disobeying or disrespecting God? I think not. Jesus used hyperbole to reinforce his messages. Luke's Gospel also records (14:28-30) Jesus' explaining how important it is to count the cost before undertaking a large or expensive venture: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

Jesus also taught that a consequence of such planning might be to decline to act (Luke 14:31-33). If a plan reveals one's resources are inadequate, do not embark on a risky venture (in Jesus' example, do not go to war). Avoid a course of action that would result in failure.

Luke also records that Jesus wants us to be wise in our stewardship (19:15-26). Thorough planning should prevent us from misusing the resources entrusted to us. We are to be prepared (Luke 12:35-44); this includes gathering those tools and resources we might possibly need for the tasks ahead. We are advised to build on a sure foundation, not taking unnecessary risks (Luke 6:47-49).

Let us look beyond what Jesus taught, to what he practised. An outstanding example of our Lord's praying before making a significant decision is when he chose his



twelve disciples (Luke 6:12-16). "Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve..." Luke's account clearly links Jesus' prayer with his decision of whom to select. He consulted God - and he spent at least the entire night doing so!

Does this give us adequate guidance on the way we are to apply the injunction to "Pray and Plan"? In essence, we should obey the advice of the Proverb to "commit to the Lord whatever (we) do, and (our) plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3).

- We need to listen to God - Father, Son and/or Holy Spirit (Acts 3:22b) as we pray, and not do all the talking.
- We need to heed what God tells us (Luke 6:47b) and act on what we hear.
- We need to be prepared to have our plans change, because we do not know what might happen tomorrow (James 4:14).
- We must allow the Holy Spirit to work and to move as God wills, and not be so rigid that we deny Him opportunity (Acts 4:31).

There is much we can learn from the relationship between Jesus and his Heavenly Father.

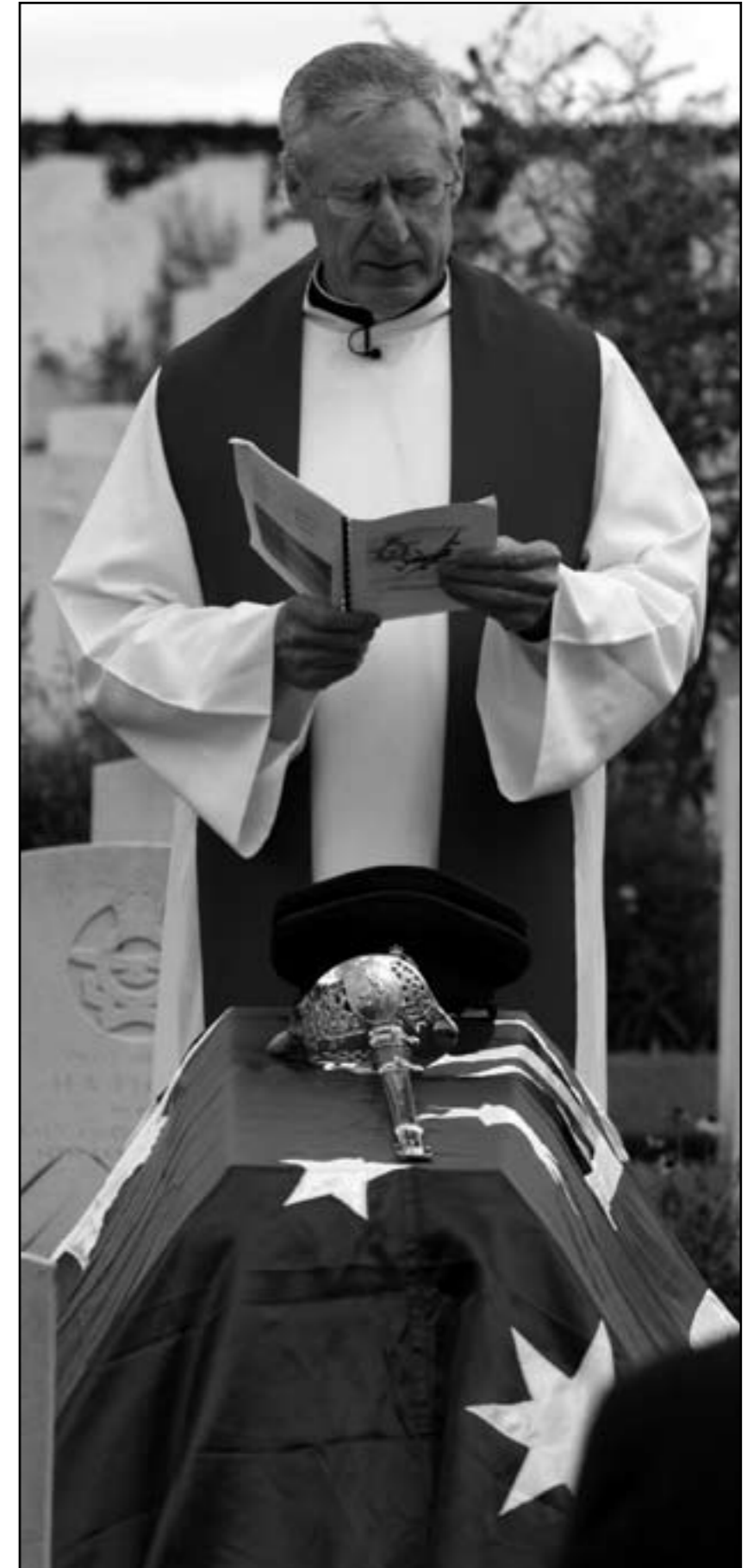
- Jesus expects us to ask for wisdom (James 1:5).
- We are to be confident that we will receive that for which we ask (Luke 11:9-10, Mark 11:24).
- Even if we do not know what precisely it is we are to ask for, we can rely on the Holy Spirit to intercede for us (Romans 8:26-27).

