

CROSSFIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA † NUMBER 17 SPRING 2008





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Mr Jon Belmonte

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From the Editor,

CMDR David Rose
(david.rose4@defence.gov.au)

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

Articles for Crossfire 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.



Chairman's report

by Mick Mumford



Fellow marchers,

One of the observations military Christians have been making to me this year is that people are more and more asking both support for their faith in God, or are interested in learning more about establishing a faith in God. Perhaps this is a result of our increased operational tempo? Perhaps it is a response to the changes in Australian society? Perhaps it is the leading of the Holy Spirit, pricking the consciousness of the men and women of the ADF more than in the past? Whatever the reason, it seems to me that more and more organisations like MCF are being used by God to provide support to the ADF, and especially the Christians of the ADF.

This edition is devoted to the theme of one of our core ministry objectives: providing support to military Christians and we are showcasing other ministries of value within the ADF. There are always opportunities for military Christians to support, and be supported by, other Christians in the ADF.

The name under which the Lord's work is done is essentially irrelevant. Be it an MCF group, Navigators, Everymans, Red Shield, Fighting Words/FOCUS, the name is not important. Rather the opportunity to help each other both find God and remain focussed upon Him is the main game. I encourage all MCF members to reach out to those Christians or seekers in your area and ask to meet with them for mutual encouragement and support. Does God care what Christian group they most associate with, or what denomination they best relate to? I suspect not, so neither should we. That is why MCF is committed to providing support to all Christians, regardless of "flavour", and if we work together, as it says we should in Romans 15:5-6 ("May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"), just imagine what work God would do through us!

March hard for the Lord,

Mick Mumford
Chairman

Farewells

RADM Trevor Ruting - Patron.
Mr. Ken McPhan (GPCAPT, rtd)
- MCF Office Administrator.

Promotions

MAJ David WARD promoted to LTCOL Nov 2007.
WO1 HLADIO, PSO to the rank of Captain (Army).
CHAP (SQNLDR) Peter FRIEND is promoted to CHAP (WGCDR) WEF Jan 09.
CHAP Mark WILLIS (WGCDR) promoted to CHAP (GPCAPT) as Senior Chaplain, Air Force training Group in Melb.
CHAP (FLTLT) Joe BOVE is promoted to CHAP (SQNLDR).

Births

To LTCOL James and Joanna VAN HEEL -a son: Jonte Ross Van Heel on 17Apr 08.
To SQNLDR James and Sarah LEITCH - a son: Peter John Leitch on 02 Apr 08.
To CHAP Mark and Jodie Simmonds - a son: Joel Edward Stephen Simmonds on 16 Jul 08.

Vales

Donald K ROSE, 13 Apr 2008 father of CMDR David Rose.
John W BELMONTE, 28 May 2008, father of Br. Jon Belmonte.

Who pays for MCF Australia?

MCF is funded by free-will and tax-deductible donations from its members and members of the public. Donations can be sent to the MCF office: MCF-A Department of Defence Campbell Park Offices, CP4-3-046 Canberra, ACT, 2600 Australia.

ADF members can make allotments to MCF (allotee number 122), or funds can be transferred directly from your bank account to the MCF account with DEFCREDIT (Account name: Military Christian Fellowship, BSB: 803-205, Member number: 66126, Account number: 20514572). Your contribution will help support the work of MCF within the Australian Defence Force.



VCDF Welcome

by LTGEN David Hurley, RAN

It was with pleasure that I accepted the invitation to be the MCF Patron, following after such notable previous Patrons as GEN Peter Gratton, LTGEN John Grey, and AVM Brendan O'Loughlin. I also would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, RADM Trevor Ruting, who for many years was a very active and vocal advocate for military Christians in the ADF. I am sure that all of MCF joins me in wishing him every blessing in his retirement.

As the Patron of the Military Christian Fellowship I encourage all military Christians to freely follow their faith and calling in the ADF. As VCDF I often see first hand the total commitment that our men and women have to make to service in the ADF, both in Australia and overseas on operations. Fundamental to

a healthy response to the stresses of military service is a firm trust in those things that are important in our lives, and for Christians there is nothing more trustworthy than a God who is in control and who guides our walk through life. I encourage you all to regularly meet with fellow Christians, to support each other, and to support your local Chaplains in their difficult task of providing moral and welfare support to ADF.

I look forward to supporting MCF as your Patron and wish you, and your families, all the best during your service.

God bless,

LTGEN David Hurley
Patron



Farewell to Our Patron



RADM Ruting and his wife, Margaret.



RADM Trevor Ruting (left) is bid farewell by then Deputy Chief of Navy, RADM Russ Crane (right)

Rear Admiral Trevor Ruting became MCF's patron in 2004 and was bid a fond farewell at a retirement function held for him at the HMAS HARMAN Wardroom August 2007. After joining the Royal Australian Navy in 1968 Trevor was awarded a MSc in Naval Architecture at the University of London in 1980. He was appointed Head of DMO's Maritime Systems Division in August 2003 prior to having positions as: DG Major Surface Ships - DMO, Commodore Logistics (Navy) Project Director - ANZAC Ship project, and Chief Staff Officer (Engineering) to Maritime Commander.

MCF is grateful to Trevor for his assistance during his time as Patron.

Thank you Trevor and may God bless you and keep you.

Biography

Lieutenant General David Hurley was born in Wollongong, NSW in 1953. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in December 1975 into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. His initial posting was to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR). As a Captain he served as Adjutant, Sydney University Regiment, Regimental Adjutant, The Royal Australian Regiment and as the exchange officer with the 1st Battalion Irish Guards (British Army).

Upon his return to Australia Lieutenant General Hurley served with the 5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5/7 RAR) prior to attending Command and Staff College, Queenscliff in 1986. Following Command and Staff College he was posted as the SO2 (Non-Corps Postings) in the Office of the Military Secretary (MS). In 1989 he served a posting as the Mechanised Infantry Adviser, Australian Army Project Team Malaysia.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1990 he was posted as the Senior Career Adviser (Armour, Artillery, Engineers and Infantry)

in MS. A posting as SO1 (Operations) Headquarters 2nd Division followed in 1991. In November 1991 he assumed command of 1 RAR which he led during Operation SOLACE (Somalia) in 1993.

