

# CROSSFIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA † NUMBER 21 † EASTER 2011



Battlesmart Seminar | Operation Fruitful Tree | Faith Under Fire



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## From the editor...

Mr David Coleman

([david.coleman1@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.coleman1@defence.gov.au))

Please send me a short story of your experiences as a Christian in the military and highlight what God has done for you!

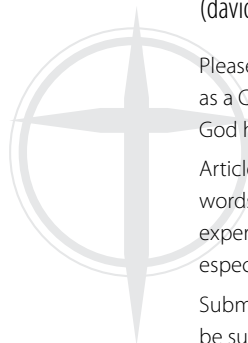
Articles for Crossfire should be no more than 500 words long and focus on military Christian issues and experiences. Stories from operational service are especially encouraged.

Submissions should be in electronic format 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.

Cover image by: CPL Chris Moore.

Members of Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith's VC, MG Squadron form an honour guard during the Investiture Ceremony to award him the Victoria Cross.



# Chairman's Report

LTCOL James van Heel



The theme for this Crossfire magazine leverages the MCF seminar conducted in September titled Battlesmart.

In the military, we are trained for warfare and understand the preparation and commitment that is required to prosecute an operation. When preparing for deployment, service men and women are briefed to understand the enemy's intent, weapons and methods of operation. We also have to understand our commanders' intent, battle procedures, and become proficient with our personal weapons, as well as having an understanding of other weapons or friendly forces that are available to us in prosecuting the mission. We are fortunate to understand the principles of war as we can apply these same principles to the spiritual battles that we face on a daily basis as individuals and as a community of believers.

Being battle smart is utilising the training that we have undertaken in the profession of arms and God's word and then applying what we have learnt to spiritual battles that we face on a daily basis. Do we as service men and women apply the same rigor when preparing for our spiritual battles? How well do we understand the enemy's methods and his intent to make us ineffective in the spiritual war that we are all deployed into as Christians?

There is a scriptural basis for spiritual warfare and defeating it. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 states, *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* We are also instructed in Ephesians 6: 10-19 to put on the whole armour of God so that we can resist the enemy's attacks on us.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of those soldiers who have lost their lives and been injured in recent operational activities in Afghanistan. In the last edition I listed the names of 6 soldiers who had laid down their lives in June. In this edition I have listed the names of soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice since then. They include Privates Nathan Bewes, Thomas Dale, Grant Kirby and Jamie Larcombe, Trooper Jason Brown, Lance Corporal Jarred Mackinney and Corporal Richard Atkinson.

I'd like to thank the outgoing Council members MAJ David Williams and CHAP Owen Davies for their contributions as members representatives on the MCF Council in 2010. I'd like to welcome the new vice Chairman LTCOL Mark Jobst who is also focusing on the deployment ministry, CAPT Katie Chapman as a members representative who is also the evangelism coordinator and PO Olly Kaese as a members representative who is our new prayer coordinator.

MCF hosted the inaugural National Day of Prayer for Defence on Sat 2 Apr 11. This prayer day focused on praying for the safety of deployed service men and women, their families, and those who have recently returned from operations. Additionally, prayer was offered for Defence Christian Military Ministries, Chaplains, and Defence senior leadership appointments.

The Defence Christians Dinner, hosted by MCF is scheduled for Fri 2 Sep 11. The guest speaker will be the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF), LTGEN Hurley.

Following the dinner, MCF will be hosting the Faith Under Fire Seminar on Sat 3 Sep 11 in Russell Offices, Canberra. Faith Under Fire will equip Defence members and their friends to increase their understanding of faith and have faith in God in all circumstances no matter what the enemy (physical or spiritual) may be firing our way. The keynote presenters at the seminar will be:

LTGEN Hurley, VCDF; Bishop Len Eacott, Anglican Bishop to the ADF; BRIG (Ret.) Jim Wallace, Managing Director Australian Christian Lobby; and Robert Fergusson, Senior Associate Pastor Hillsong Church

I'd like to acknowledge those who were affected by the floods and cyclones in Queensland during the month of January and the great work done by the military in the aftermath of both of these events. Our prayers are with the families of those who lost their loved ones and those have to now rebuild their lives physically, emotionally and spiritually.