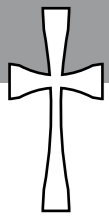
As military people, we accept planning to be an essential part of our profession. Comprehending the need to plan in the workplace, we are able to extend that need into our social and sporting activities and into our family environments. "Pray and Plan" gives us a model to apply in all aspects of living. The challenge is to apply it consistently. We should devise means of doing this, even if we must pray privately when planning with people who might not share our faith.

The Military Christian Fellowship of Australia has encouraged us to apply "Pray and Plan". But have we established it in our thought processes and regularly practised it, both as individuals and in our faith communities?

"Praying then Planning": Author's Note

The original concept of "Pray and Plan" is attributed to Major General Sir Robert and Lady Ewbank of the United Kingdom. I am aware of tracts from the Officers' Christian Fellowship in the United States (for example, "Pray and Plan" by Paul C. Pettijohn) and from the Officer's Christian Union in the United Kingdom (for example, How to Run a Pray and Plan Team" by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Sandy RE). I am aware too that on a visit to Australia, the then President of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships, Major General Sir Lawrence New, conducted a "Pray and Plan" seminar.





From the Prayer Co-Ord....

Did you know that MCF has an awesome team of prayer warriors that are praying for the ADF and for military Christians? Some are defence members, some chaplains, some wives, some are retired, some are civilians who have a heart for defence and some are young mums. Would you like to join this team? You do not have to be a gifted intercessor (although if you are that is great!), all that I ask is that you have a heart to pray for the ADF.

How does it work? You are added to my email list and as I become aware of issues needing prayer I email them out to the team. I try to keep to a maximum of one email a week (and often it is less than this) so that you are not overloaded.

If you are excited by this wonderful ministry then can I encourage you to get involved? You can email me at chairman@mcf-australia.com and you will be included in the email distribution list.

If anyone has prayer points, then please also email me at the above address and I will ensure that these are distributed to our team of prayer warriors. This service is available regardless of whether or not you are a prayer warrior.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" James 5:16b

Blessings!

Janet Mumford



Deployment Pack News

In recent times 'Deployment Packs' have been sent to areas of operation overseas. The material contained within these packs aims to assist those deployed in getting to know God better through His word. Recipients of the pack are encouraged to contact their operational chaplain or MCF, using the MCF website or by letter for support.

Acknowledgement:

MCF would like to thank Derek Kelly and Sons of 4 Scullin Place, Scullin for producing 5000 prayer cards at no cost for inclusion in the deployment packs.

Staff Worker SITREP

By Jon Belmonte

The last few months have been extremely hectic and busy in the office.

Our Chairman LTCOL Mick Mumford has been deployed to East Timor; and our Vice Chairman LTCOL James Van Heel has been deployed to the Sudan. Please pray for their safety and that of their loved ones at home.

The work load in the office has increased considerably; and I would like to thank God for the blessings of MCF members who have taken on extra duties. I remember that extra duties always had a bad connotation when you received them, but to have extra duties for the Lord's work is a cherished blessing.

I have managed to get to the Melbourne area and visit a handful of people at RAAF Williams and Point Cook; I am looking forward to returning and speaking to the wider base and Chaplaincy.

WAGGA WAGGA:

Wagga has exploded in outreach, basically due to the diligent services of our Area Reps, Wagga is now organising Tri- service MCF events, MCF Breakfasts with guest speakers, BBQ's etc.

RAAF Wagga is already Tri- service in the instruction of some trades & will be the home of the RAAF Recruit School (RTU) in a few years. RAAF Edinburgh is transferring the Recruits back to Wagga. Wagga is originally the home of the RAAF Recruit training Unit prior to the 1950's.

Wagga: Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC), another great location to reach out to the young men and women of the Army. Please continue to pray for the chaplaincy and the Everyman's welfare service located on base.

DEPLOYMENT PACKS:

Deployment packs have been remodelled and now carry an updated colour logo and have been slightly restyled. The

deployment pack ministry is now in full production mode again after a few small delays. I would like to give thanks for the blessing of 1500 small gospels donated to us by the Bible Society of Australia.