Following his command appointment, Lieutenant General Hurley was posted as SO1 (Operations), Headquarters 1st Division in January 1994. In June 1994 he was promoted to Colonel and posted as Chief of Staff, Headquarters 1st Division. In 1996/97 Lieutenant General Hurley attended the United States Army War College, returning to a posting as Military Secretary to the Chief of Army. In December 1997 he was posted to the Australian Defence Headquarters as the Director of Preparedness and Mobilisation.

In January 1999 he was promoted to Brigadier and assumed command of the 1st Brigade in Darwin. During this period he oversaw the Brigade's transition to a higher degree of operational readiness and its support to Australian led operations in East Timor.

In January 2001 he was appointed the Director General Land Development within Capability Systems in the Office of the Vice Chief of the Defence Force. In July 2001 he was promoted to Major General and appointed Head Capability Systems Division.

In December 2002 he was appointed Land Commander Australia. In December 2003 he was promoted to Lieutenant General to assume the new appointment of Chief of Capability Development Group. On 27 September 2007 he was appointed the Chief of Joint Operations. On 4 July 2008 he took up the appointment of Vice Chief of the Defence Force.

Lieutenant General Hurley holds the academic qualifications of Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma in Defence Studies. He is married to Linda, has three children and a dog named Rugby

Farewell to our faithful Administration Officer



Mick Mumford, MCF Chairman (left) presents Ken McPhan (right) with his certificate.



LCDR Peter Ellis, MCF webservant (left) and Ken McPhan (right)

Mr. Ken McPhan (GPCAPT rtd), MCF's faithful Administration Officer, was fondly farewelled at a morning tea in Campbell Park Offices, Canberra October 2007.

Mick Mumford, Chairman, thanked Ken for his service and recognised this by making him an honorary Centurion.

Thank you Ken and may God bless you and keep you.



Unity in Diversity – The lessons of Prince Caspian

by Principal Chaplain Eric Burton, RAN



Recently my wife Lynda and I went to the theatre to see Prince Caspian. As part of the Narnia Chronicles by CS Lewis, Prince Caspian is a rip roaring story of battles and conflicts with the children led by Peter taking on the forces of darkness.

At various times during the great battles in the story help is desperately needed and yet Aslan – the lion who represents Jesus – is strangely absent; in fact one of the great themes of the story is that perseverance and trust are required. It's as though difficulties and struggles are being played out against the background of unseen realities that will prevail in the end.

As we live out our lives as Defence Christians the same principles apply. We see certain realities and circumstances but behind what we see with our eyes are spiritual realities that are very important because they shape our view of life and our attitude towards groups and individuals. Let's explore this in a more practical way.

All of us are aware of the multiplicity of religious groups in Defence – there is MCF, Navigators, Everymans, the Salvation Army Services, Fighting Words not to mention the Chaplaincy service and the various groupings within that.

One attitude could be that these groups represent sectional interests and are essentially working with separate aims

and objectives with a superficial unity and friendship in order to enable us to work together. It is very possible for individuals to see their primary commitment to their own particular organisation.

Another view is that although we are organisationally different we are organically connected. That connection is based on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider this:

- Jesus' prayer at the last supper was that 'they may be one as we are one'. He saw the destructive power of disunity and called his disciples to be united (John 17:21 NLT)
- Paul in his letters urges the churches to maintain unity. He says to the Corinthians 'I appeal to you dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather be of one mind, united in thought and purpose' (1 Corinthians 1:10 NLT)

Notice that this is not unity at all costs – Christian unity is based around our common belief in and relationship with Jesus Christ

From a practical viewpoint and bearing in mind the couple of representative verses I have given, let me suggest some propositions for your consideration:

- 1) We need to have a high view of our relationships with other Christians. When a plane leaves the ground we see the

world from a different perspective; fences become smaller, our own houses shrink; we need to recognise that many of the barriers between groups and churches are man-made and not God honouring. A study of God's word will lift us beyond our own 'little worlds' and will show how the primary work of God is in reconciliation – people with God and people with each other.

- 2) Often pride, arrogance or fear form the basis of our reasons for disunity rather than other technical reasons. Even as Christians our motives and outlook are corrupted by human nature – we need to work hard at being open minded and open hearted to work against our natural human instincts.

In summary, it is sometimes too easy to take offence or magnify the differences between individuals or groups – that's human. To be agents of God's grace however, is to take the more difficult route of understanding other points of view; forgiving others and doing all we can to maintain the unity of the spirit based on our Love of God through Jesus Christ.

The result is worth it because there is strength in unity, God is honoured, we are blessed and the whole church prospers.

Encouraging military wives to live Christian lives

by Janet Mumford



Solid Rock Ministries is a non-denominational Christian ministry working in partnership with MCF to reach out to military wives. The two main objectives of the ministry are to evangelise military wives and to encourage military wives to live Christian lives. SRM groups meet on Bases using Base chapels or Chaplaincy meeting rooms and come under the spiritual covering of at least one Chaplain on the Base. SRM groups are currently meeting at Holsworthy Army Base in Sydney, Lavarack Barracks in Townsville and Duntroon in Canberra with a group due to start at Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane in 2008. The groups look at topical studies based on the Bible which are relevant to their particular needs and are also mindful to reach out to other military wives with the unfailing love of God. Military wives and their children are most welcome to attend the groups. For more information on any of the groups women can contact the national co-ordinator Janet Mumford at solidrockmin@optusnet.com.au or she can be contacted through the MCF staffworker.

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." Isaiah 54:13

I pray this verse over our five daughters on a regular basis but recently God has given me a greater revelation as to its true meaning. While we are definitely called to "train up our children in the way they should go so that when they are old they won't depart from it," Prov 22:6 (my paraphrase) we also need to release our children to God to be taught by Him. Only God knows the purposes and plans He has for each of our children (Psalm 139: 13-16, Jeremiah 29:11) and thus the experiences that they need to go through for His purposes to come to pass. As military families our heartache over moving our children from school to school can be huge. Our heartache over seeing them coping with an absent father or mother due to deployment/exercises/courses etc. can be enormous.

I have shed many tears for our children as Mick has departed for long periods of time on deployment and as we have moved from location to location. Some locations we would have loved to stay in forever... wonderful friends, wonderful schools etc. There are other locations where I have questioned God's sanity in sending us there! The schools and local environment would definitely not have been of my choosing. I have struggled with the knowledge that "if only" we lived a more stable life then my children would also live the life that I would much rather they have. It must frustrate God no end that I happily ask Him to teach our children but then fight Him every step of the way as He moves us from place to place!