**LTCOL James Van Heel**



# Battlesmart Seminar

CAPT Mark Bali



On 4 September 2010, MCF hosted its inaugural seminar titled 'Battlesmart'. The seminar encouraged and equipped Defence Christians to prepare for and succeed in life's spiritual battlefields. A broad range of speakers were invited, many of which have provided a brief article on the following pages. The seminar was supported by Defence Christian Military ministries and Cornerstone Christian Church.

The seminar was recorded on video, and the MCF office can provide a two DVD set for those interested in hearing the encouraging messages delivered. We have also developed some Bible study notes to accompany LTGEN Hurley and BRIG (Retd) Wallace's presentations. The DVDs and notes are available free for charge by contacting the MCF Staff Worker, Ann Lock, [ann.lock@defence.gov.au](mailto:ann.lock@defence.gov.au)

The seminar was a great success with over seventy people in attendance, and much positive feedback. We are hoping to build on this success in 2011 with the second seminar entitled 'Faith Under Fire'. See the flyer in the centre of this edition for more details on this event.

We hope the articles that follow will give you a taste of the great atmosphere that was enjoyed by participants on the day, and an insight into what we can expect at Faith Under Fire.

The key scriptural text for the seminar was from Ephesians 6.

## **Ephesians 6:10-19 (New International Version ©2010)**

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.*

# Intelligence Preparation of the Physical and Spiritual Battlespace

LTGEN David Hurley AC, DSC

Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF), Patron of Military Christian Fellowship

Military personnel are trained to intelligently prepare the physical battle space and these skills and techniques can be applied to the spiritual battlefield: 'Being Battlesmart is utilising the training that we have undertaken in the profession of arms and God's word to assist us in the spiritual battles we are involved in on a daily basis.'



When I was a student at the US Army War College, the acronym VUCA was used to describe the characteristics of the physical battlespace. I think it provides a useful framework to conduct an Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace (IPB) activity for today's purposes.

**Volatility:** the nature and speed of change of the current world, especially through technology, is known by all of us. It is difficult to know how to discern between good and bad. The Apostle Paul writes of this in Romans 7:18; instead of doing what he knows is right, he does what is wrong.

**Uncertainty:** the lack of predictability. In today's world there is much we can't learn and our behaviour can revert to base state when we feel out of control. As 1 Chronicles 29:15 says "we are like aliens and strangers who can't see the way ahead".

**Complexity:** the compounding of issues. With a rapid rate of change we rely on subject experts to guide us, including in our spiritual lives. We find that spiritual warfare is multi-dimensional: social (John 15:18-27), personal (Galatians 5:16-26) and supernatural (Ephesians 6:10-27) and therefore have choices to make in living for Christ.

**Ambiguity:** mixed meanings. Our world is full of ambiguity when we need clarity. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says we may be deceived by this uncertainty and diverted from the simplicity of Christ.

In contrast to VUCA which attacks and weakens Christians, Christ provides a response which strengthens and enables

us to remain true to him until the successful end state of spiritual warfare. This can be summarised as SCSC:

**Stability:** the enduring and unchanging message as summarised in Revelation 1:8; "I am the Alpha and Omega says the Lord." This simple, unchanging message is a stable rock for us. There is only one God.

**Certainty:** we are assured of salvation. Romans 8:35 tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. If we can't live with that, there is nothing else to offer.

**Simplicity:** we have a simple faith as in Romans 5:1-2. Since being justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

**Clarity:** we know the only path to salvation; John 14:6 says 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. The enduring and unchanging gospel message, the assurance of salvation, a simple faith and Jesus as the way, the truth and the life are a direct path for guidance which provides the protection to walk into the battlefield.

When we put on the full armour of God to counteract volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity; we equip ourselves for spiritual battle (2 Corinthians 4:2). We will move confidently towards the end state of victory in Christ. Living our lives this way not only strengthens us but will bear witness to others.



# Behind Enemy Lines

BRIG (Retd) Jim Wallace AM

Managing Director Australian Christian Lobby, former SAS soldier.

As a commander of special forces and now as the Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby I have some appreciation as do many Christians of what it is like to “fight behind enemy lines” in the physical and spiritual battles we face. I have outlined some of the principles of the conventional battlefield that can apply equally to the spiritual battlefield.



spiritual opposition and expects us to courageously face these battles. Importantly though, Christ rewards faith, not capability; this means sticking it out despite the odds, and having faith in God.