We were also further blessed by the donation of 5000 MCF prayer cards; donated by Mr Derek Kelly; of Kelly and Sons printers in Canberra.

It is my prayerful desire to see that every ADF member being deployed has the opportunity to receive a deployment pack. Deployment packs contain a small gospel, bible study, Message about Christ and a welcome from MCF, as well as prayer cards and contact details. If you are deploying or have a friend who is deploying see your ADF Chaplain or contact the MCF office.

ALPHA to the FORCES:

Alpha courses designed purely for our unique military environment and lifestyle. A fantastic idea that is still in the trial mode; and I would sincerely ask that as the programme is rolled out, you would support this in prayer.

MCF Retreat:

The 2006 MCF retreat is happening in the beautiful location of Fitzroy Falls, I would earnestly encourage you all to attend to what will prove to be a fantastic weekend. For a full run down see the retreat application in this copy of Crossfire

CENTURION:

The Centurion programme has a number of members; I would urge you all to prayerfully consider becoming a 'Centurion'. Centurions commit to pray weekly using MCF's prayer calendar and further details are found in the previous pages.

Centurions receive a specially branded MCF Centurion lapel pin and coffee mug as thanks for their ongoing support of MCF. "Centurions - God's Warriors in the ADF"

AGM:

that time of the year has arrived and the MCF AGM will be held in Canberra on the Thursday the 17th of November. All members who wish to nominate for any position are request to forward their details to the MCF office. Being posted in Canberra is not a prerequisite. However the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman must be held by a Commissioned Officer (serving or retired).

Also Pray for:

- ADF Chaplains as they Minister to all within the ADF.
- ALPHA in the Forces
- MCF Retreat
- AGM MCF
- Everyman's Welfare Services
- Red Shield Defence Services



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

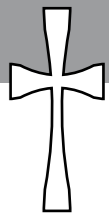
all one in Christ Jesus

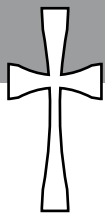
may be filled with your love

and pass it on to others

until his coming again.

Amen





Fitzroy Falls: MCF Retreat 2006

The Chairman and Council cordially invite you all to the annual MCF Retreat at the beautiful Fitzroy Fall Conference Centre from the 20th to 22nd of October 2006! Come for a great time of fun, family, food, and fellowship!

Lieutenant Colonel Mick Mumford, Chairman of MCF, will be presenting "Marching for the Lord: Thriving as a Christian in Defence". Mick is currently the Commanding Officer of 3 RAR, the Army's Parachute Infantry Battalion, and is recently returned from commanding Battlegroup Faithful in East Timor. He will speak on how to make a difference for the Lord whilst enjoying your God-given role as a Christian in the Defence community.

Activities for the weekend include:

- Non-denominational Christian teaching in the serene grounds of the Centre. Our lives are already too busy so a relaxed schedule is planned to recharge everyone's batteries.

- A full children's program, arranged courtesy of MCF, so that mums and dads can concentrate on the teaching and so that children receive the word of God in a fun way.
- Family rooms and suites with all meals provided from supper on Friday night to lunch on Sunday.
- An ecumenical church service at the Conference Centre Log Chapel.
- Chairman's PT: fun for children (and those intrepid adults) to start each day the military way!
- Full use of the Centre facilities including a heated, indoor pool!

Due to limitations in the size of the Centre "first-in first-served" policy will apply with bookings. A full refund if you cannot attend for military reasons or if the event is cancelled. Check in is expected between 6pm and 8pm Friday. Membership of MCF is not a prerequisite.

Singles and unmarried couples are very welcome; segregated male/female accommodation will be provided for singles.

Costs for the weekend, all inclusive, are:

- 3 - 5 years - \$55
- 6 - 12 years - \$70
- 13 - 16 years - \$80
- 17 years and up - \$90
- Maximum family cost - \$320
- Children under 3 are free
- Daily rates are available on request.

Reserve your place by completing the following form and post to MCF at:

MCF-A
CP4-3-046
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

MCF Retreat Application

Name MCF Member? YES/NO

Spouse Name (if attending)

Address:

Email.....

Numbers Attending:

Under 3

3 - 5 x 55 = \$.....

6 - 12 x 70 = \$.....

13 - 16 x 80 = \$.....

17+ x 90 = \$.....

Total cost \$..... (\$320 max for family)

Special dietary needs?

Other special needs?

Include a check payable to Military Christian Fellowship of Australia or pay direct into the MCF DEFCREDIT account:

BSB: 803205 Acc Name: Military Christian Fellowship Acc Numb: 66126

Once your booking is received MCF will send you Conference Centre information including directions and a detailed program for the weekend to confirm your booking. A full refund can be received if prevented from attending due to military reasons; just send a letter from your CO stating your plans were changed for service reasons.