As our children have grown (and we have a long way to go yet) God has begun to show me that He has taught them and that all the experiences they've had have been for His purposes and are a part of what He has planned for them. The bad experiences have been just as valuable as the good ones. It has actually been in the "dark" times, in the places which were the most difficult, that our children have made decisions to follow Jesus. I can see that He has used them to be "lights in the darkness" but He has always also provided Christian fellowship for them and He has never left them.

God has a different plan for each one of our children. The way that He teaches each one will be unique. Some children won't have the upheavals that others will but if we keep trusting God and entrusting our children to Him then we know that He will work all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). May you and your children know the love and peace of God (knowing that He has good plans for you) as you walk through deployments and moves.

PS...it's still okay to cry...

Bless you,

Love Janet



A Visit from France

Brothers in Christ

By Brayden Briggs



Mikael Jacquet (French Navy, and secretary of the UMCF) and LTCOL James Van Heel (Vice Chairman of MCF of Australia) in conversation.

Sometimes, not often, we meet someone who reminds us of something we once knew but had forgotten. This thing was of utmost importance to us, but somehow, we FORGOT? Part of this dilemma stems from our collective Fall and part of it from our own neglect. So it was with my meeting with the French MCF Secretary and Foreign Affairs Officer, Mikael Jacquet.

Like a scene out of a 'Hornblower' episode, our first liaison was amidst the sea of different uniforms at a cocktail party on

a flight deck. Although the scenery was the familiar Sydney skyline on a winters night, the backdrop was the spectacular giant French flag flown proudly from the stern of *FNS Prairial* - a Tahiti based frigate of the French Navy. Speaking a little French I naturally jumped at the opportunity to meet our brother who was conducting a port visit to Sydney (24 - 29 Jun 08). French food and champagne aside, truly the Lord brought us together for us to share of God's good will and

enjoy the global fellowship of serving Christ and country.

Throughout the week Chief Petty Officer Jacquet and I shared of His love amidst idolatry, the practicalities of shipborne ministry, God's plan versus our plan, and of the correlation between our spiritual life and our circumstances. He reminded me of who our God is, the unchanging and **real** God our forefathers served; the very important thing I had forgotten. We spoke of our God who loves us so dearly, who actually listens and is desperate to hear from you - so desperate He would die. Consequently, we both repented in our own language of neglecting the Lord.

So, what then of this short visit? Praise be to God that He raises missionaries to serve at sea. Mikael was sent at just the right time to stir me up and to realise our global purpose. Pray therefore for our Christian brothers and sisters in the French armed forces, that they will grow in Christ and in numbers. May God raise more people like Mikael to serve and encourage; and may we never forget or neglect to serve our real God.



Union of Military Christians of France

By Russell Bielenberg

CPO Mikael Jacquet, secretary of the Union of Military Christians of France, and his wife Fleur shared fellowship with seven MCF members and their families over soup and sweets at Russell and Helen Bielenberg's home in Canberra early in August 2007. During the evening Mikael spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on the nature and activities of their MCF.

The focus of the UMCF is very similar to that of the MCF of Australia, with a clear emphasis on supporting deployed personnel and their families. Just as we have a deployment pack, so do they; just as we pray for them, so do they; just as we support military chaplains, so do they. Most of UMCF's members take part in Protestant chaplaincy activities and those who are from the Navy and have been introduced by the chaplain also have official approval to undertake services of worship on board in the absence of the chaplain, under the authority of the captain.

Their deployment pack, known by its initials in French, BIGSAC, which translates "Individual Pack for Managing and Supporting Christian Activities", is, as its name suggests, directed to encourage the MCF members both to live a life of faith by giving them means which assist, and



to exercise a ministry in their ship/unit/base. It contains copies of the Gideon NT and Psalms, a CD ROM as big as a business card containing the whole Bible and many other very interesting things; a notebook and pen, a leaflet introducing UMCF and a CD with a booklet containing the words of songs for praises.

The UMCF also supports servicemen who are on mission by sending parcels containing material to help them to live their faith while deployed and also to comfort them.

Servicemen's families mustn't be forgotten, so the French MCF endeavours to respond to their needs when they request help.



Some of the group meeting at the Bielenberg's home on 5 August 2007. Rear: Jonathan Belmonte, Leah Belmonte, Michael and Fleur Jacquet, Lorinda Belmonte, Jon Belmonte (staff worker for the MCF of A), Front Helen Bielenberg, James Van Heel (Vice Chairman, MCF of A), Raylee, Timothy, Matthew and Thomas Bielenberg.

A summary of their activities reveals that they have prayer meetings, an annual meeting, evangelism on the street in front of the naval base, publication of a newsletter and booklets about specific subjects, conferences, fellowship, relaxation, cooperation with military chaplains and participation in international meetings, eg ENCLU (European Navies Christian Link-Up). They have very good relationships with UK, Germany, Italy and Holland.

There are about 200 UMCF members out of a total defence force (including gendarmes) of about 348000



Transforming grace

By Sam Hays



Up to the age of 32, I had been unconsciously seeking satisfaction in life (or was it God's acceptance?) through hard work in my career, education and on the sports field. While obtaining good results in these areas of my life, there remained an emptiness inside me that was not satisfied. Up to 1993, the intellectual acknowledgement of God's existence and the work of the Cross had not saved me from my sinful state. I was also going through a divorce with limited access to my two small young children, was financially challenged and emotionally bankrupt.

But when I **believed in my heart** (Rom 10:9) that Jesus the Christ shed his blood on the cross of Calvary for me, died and rose again, I experienced God's amazing forgiveness in what could be described as a radical conversion in Christ. Impromptu tears of joy at God's saving grace for me were not uncommon.

As a young believer I was hungry to know God. I studied His Word avidly, renewing of my mind and, in the process, I began being transformed in my thinking and inevitable actions (Romans 12:2). I no longer had any desire to conform to worldly patterns. God had filled me with His Holy Spirit; regular top ups continued daily just as God promised

in His Word. His presence was strong and sweet. Some of my friends and family were not too happy about this process. Being on fire for God without a lot of people skills, I don't confess to have approached every relationship with great finesse! However, I could not stop telling people about what God had done for me! So in those initial passionate days of discovering the riches of Christ Jesus, some of my friends also became Christians and are still walking with the Lord today; others ran a mile.