## Cooperate with others:

We each have a personal faith but we must cooperate with others. Soldiers behind enemy lines draw strength from the fact that they are part of a bigger campaign; others similarly trained, even if unseen, are committed to the same plan. Christians can equally draw strength from knowing that the plan we work to is God’s, not ours. We are building blocks being aligned around the cornerstone, Christ, and need to be interested in the success of others, as they are also part of God’s plan. To be successful, particularly when outnumbered, we must cooperate with each other and God.

## Leadership:

No principle of war has as much affect as leadership and each of us must stand by our commitment to model Christ in leadership. This is not to ‘Bible bash’ people but rather, as leaders, to give an example from which others can take courage to do what is right and be people of integrity. If we can do this, God will honour our leadership.

There is a danger that we will feel morose, insular and bitter when we look realistically at the spiritual battlefield, knowing that we are outnumbered and isolated behind enemy lines in a secular culture. In my experience, SAS soldiers are people who believe in themselves and their contribution. Under good leadership, they set out to be positive about what they do. They revel in being behind the enemy lines outnumbered and winning! They don’t sit around saying “ain’t it awful”. We too can revel in being outnumbered in the spiritual battlefield and having a task to positively, happily, and faithfully bring Christ into our places of influence.

## Think and plan strategically:

It is essential that we do everything with a strategic goal in mind. Battles are assessed within a strategic intent and vision, and only undertaken if they contribute to this. We should approach our work for Christ in the services in the same way. If we believe the Australian Defence Force will be a better place through Christ’s influence, then we should be looking to maximise the effect of what we do. We need to actively apply, review and reapply the principle of being strategic.

## Accept the battlefield as it is:

Military disasters have often been due to misunderstanding the battlefield; of looking to fight the battle we want to see rather than the one that is actually there. As Christians we too need to understand our spiritual battlefield. Christ sets the example by accepting the sinful state of the world and working to reconcile this with God, even though it required his death. Christ prepares each of us to face the realities of

# Operation Fruitful Tree

LTCOL James van Heel

Operation Fruitful Tree is the Military Christian Fellowship’s five year strategic plan from 2010 to 2014. It examines the environment in which MCF operates. It particularly examines the strengths of MCF and the opportunities that it faces. From this starting point the plan outlines the mission, vision, and objectives of MCF and also considers MCF’s organisation to achieve these goals.

Finally, it expresses MCF’s plan for developing its membership to further enhance the ministry.



Christians will require if they are to be fruitful within the ADF. CAPT Katie Chapman is the MCF evangelism coordinator.

MCF has a variety of evangelism tools for MCF members which are readily available for loan through the MCF office. These include packages such as “Going Public” and “Alpha for the Forces” as well as one-on-one workbooks.

MCF will develop an Evangelism page on the MCF website which provides information about the resources available and some handy hints for ADF Christians.

## Objective Two: To encourage, support, and develop Christians in the ADF, especially when deployed.

Due to the mobile nature of military Christians, opportunity for development within a community based church can be limited. Due to the high operational tempo of the ADF, deployed members feel especially isolated and MCF plans to concentrate resources to support Christians in these often arduous and dangerous circumstances.

MCF is focusing on how we can better support service members when they are away from home or, as most Defence families experience, frequent postings which move you away from close friends and family. We encourage MCF members to advise us if they are being deployed. In this way we can be proactive in providing support to them.

Some of the resources that MCF makes available for this purpose include the MCF website [www.mcf-a.org.au](http://www.mcf-a.org.au) deployment packs, Crossfire magazines that have in recent times focused on deployment and the grief journey, Bible studies, seminars, prayer, small groups and Staff Worker visits and correspondence.

## Objective Three: To support actively the ministry of ADF Christian Chaplains.

Chaplains are a key component the Lord uses to minister to people within the ADF. Whilst they have secular duties, their focus is spiritual. In addition they often have pastoral

There are many examples in the Bible that demonstrate how God has used military people for spiritual ends. We believe this is because military service and Christian service are similar in the ethos, values, and the sacrifice required.

## VISION AND MISSION

We believe that God desires a vibrant, lay-led Christian ministry to both support Christians, as they serve the nation, and to reach souls for Christ. The mission of MCF is to promote Christian faith in the ADF.