As a RAAF engineer serving at Williamtown, I was introduced to other Christians in the defence workplace through Military Christian Fellowship. God bless MCF! I quickly appreciated the power of Christian encouragement and began meeting with other believers in my unit for prayer and fellowship. I wanted to see everyone in my workplace saved; life was sweet and exciting! As the Senior Engineer of a deploying fighter squadron, and going from sinner to saint, I saw our deployment recreation go from wild drunken parties to modest sobriety. Alcohol related incidents dropped dramatically within our maintenance crew. Godly influence among key leaders impacted the whole unit. God is good!

There are many more stories in my 'Book of Acts' that I would love to share with you but space allows for just a summary of but a few of God's promises in His Word becoming a reality in my life. Up to the point of salvation in Christ, Satan through divorce had stolen my children, finances, physical and emotional health. But now 14 years later, God has restored all that and more! I now have a wonderful wife and five children, a healthy cash flow through a consulting business that meets all our needs and allows us to fund God's work and the poor. I have been healed of physical sicknesses and delivered from emotional bondages. We fellowship at a great church in Medowie and I continue to meet with Military Christian friends on the RAAF base at Williamtown. The attached photo depicts Christian mateship – that's me in the gray shirt with a Christian friend sharing my 45th birthday! Praise the Lord!

Has my Christian life been all tea and scones? Absolutely not! There have been many disappointments, persecutions, failures, and painful changes. And there is much transforming by God's grace still to happen in me (just ask my wife). But through all the challenges of life, there remains the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that are my Rock and my Salvation. I am truly thankful to God for His transforming love and grace.

Christianity and the Army; a young officer's journey

By Lt Katie Chapman



I went to university in Sydney from Jan 01 to Jul 04 and was very much imbedded in the uni student lifestyle of drinking and partying; I was not a Christian and had had limited exposure to religion. I joined the Army Reserve and in Aug 03, accepted a scholarship into the ARA for the remaining year of my degree.

One month after signing onto my contract and abusing my new found wealth on alcohol, God decided to make himself known to me. Then, after much resistance on my behalf and persistence by God, I became a Christian and focused my life on Jesus.

I went to RMC in Jun 04, very much a young Christian, and was not spiritually prepared for the culture that existed there. It didn't take much pressure for me to start drinking and acting like the other cadets. I stopped attending Bible study, hardly spoke to God and didn't attend a church. I regularly got drunk and fell in with the status quo of being a cadet at RMC.

But the Father didn't give up on me. After four months of disobedience, I was approached by Padre Rob Sutherland, asking if I was interested in attending a contemporary Sunday service at the Duntroon Chapel. It was there I met the Mumfords, the Morrisons and many other inspiring Christians and through the strength given by the Holy Spirit, I segregated myself from those temptations and began mending my spiritual life and my relationship with God.

I graduated in Dec 05 and was posted to Sydney, which has been an absolute blessing. Since becoming a Christian I have struggled with non-Christian relationships, drinking and

partying, gossiping at work, not spending any where near enough time in prayer, swearing, lying and many other things that I have found almost inherent in the modern culture. I have been disobedient to God, but through grace and love He keeps forgiving me and never gives up on me, never leaves my side or lets me stray too far.

On LOBC I met a Navigator, Dave West, and this enabled me to attend two bible studies a week and really grow spiritually. God gave me the strength and knowledge to end my relationship with my non-Christian friends and take a big leap forward in my Christian journey.

In Sydney I have always had the Mumfords for inspiration. Spending time with them is refreshing and a big blessing; we talk about Christianity and life and I always leave feeling empowered in my faith.

I began dating a non-Christian in Sep 06 and this eventually marred my spiritual life. He was at first supportive of my beliefs, but progressively I attended less church services due to other activities, stopped attending Bible study or reading the Bible because it made him uncomfortable and we would regularly drink alcohol.

But the Father didn't let me stray too far, He reached out and gave me the strength I needed. I started attending church again, went to Bible studies and read the Bible again, stopped drinking and always carried my Bible with me. My non-Christian boyfriend became jealous of my dedication to God and told me to make a decision – God or him. There was no decision; there is only one answer, God!

Then I began dedicating too much time to work and not enough time to God. Then Padre Sutherland, who I hadn't heard from in a long time, emailed and wanted to catch up. He asked the hard question straight up – where was I with God? I was distant and my focus was totally in the wrong area and this was another wake up call. So once again, with some gentle prodding and a well placed brother in Christ, I re-dedicated my life to God in Apr 07.

I recently spent 50 days in Rockhampton on Exercise Talisman Sabre where I was surrounded by military personnel from Australia and the U.S. and apart from the Bn Padre, I was the only Christian in my Sqn that I know of and I was worried about my spiritual health on the exercise. But our awesome saviour provided more than I could have ever imagined.

Within a few weeks on the exercise I met a Christian U.S. Marine. He is incredibly gifted and would regularly visit my area, play the guitar and sing songs of praise which would fill me with an inexplicable joy. He is incredibly knowledgeable in his faith and we often talked about sins we struggled with and our experiences and he was a huge encouragement to me and inspired me to be the best Christian I can be in every environment – not just at church or at bible study. I left the exercise, in Jul 07, feeling spiritually enriched, incredibly blessed and craving more fellowship with other Christians, especially ones in the military.

I recently spoke at a church in Nowra about being a Christian in the ADF. As I wrote down my experiences and reflected on the military environment, I realised the magnitude of being a Christian in the Defence Force. Being an obedient Christian is a challenge; being an obedient Christian in the Defence Force is a battle.

There will always be debauchery, adultery, drunkenness, swearing, gossiping, lying, manipulation, opposition, criticism, to name a few, and it is generally accepted as the status quo. As Christians we need to put our faith in God and know he will give us the strength to go against the status quo and stand up for our moral convictions.

I feel spiritually ready to tackle the military environment with confidence and know that God will always provide for us and that the Holy Spirit will be with us. I implore you, brothers and sisters, be lights in the military, stand strong in our convictions and do it all with the peace and hope that is found in Christ alone.



Association of Military Christian Fellowships Conference

In Brief

By Russell and Helen Bielenberg



AMCF Pacific Conference Participants

The Pacific Conference of delegates of national Military Christian Fellowships (MCFs) and representatives of nations in the region with no MCF was held in late September in Brookfield, on the outskirts of Brisbane. The conference was followed immediately by an Interaction programme run by ACCTS staff members Russell and Helen Bielenberg, Jim and Lois Greshel and Dell McDonald.

Nations represented were Australia, East Timor, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Tonga, Vanuatu, New Zealand, UK, and USA, the last three of which had delegates at the conference but not at Interaction.

Major General Dick Wilson, AM, Commander of the 1st Division, and the senior military officer in Queensland, opened the conference which had the theme "Inspiring Leadership: Service with Integrity".

In their assessments at the end, delegates wrote,

"This is my first ever MCF Conference. All issues discussed were helpful to me." (Palau)

"Bible studies, 'Walking the Talk' and the word on 'Thriving as a Christian in Defence' by the MCF of Australia chairman, LTCOL Mick Mumford, really inspired my spirit." (PNG)

"My host family is the most loving, caring, and Christian family I have ever had; they were like my own parents." (Micronesia)

"The highlight of the programme for me was the Inductive Bible study: it was the first time for me to listen to a bible study and the format of how they do it." (Tonga)

"The highlights for me were the video on the Korean [Military Evangelisation Programme] and the presentations by LTCOL Mumford and the two chaplains. They were great challenges." (Chaplain, PNG)

"This conference is very wonderful and gave me much more of God's tools for ministry in the future." (Pastor, Vanuatu)

"For me the highlight of this conference is that we can meet each other and share our Christian life in the name of Christ Jesus, because we are all one in Christ Jesus." (East Timorese Policewoman)

"Thanks for the outstanding organisation, administration and conduct of the entire conference - it was effective, uplifting and a significant renewal. The opportunity to meet and understand what our Lord is doing in South West Pacific nations and what we can do to help was outstanding." (Rear Admiral, Australia)

This brief report can give you just a small idea of the depth of fellowship, learning and sharing which occurred during our time together, and we in turn were richly blessed by the contribution of those from overseas: this was no case of one-way traffic.

Several delegates suggested that we should do this annually, but we believe it will be the turn of another country, perhaps PNG, in a few years time.

We are very grateful for all those who helped with prayer, speaking, leading workshops, administration, hosting, music, transport, bookstall, preparation of CD and finance. Thank you.

Russell and Helen



Getting Amongst it

By MAJ David Williams

What a magnificent conference! I must admit that when I arrived on Thursday evening (my birthday - 20th Sept) I was somewhat nervous and uncertain what to expect. Driving from Mitchelton, where my daughter resides, to Gold Creek road at Brookfield was a bit of a challenge (first time around anyhow). My anxiety rapidly receded when I bumped into some friendly faces, LTCOL Mick Mumford and his wife, Janet and soon after Russell and Helen Bielenberg. So quickly registration was done and dinner was being served; many interesting people from Island States to Korea and the USA; there was a great buzz of introductions and warm welcomes. Everyone was interested in meeting everyone else.

I was particularly impressed as MAJGEN Dick Wilson, AM, Commander of the 1st Division opened the conference and spoke with conviction of how Christian values align with Military values and the long association that Defence Chaplains have had with MCF.

Then General Lee (retired) from Korea, World President of MCF, gave a powerful speech, radiating confidence (his English was pretty good too). He spoke of the 112 MCF's worldwide and of English as the world language; intriguing I thought. Throughout the conference I felt humble before delegates from many nations who had persevered in learning English or who struggled to communicate with the sparsest of skill in our language; learning another language is not something that most of us would regard as important.

I was blown away by the Koreans, they brought their own choir just for the night! About 30 voices enchanted and delighted us with their reverend singing. Principal Chaplain, NZ Defence Force, John Neal opened his talk with some friendly banter, referring to our nation as "the West Island". His talk 'Walking the Talk' spoke powerfully of how we are called to live our faith (the only genuine lifestyle) and exercise personal courage and integrity in speaking about our faith to others. Singing, prayer and a cuppa with fellow delegates afterwards rounded out a marvellous night.

Friday and LTCOL James Van Heel from Canberra gave an interesting talk about his deployment to the Sudan and the challenges of making friends in a foreign land. We were all happy to join in on a stirring rendition of Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World'. Chaplain Royce Thompson (RAAF Reserve) spoke on Romans Chap 12 and the 'renewing of our minds'; "Brainwashed by the World or washed by God's living Spirit". After morning tea Chaplain John Neal gave the second part of his talk 'How then do we live'; honesty to God, honesty with others and honesty with ourselves. It was a powerful presentation on the 'Christ centred life' - much food for thought. Lunch and free time until late afternoon and thence into workshops. I elected for 'Support for Military Christians' which was good. I did three workshops over the course of the conference and the common feature for me was sharing with fellow delegates from many cultures and military backgrounds.

After dinner LTCOL Mick Mumford gave a multimedia presentation 'Thriving as a Christian in Defence'. He spoke about the important roles that Military figures have played throughout Biblical history - fascinating and very engaging. Our profession is both acceptable and important to God. He concluded with the challenge that our mandate is to thrive; not just to survive. On



Russell Bielenberg (right) fellowships with Mike Scrivener and Principal Chaplain John Neal, both of NZ.

Saturday morning we had presentations from other Christian organisations working within Defence; Everyman, Red Shield (Salvo's), Navigators, Fighting Words and Solid Rock. Ongoing, there are many requests from the three Services to place Christian Workers on Bases. Chaplain Royce Thompson gave his second Bible Study on Romans 12; God's plan is no accident, and we should use our spiritual gifts to encourage others. He spoke of focussing on love in our conduct and relationships, caring for our comrades each day and helping them to grow.

After morning tea I joined John Fitzgerald from Navigators who ran the 'Discipleship' Workshop. I enjoyed this very much and got a great deal out of it; we examined, in detail, how Jesus selected, trained and sent out his disciples. Good material was also provided and I find myself coming back to it continually. Lunch, free time to enjoy the lovely bushland setting and after a fine afternoon tea (never enough conversation) the presentation of national reports. Reports from the many nations represented were as varied as the people; always interesting and informative. The Koreans have 'Vision 2020' with the incredible aim of converting 75% of Military personnel by 2020. LT Horatio dos Santos from Timor-Leste held us transfixed with his translated story of the tragic events that his fledgling nation has endured; I don't think that there would have been too many dry eyes by the time he finished. Indeed we are the lucky country. He said "The Holy Spirit is taking all of us to the Kingdom of God". I pray that there will be no deaf ear to his final plea "Do not close your eyes to our problems". The fact that they do not have any Chaplains (Army or Police) is a significant issue.