## OBJECTIVES

Three ministry objectives support MCF’s mission.

### Objective One: To be an instrument through which others in the ADF are led to Christ.

Evangelism is a responsibility commissioned to all Christians by Jesus Himself. MCF’s focus is on “one-on-one” workplace evangelism that demonstrates personal qualities and ethos that is attractive to seekers. MCF believes that high-energy, event-driven evangelism is not sufficient to provide the fundamental grounding and spiritual mentoring new



responsibilities for Service Chapels. In the recent past MCF and the Chaplaincy have increased their dialogue and understanding, and mutual benefit activities at the local level have become common.

Defence is blessed to have dedicated chaplaincy support in many bases across Australia. MCF values the work of the Chaplains and as a lay ministry wants to support them in what they do.

Additionally, MCF supports other Christian military ministries in the ADF, particularly through the Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM). Last year in November we hosted the meeting of the leaders of these ministries with a focus on evangelism.

## ORGANISATION

MCF's activities are coordinated by a National Council, led by the Chairman and supported by appointed volunteer staff. The routine management of MCF is conducted by the MCF Executive. The MCF Staff Worker, Ann Lock, is employed to deliver MCF's three ministry objectives as well as focusing on creating and maintaining MCF small groups within Defence workplace/bases and deployed forces. The MCF Patron LTGEN Hurley provides advice to the Council and advocates to other Defence senior leadership if required.

## MEMBERSHIP

While there are no "grades" of membership in MCF, members can be categorised in three groups: "receivers", "supporters", and

"workers". In no way does this reflect upon a person's Christian maturity and level of spirituality, it merely informs their level of involvement in MCF.

MCF's membership aim is to move members from "receiver" to "supporter" and then to "worker" as the Lord leads. To give members opportunities to provide greater support, MCF will continue the "MCF Centurion Program". This program invites members to commit financially and prayerfully. Signature items such as pins, mugs, and books aid Centurions to advertise MCF and to create opportunities to encourage other Christians to take advantage of MCF's resources. By 2014, MCF aims to have 100 or more centurions who are supportive of the ministry.

## GOD IS THE VINE

Christian lay-ministry is a big job in the ADF; that is why God has given this task to MCF and other Christian military ministries. Operation Fruitful Tree will bear fruit if God remains the vine and is the source for all that we do. If we are not connected to God and do not submit our ways to him in executing the plan, we will be ineffective in fulfilling that which he has placed before us.

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."*



# Biblical Battleprep

CAPT Mark Bali



At the recent Battlesmart conference, I was asked to speak about spiritual health on deployment. Whilst I'm not a pastor, psychologist or professional counsellor, I am a Christian and have been on deployment in Afghanistan and struggled with maintaining spiritual health in a modern theatre of war. With that in mind I hope to share the areas I found most difficult in the hope that others can gain from what I learnt.

It should be noted that 'deployment' does not necessarily mean an Operational Theatre in the military sense, although that is the experience I am writing from. People can be 'deployed' into ministry or 'deployed' into a new career or business. The characteristics that link all of these situations are adversity, the resistance of an adversary, and extended duration. Deployment is the redistribution of our assets to achieve a strategic (read enduring) outcome.

Back to my experience overseas. I had been a Christian for almost four years prior to deploying, and found it a struggle to maintain a close and healthy relationship with God. My first reaction was to say "The tempo was so high." "I lost all my support networks" and so on. But these aren't valid reasons for failure, I am just describing the battle space. In the words of Brigadier Jim Wallace (Retd), we need to accept the battlefield as it is – we cannot change the nature of deployment, we must learn to succeed despite its adversity.

So then what was it I could have done better? I have already identified that deployments are busy times, so anything I need to do to increase my spiritual readiness needs to be done before deployment. It is a scenario most military personnel will find familiar – battle preparation or 'battleprep'. In this case, biblical battleprep will give us the best chance of succeeding on the spiritual battlefield. On this battlefield, the mission comes from Proverbs 4:23: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life".

The first thing we need to do on notice of deployment is to 'know one's enemy'. I had a poor understanding of exactly the sort of emotional strain a deployment brings. To an extent this is normal. No matter how many people tell you of the relief of your troop returning safely from a mission, the grief of fallen mates, and the frustration of distance from family problems, it never quite clicks until you experience it for yourself. I hope this article will underscore the reality that deployment is a black hole for emotional energy, particularly for those in a position of leadership. I have learnt not to deploy with the expectation that I will have time to take much care of my spiritual life – there simply isn't the time.