Stanley Boeluluvana from Vanuatu told us that, in his country, 99% of the population go to Church (things are a bit different here). He also asked us to pray for a Chaplain. Saturday evening brought singing and sharing and LTCOL Mick Mumford's second talk. The

Christian soldier's journey over time, leading in the workplace and especially being out in the open! The challenge was to know your faith and be ready to speak to the Gospel - the Good News of Christ. There were many good references to Joshua. Joshua didn't fade in the shadow of Moses but rather he stepped forward and led! Sunday the 23rd September brought the final workshops and I was pleased to share with Mike Hanlon's group



MAJGEN Dick Wilson, Commander of the 1st Division (left) chats with LTCOL Mick Mumford, MCF Chairman (right)



Mike Hanlon (left), Nathan Runham (middle), and Mark Patch (right) fellowshipping.

looking at 'Evangelism in a Military Context'. Mike works with 'Fighting Words', a Christian network in Defence (ADFA, RMC etc), and his enthusiasm for reaching out to others and supporting Christians in Defence was infectious.

A formal Service of Praise and Thanksgiving was held after morning tea and it was so moving to be gathered together, worshipping God in our own way; so diverse in culture and experience of life and yet so very much one in Christ. Chaplain Royce Thompson gave the address, emphasising that we each have a vital role to play where we are. The work done for God matters and lasts; willingly let us be vessels for his spirit. We are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and need to act as such. I like one of his final comments "If we were arrested for being a Christian, would the evidence convict us?" This was a marvellous Christian gathering of representatives from many lands, cultures and languages with a common enthusiasm for National Service and the primacy of God's claim on all men through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The echoes of this grand experience will reverberate through my life for some time to come.

MAJ David Williams
1HSB Holsworthy NSW



Supporting Defence

What is ACCTS?

ACCTS is an organization dedicated to encouraging and helping Christians around the world reach spiritual maturity and become effective communicators of the gospel. This effort is directed primarily, but not exclusively, towards the armed forces. ACCTS is an integral part of the global Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF).

Mission Statement

The Mission of ACCTS is to assist in the development of Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and in the establishment and growth of military Christian fellowships. This is done through personal visits to the countries concerned, by sending small teams to undertake special training programs, by sponsoring national delegates to undertake training in other countries and by assisting to run conferences under the auspices of the AMCF, such as the Pacific Conference held near Brisbane in September 2007.

Contact ACCTS at accts@accts.org or see www.accts.org

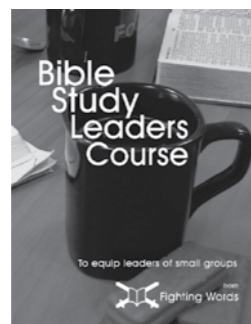
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Fighting Words

Fighting Words is a network of Christians in the Defence Force who want to see the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ grow through people in the Defence Force.

The goals of Fighting Words are to add a Christian dimension to military life, to network Christians as they move around, and to equip Christians to be effective in outreach in their Defence environment.

To that end we provide resources, training and encouragement. We produce a Newsletter 'JOLT', and have bible studies on the website along with other articles and an online discussion forum. We produce



Booklets & Training Courses (like Living by the Sword and Gospel Talk) and run Conferences, seminars and regional functions.

God seems to have made Training Base ministry the special niche for Fighting Words. This grew out of the cadet ministry at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and the Royal Military College Duntroon. Last year we established our second full-time Staff-led ministry at the Army Logistic Training Centre in Albury Wodonga. We also have member-led groups for trainees at 4 other Army and Air Force Training Bases.

Fighting Words is mobilising and equipping young Christians in the Defence Force to take the gospel to their mates.

more info at www.fightingwords.org.au



Red Shield Defence Services

Serving Australia's Defence Forces since 1899.

The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) maintains a close relationship with troops in Barracks, in the field and on deployment with both Australian and UN missions. These have included Cambodia, Somalia, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

RSR Officers continue to bring practical support to soldiers in the field. This includes hot and cold drinks, biscuits, lollies, chewing gum, writing materials, stamps, Bibles, magazines... and a listening ear. The RSDS felt of Landcruisers are able to handle rugged off road conditions, enabling them to keep up with their units, who may be often hiding in unusual and uncomfortable places.

RSDS also operates 'Hop In' centres equipped with the latest in televisions, games, internet access and other recreational material. The 'Hop In' provides somewhere that soldiers can relax in an alcohol and smoke free environment.

Whilst there is camaraderie with Military Chaplains, RSDS Officers philanthropic work is distinct and different from that of Military Chaplains.



Control anger

By Wayne Lyons

We need to learn to discipline our emotions, in the book of Genesis God asks Cain, why are you angry with your brother? But Cain would not listen, the situation seemed unfair; he felt unappreciated. He thought his brothers blessing had come at his expense. What emotions were at work here? Jealousy. Resentment. Competitiveness. A sense of being a victim. These unchecked forces caused him to murder his brother Abel and cross a line he could not come back from.

Most of us have an inner response mechanism that reacts to people and events, and a sudden sense of rage rises

within us, sometimes overwhelming us. On the other hand we often pride ourselves that we can keep our emotions to ourselves so to speak, and we never see what anger we carry within us, never the less if one has entered into marriage, we can always ask our wives or husbands and they will inform us that the anger we carry might not always come out in the words that we speak, but in our facial expressions, that glare that look, sometimes we are not even aware that we

carry this anger within us, never the less with Gods help we can work at it, I can discipline my emotions, How about you?

Pastor Wayne Lyons.
High St Christian Centre, Queanbeyan.



About the Author

"Wayne Lyons is a Vietnam veteran who has a ministry with veterans and is the senior pastor at High Street Christian Centre, Queanbeyan NSW. He is district chaplain for Chaplaincy Australia, and chaplain to the National Service Association in Queanbeyan and the ACT. He is also chaplain to the RSL Queanbeyan sub-branch. Wayne rides a Harley Davidson motorcycle, it being an FXST Springer, and

is also the chaplain to the federal chapter of the Vietnam Veteran's Motorcycle Club, where he is affectionately known as Padre. Wayne is married to Neita who partners with him in the ministry. His daughter Belinda is a great worship leader, and his son Shawn is a talented saxophone player, bringing great blessing to the worship team. Pastor Wayne often ministers in other churches, events, functions, and other nations as part of High Street Christian Centre's outreach."



A poem by CHAP Jim Cosgrove

"How could God allow this?" I hear it all the time
It seems whenever bad things happens God has caused the crime
When things are running smoothly we never hear God's name
But when the wheels fall off then we can't wait to lay the blame.

"How could God allow this?" why couldn't God prevent it
My guess is if God tried to stop things we would soon resent it!
It's part of human nature to learn from our mistakes
We'd see it as intrusion if God tried to push the brakes.

"How could God allow this?" These times of tragedy
But maybe God has given us the best world it can be
The world is set in motion, its changing every day
And sometimes changes cause great beauty, other times dismay!

"How could God allow this?" Earthquake, flood and fire
I haven't all the answers if I had I'd be a liar
But when the world is living and change is part of life
One change will go unnoticed while another causes strife

"How could God allow this?" But do we choose to be
Puppets on the end of strings – or people who are free
To build the largest cities in places that we know
The Earth is under pressure and one day it will let go!

"How could God allow this?" perhaps we might well ask
Where are all the selfish people we should take to task
Whose search for wealth and pleasure, whose carelessness and greed
Cause untold pain and hardship to so many folk in need.

"How could God allow this?" it seems that folk are wishin'
Indeed not for a God of love but Merlin the Magician
Who instantly will fix things without our need to strive
But surely when we work through challenge we are most alive.

"How could God allow this?" is God just really weak
There's evil persecution thriving even as we speak
But can 'force' be the answer? It hasn't in the past
Forgiveness and some strong love are the only things that last!

"How could God allow this?" Destruction pain and violence
But why do people of good will just sit around in silence.
There's only one requirement for evil to abound
When people who should work for good just idly sit around.

"How could God allow this?" becomes the lame excuse
To just give up on God and be convinced God's got no use
We're looking for a scapegoat, we're not prepared to see
That life must be embraced in all its pain and mystery!

"How could God allow this?" suggests God doesn't care
But God has promised through the Spirit to be always there
To share our daily living, to share our joy and tears
To be our life's companion as we journey through our years.

"How could God allow this?" Religion's such a loss!
But don't forget that Jesus gave his life upon the cross.
He understands our suffering, and in our final hour
We'll never be alone if we call on his saving power.

"How could God allow this?" – but I have seen God's tears
Our God of love who holds us through our deepest hopes and fears
Who understands the anguish to see a loved one die
And even in our blaming God will hold us as we cry.

"How could God allow this?" when loved ones die in pain
But through the cross of Jesus we can share our love again
For death is not an ending for those who call God's name
And when God walks beside you life will never be the same

"How could God allow this?" these words have rung through time
And life can often seem bereft of reason and of rhyme
But in our world of beauty, forever rearranging
The thing we can rely on is God's love is never changing.



July – September 2008



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.

7 Jul

- › ACM "Angus" Houston, the CDF. For wisdom and discernment as he leads our military.
- › MCF Patron Lt Gen David Hurley. Praise God for his support to MCF and for the Christian witness he is to many.
- › Everyman's Welfare Service. Thank God for God's provision of a new Chief Commissioner.

14 Jul

- › The Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon. For protection as he serves in this capacity. For Godly insight and understanding into the needs of our ADF.
- › MCF members' marriages. For a hedge of protection around marriages. For couples to grow stronger in spite of the many deployments. For Eccl. 4:9-12 to be a foundation for couples.
- › Navigators. Pray for the work being done at ADFA. Pray that the seeds being sown would bear much fruit and that the men and women currently being disciplined would become strong Christian leaders.

21 Jul

- › The Chiefs of the Army, Navy & Air Force. That they receive good counsel and support. That they have much wisdom and courage as they serve our military.
- › Chairman of MCF LTCOL Mick Mumford. To have the mind of Christ as he chairs the Council and for wisdom, discernment and continuing vision.
- › Solid Rock Ministries. Pray for the new group starting at Enoggera today! Pray that those women who are ready to hear about God's Amazing Grace would come and be blessed!

28 Jul

- › Principal Chaplains and Bishops who serve our military. Pray that these men have the mind of Christ as they make important decisions and the heart of God for those whom they lead.
- › MCF Prayer Warriors. Praise God for this team! Praise God for their faithfulness and for the wonderful answers to prayer that they have seen!

- › Fighting Words. Pray for Mike Hanlon as he leads this ministry. Pray for him to be protected and to continue to bear much fruit.

4 Aug

- › Those from our military who are deployed. Pray Psalm 23 over them.
- › Operation Fruitful Tree. For a smooth implementation of the new web site.
- › Association of Christian Conferences, Training, and Service (ACCTS). Pray for a couple to replace Russell and Helen Bielenberg in this ministry which focuses on the South Pacific.

11 Aug

- › Pray for those at our training institutions that during this time they would turn to the One who is always there for them – God. Pray for unity and a strong presence of Christians on these bases.
- › Pray for MCF Staffworker Jon Belmonte as he travels. Pray that God would go before and open doors, pray for favour with those he meets. Pray for opportunities for Jon to reach out to many.
- › Navigators. For the National Director, Mike Johnson, for strength, vision, wisdom and discernment in leading the Navigators.

18 Aug

- › Pray for families of our military, particularly those who have loved ones deployed. Pray for their protection and their health, pray that they would have a Christian friend to love and support them.
- › Leaders of MCF groups around Australia. For wisdom as they lead their groups, for discernment in areas of unity and for understanding for the needs of their group.
- › Barry and Pam, Commissioners for RSDS. Pray they have much favour as they lead this important ministry. Pray that many lives would be transformed through the work that they accomplish for our military.

25 Aug

- › Pray for the military base closest to you. Pray for a strong Christian presence there and for God to be glorified on that Base.

- › Deployed Christians from our ADF. Pray Psalm 34:7 and Psalm 91 over them.
- › Reserve Chaplains. That God would empower these men and women as they serve Him in this way. That they would feel included in the military Christian network and that their service would give God much glory.

1 Sep

- › Give thanks for the welfare systems that we have available to the ADF. Pray for those who work for DCO as they help those who are struggling or in difficult circumstances.
- › Canberra Christians Dinner on 5th Sep. Pray for a great time of fellowship amongst military Christians. Give thanks for the many organisations that will be represented and the opportunities they have to work together in unity.
- › Fighting Words. Pray for Pete Ritchie who ministers in Albury. Pray that he continue to have many opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with those in his area.