I have identified my biggest problem was that in the pre-deployment phase I did not take time to prepare myself spiritually. This phase can also be quite busy, however it is necessary to make time for your own spiritual preparation. In keeping with the idea of battleprep, there are a number of key areas I believe require our attention:

### 1. Defences

In the military sense, defences are those fortifications that you can rely on to protect you from the full force of the enemy. Our heart's defences are the well-entrenched instincts you fall back on in times of trouble. A Christian's instinct should be reliance on God's protection, which provides a sense of peace. Just like fortifications, these instincts don't appear overnight. These habits need to be strengthened over time before contact with the enemy.



## 2. Communications

When a company is under attack the Officer Commanding needs to know that his forward section will feed him the intelligence he needs. For this to happen the communications net needs to be tested...you guessed it...before contact with the enemy. This is something we constantly did in Afghanistan – one of the last things you do before leaving a firm base is to check communications. Today on deployment our communications with the home front are excellent – email, letters, phone, and even video calls can be accessed. To maximise the support of these tools, ensure that before departure you arrange with family and friends to use this as a spiritual support net. Getting a Bible verse or encouraging message from Christian friends can be the difference between staying on course or drifting away. Our heavenly communications are also important – no matter how brief, our daily prayers should be continued before and into our deployment.

## 3. Ammo & Weapons

Another thing a soldier will always check before going into battle is his ammunition state and weapon readiness. In the spiritual realm our weapons are not worldly weapons (2 Cor 10:3-5), but are in fact God's word. Have some of the verses that really raise you up, available and on hand. You will not generally have time for a Bible study on your tour, but the words have the same impact whether read from a Bible, scrawled in your message notebook or on a pocket sized leaflet.

## 4. Rehearsals

The heat of the battle is not the time to be wondering where your friendlies are and what their next move will be. This is why the military constantly runs exercises and mission rehearsals. We should also conduct rehearsals with our family before deployment. What support will you want if someone in your unit dies? What questions should be asked and what should not? It is vital that everyone, both home and afield, are clear on what their roles are.

These are four simple areas of preparation where the Defence Christian can deploy with some biblical preparation to back up their military lead up training. I believe these would have made me more resilient in my ability to support my mates on deployment, and perform my duties. Perhaps even more importantly, it can help us return home a closer resemblance to the person that deployed, easing the burden on our families and our own mental health.

Christian life on deployment is difficult, but not impossible. James 1:12 says: *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him"*. With the right battleprep, deployment can be the time to cement your faith, not lose it.

*If you have found this article useful, you may want to request a DVD of the 'Battlesmart' seminar by contacting MCF (ann.lock@defence.gov.au)*

# MCF Small Group Code of Conduct

As a member of an MCF small group I will:

1. Respect the denominational differences of all Christians within the ADF.  
I will not argue denominational doctrine or question denominational beliefs.
2. Allow all members of the group an opportunity to speak regardless of spiritual maturity.
3. Respect rank during MCF meetings unless invited not to.
4. Invite local Chaplains, and members of other Christian groups, to be part of MCF meetings.
5. In group studies respect differences in bible translation and interpretation.  
Studies of the bible are not to involve books or passages of the Bible that denominations contest.
6. Apply wisdom in the demonstration of Spiritual gifting where there is potential to cause offence to members present.
7. Respect the authority of the small group leader, regardless of rank and uniform.

# From the Front Line to the Home Front

Dr Robi Sonderegger



It's not difficult to observe many well-known characters in the Bible who wrestled with mental health issues. Even King David is famous for wearing his heart on his sleeve; oscillating between emotional highs and extreme lows. Whether in biblical times or today, mental health challenges can make people feel that their identity is in question and the character which they uphold is in jeopardy. This does not have to be the case.

concepts of understanding and learning how to forgive and that it is transferrable between the types of trauma that result from war, natural disaster, and human trafficking (sexual exploitation). As a result of the EMPOWER trauma rehabilitation program's success, humanitarian organisations in different nations are now embracing forgiveness and reconciliation as a central aspect of trauma recovery.

I had one recent visit from the Chief Operating Officer of a trauma-specialist organisation in the Middle East. After independently evaluating the EMPOWER program in some of the most severely afflicted African regions he was forced to acknowledge the transformational power of forgiveness. Time after time the people he visited in refugee camps spontaneously confirmed to him the primary importance of forgiveness in their recovery, even many years after their trauma.

Personally, I think it's unfortunate that much of our post-modern culture has done away with the concept of a creator who has designed people with potential. Whether at our most elementary cellular level or society at large, neuroscience reveals that we have been designed for relationship. Not embracing who we are and what we were designed for may reduce the possibility of moving forward from trauma, particularly when atrocities have occurred. I have been encouraged to see the scientific integration of well-known biblical principles such as forgiveness and reconciliation into evidence-based therapeutic intervention. Restored lives are testimony to the goodness of God.

For more information about the EMPOWER trauma rehabilitation program, visit [www.thefrontline.org.au](http://www.thefrontline.org.au)

With 90% of the scientific knowledge of the workings of the human brain having been discovered in the last 5-10 years, cutting edge research is now informing us how to better work with refugees and others traumatised by war – especially in relation to the biblical values of forgiveness and reconciliation.

To assist these people build emotional resilience and prepare for resettlement, Family Challenge Australia has developed an empirically based early intervention program (EMPOWER) that has assisted tens-of-thousands of trauma victims around the world. Much of this work has centred on forgiveness, especially where there is deeply embedded generational conflict. Being able to forgive perpetrators gives people the freedom to move forward after trauma, and increase hope for the future by letting go of hurt, pain and bitterness. People are able to take stock of who they really are and to know their identity, purpose and self-worth.

This understanding has come through international clinical research trials in refugee camps and war afflicted areas. Evidence gathered now validates the biblical



# MCF – Mutual Support for Chaplains

DG CHAP AF Murray Earl



In my current role, I see myself as having a ministry of logistics – logistics win wars. When you read up on the great wars, it was logistics that won the wars – especially the American Civil war, WWI and WWII. For example, in the MEAO you observe all those Polar Air and Atlas Air 747s flying in 24/7, keeping the supply lines going in support of the front line. In Christian terms within the ADF, this is “you” and “me” on a daily basis. There are just not enough of us Chaplains to keep the supply lines going, and therefore we need to support each other.

This raises the wider question of my critique of Christians in the military – (we are all critics!!). All Christians in the military have to work out why they are in the military? One issue that has to be worked out for all Christians is; “am I in the military to be a service person as a Christian ministry, or am I in the military to raise the money to have a Christian ministry elsewhere?”

By that I mean, are you a Christian sailor, soldier of airwoman or airman – or are you a SSA/W/M, to go somewhere after work to be a Christian there?

This is a big issue!

Some years ago I was doing some research on *Christians in the workplace*. I had to go around Melbourne interviewing Christian plumbers, accountants, etc, to see what it meant for them to be a Christian in the workplace. Interviewing two young lawyers I asked the question; “does your minister/pastor know what it is like to be a Christian lawyer?” Without missing a beat they responded; “No, my minister expects me to make deposits at Church, not withdrawals”. I know this myself, I have been a parish minister. I want

people like you to work hard at work to build up my local church, to minister there. This is fair enough and it may be your vocation.

However, another model may be that you should be a very competent Christian CPL or BRIG, in the toughest of environments, in the military, and that is your vocation.

As a chaplain, I have been approached by a CO regarding a “Christian” airmen/air women/officer with; “*Hey Padre, this person is, or says he/she is a Christian, claims to be, but claims discrimination on the basis of being Christian - is there a problem here? etc.*”

I look into the issue as Chaplains do, and in the end, 9 times out of 10, the issue is that the person does not do their job well and it shows. All the CO was after was a job well done. What was the problem - the person saw themselves as earning the money to do some work in another place, so their mind was not on the job.

There are two models and I acknowledge that. As a Chaplain I support the latter model as best I can, as I see the struggle involved. The Centurion in the Bible in Matthew 8 is still referenced even to this day, as a “Christian Commander”. He was a Christian soldier, his ministry was his soldiering. This is not easy and that is why we need to support each other, for times change, we change and only those who do this ministry can understand what is involved in being a Christian in the military. That is why MCF (and equivalents) are so important; they empower us to be good at our jobs, which is an important part of being a Christian.