8 Sep

- › For strong partnerships and anointing on the relationships between Chaplains, local churches and military Christians.
- › For those Chaplains who are MCF members, that they would be supported and encouraged by members of the MCF.
- › Fighting Words. Pray for Mike Hanlon to have the mind of Christ as he leads this ministry. Pray for many to receive salvation through this ministry.

15 Sep

- › For Chaplains within the ADF. For opportunities for them to share the gospel, for hearts and minds to be open as they do so. For Christ to speak through them as they meet with and counsel members of the ADF and their families.
- › Retired MCF members. That their gifts and wisdom would be used within the MCF framework.
- › Everyman's Ministry. That every financial and material need be met, for many to be drawn to the centres and for those ministering to have discernment as they show God's love to each person.

22 Sep

- › For all 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.
- › For a new MCF Staffworker for next year. Pray that God be preparing the right person now and that He would clearly show Council who that person is.
- › Chaplains. For regular times of spiritual refreshment. For times to step away and enjoy fellowship with the King of Kings.

29 Sep

- › Pray for the leaders of our nation, that God would direct their hearts and minds. Pray for Peter Rose as he serves as Chaplain to the men and women who lead our nation. Pray that he be used to bring God much glory.
- › Thank God for the civilian members of MCF. Pray that they would continue to support, encourage and bless those serving in our military. Pray that they would see how valuable their encouragement is.
- › Salvation Army. That the Representatives would have many opportunities to witness for Jesus. That God would guide and bless them in their support to the ADF & provide for their material needs, welfare & spiritual growth. That they would stand true to God's word & be filled with His peace.



Staff worker sitrep

by Jon Belmonte

Welcome to Crossfire.

As you may now know the MCF office moved earlier in 2008. We are located in the same building, but at a new location; God has truly blessed us by providing us with an excellent office space and support.

We are also located between two sections that are a valuable resource and assistance to MCF. The MCF office is now located at:

MCF

CP3-1-130
Campbell Park Offices
Defence
Canberra 2600

Ph 02 – 6266 4950 Fax 02 – 6266 3578

The MCF Website is about to undergo a major interactive upgrade in the next few months.

<http://www.mcf-australia.org.au/>

You will soon be able to update and amend your details online, blog and discuss matters in the MCF member area. You will also be able to retrieve Bible studies, study notes and items of discussion and interest.

The deployment ministry continues to go from strength to strength and more and more Chaplains & CO's are seeking MCF out for this resource.

I have just recently returned from my July visit to all the bases in the state of Victoria:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| RAAF East Sale | HMAS CERBERUS |
| Queenscliffe | Swan Island |
| Victoria Barracks | RAAF Williams - Laverton |
| Watsonia | Puckapunyal |
| Bandianna | Bonegilla |
| Army - Wagga | RAAF - Wagga |

I shall soon be heading to the state of South Australia in August with Visits to:

Woodside Barracks Keswick Barracks
RAAF Edinburgh DSTO Edinburgh
Staff worker visits to Queensland will start in September:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------|
| Enogerra | Canungra | Oakey |
| Amberley | Victoria Barracks - | |
| | Brisbane | |
| Carbah | Bulimba | |
| Townsville | | |

The staff worker visits are to encourage, foster and build MCF groups. The staff worker visits

Unit Commanders and Chaplains; and further encourages our MCF members and Area Reps.

Discussions with numerous Chaplains and ADF members has revealed a need for a "Welcome to the ADF" or "Recruit pack". This will be investigated further by council and may possibly see a roll out at the end of the year.

This pack would contain a greeting and welcome from MCF to new members of the ADF, and explanation of MCF, a Bible study, Christianity explained pamphlet, 'Christian and in the Forces?' pamphlet and a MCF membership application. These packs will be given to new ADF members when they receive a bible from a Chaplain.

The Staff Worker monthly report is being sent out via Email and is known as the 'Grapevine'. The Grapevine is for sending out timely reminders and reports on promotions, marriages, births and deaths and other general information. It is also for use by members who wish to forward or distribute items and announcements, so send your items in.

I am always looking forward to hearing what is happening in your location or what special events you are organizing.

If you are not receiving this monthly Email, please Email me at

jon.belmonte@defence.gov.au

Membership continues to grow at a steady and ever increasing rate from ADF members, ADO members, retirees and even some parents of our present service men and women.

MCF has many bible studies, Prayer groups and times of fellowship at numerous ADF locations a shore, Overseas and a float. Please refer to the Area Reps details list in Crossfire or contact the office for further information.

Are you in an Area without an Area Rep?

Have you thought and prayed about becoming an MCF Area Rep?

If so contact the MCF office for further details.

I would strongly ask that you look at and pray about becoming an MCF Centurion; you will find an application in this edition of Crossfire. Centurions partner with MCF and make a regular financial contribution to MCF; they also and more importantly uphold MCF in prayer.



On a personal note:

I would like to give thanks to God for allowing me to have the privilege of serving Him within the Military Christian Fellowship. I have been able to witness the growth of Christianity within the ADF & ADO. It has been an absolute honour to meet MCF members and ADF Chaplains and I have been blessed and inspired by you all.

I have resigned from MCF as the National Staff Worker and this will take effect from the AGM of 2008. I will then go into care taker mode or trainer mode. The reason for my resignation is that my wife and I are following God's call to fulltime Ministry. We will be entering into Bible/Theological College in 2009 as trainee ministers in the Salvation Army.

I will remain a member and strong supporter of MCF and hope to continue my association with MCF's groups around the Nation.

I would ask that you commit to prayer the council of MCF, praying that God's direction and leading for the new National Staff Worker.

I would also ask that you keep my family and I in your prayers as we follow God in the direction He has chosen for us.

May God bless each and every one of us this day and tomorrow.

Reading: Galatians 6:1-10

Heed the Call! March hard for the Lord!

Yours in Christ's service



area contacts



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Fyshwick
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Campbell Park
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Phone: 02 6266 3367

Brindabella Park
Contact: Mr Doug Oliver
Phone: 02 6266 8193

Northbourne House
Contact: PO Stanley WAYE
Phone: 02 6266 5321



*There are the storms of life
but God provides a 'rainbow' future
to those who accept Him.*



*Have you got a 'rainbow' future?
Is your heading fixed on God's promise?*

*Don't know where the answer lies –
take a look at the Bible Romans 8:28*