To be a Christian at work is hard, but it is the greatest place to serve and in supporting each other, everyone benefits.

From my point of view and many chaplains’ POV, the harshest critics of Chaplains are other Christians. Chaplains are, so the story goes, either “*not Christian enough*”, “*not evangelical enough*”, “*too denominational*”, or “*not denominational enough*”, “*don’t give leadership*”, or “*want to take over etc*” - you may have heard other critiques. Depending on your emphasis, critiques move up and down this bandwidth.

In terms of “mutual support for chaplains” today, while a critique is important, we have no time to argue among ourselves as Christians, we need to support one another as the world has changed.

The world we live in is very different to what it was ten years ago and so is the ADF.

So what does it mean to be in “mutual support”?



## Defence Christians Dinner 2011

Friday 2nd September 2011

You are invited to the Defence Christians Dinner for 2011

Please join us if you have any association with Defence, as a military member, trainee, civilian, contractor or any interested family and friends, for a night of good food, interesting and inspirational speakers, entertainment, and prizes.

Everyone is welcome - so why not organise a table?



### Keynote Speaker

Lieutenant General David Hurley, AC, DSC

Lieutenant General David Hurley graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in December 1975 into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He is a distinguished officer and leader who currently holds the position of Vice Chief of the Defence Force. He is married to Linda and has three children.

### Venue

Top of the Cross Function Room  
Southern Cross Club  
92-96 Corinna Street  
WODEN ACT

### Time

6.30pm Start with Drinks/Canapés  
7.00pm Speaking program commences  
till approx 9.45pm

### Dress

Smarter Casual (eg not jeans)

## Booking Details for Defence Christians Dinner

(Bookings for the MCF “Faith Under Fire” seminar on 3 Sep are via email: [ann.lock@defence.gov.au](mailto:ann.lock@defence.gov.au) Details: [www.mcf-a.org.au](http://www.mcf-a.org.au))

### Please email your booking details to:

LCDR Anne Mena  
[anne.mena@bigpond.com](mailto:anne.mena@bigpond.com)

### Remember to include:

- \* Your name (include first and last name)
- \* Your contact details (email and/or phone)
- \* Guest name(s) (include first and last name(s))
- \* Payment method (or receipt reference)
- \* Seating preferences (optional)
- \* Special dietary requirements (optional)

### Cost (per person):

Earlybird (pay before 12 Aug)	\$50
Standard (pay before 26 Aug)	\$55
Late (pay after 26 Aug)	\$60
Group Bookings (8 or more before 26 Aug)	\$50

### Payment Methods

#### Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include reference: “**Your name — Dinner 2011**”  
Bank: Defence Force Credit Union  
Account Name: **MCF - Serving Defence**  
BSB: **803-205**  
Account Number: **20747028**  
*DEFECREDIT Member Number (if required): 3858578*

#### By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to  
**MCF - Serving Defence**  
Mail to LCDR Anne Mena  
1 Lander Crescent Amaroo ACT 2914

### Enquiries

LCDR Anne Mena  
Email: [anne.mena@bigpond.com](mailto:anne.mena@bigpond.com)  
Phone: 0428 698 404



# I would like to make a difference in the ADF by becoming a 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 \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 per fortnight.

- I have made a \$\_\_\_\_\_ per fortnight allotment via DEFPAY to allottee WG0052.
- I have arranged an auto transfer of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per fortnight to MCF's DEFCREDIT account (Account name: Military Christian Fellowship, BSB 803-205, Member number 66126, Account number: 20514572).
- 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 book 'Principles of War'.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Return to:

MCF-A, CP3 -1-130, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600  
OR fax 02 6266 3578

For further information ring MCF Staff Worker on 02 6266 4950 or email [ann.lock@defence.gov.au](mailto:ann.lock@defence.gov.au).

Only MCF members can become Centurions. MCF membership and Centurion forms are available online at [www.mcf-a.org.au](http://www.mcf-a.org.au), from the MCF Office at CP3-1-130, or in the 'Cross Fire' magazine.

The Centurion program commenced in 2005. We are aiming for 100 centurions to carry the Lord's work forward in MCF by 2014.



# Application for Membership of MCF

Return to MCF-A, CP3-1-130, Dept of Defence, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (preferably a Defence address): \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I apply for Ordinary Membership: (tick one)

- I am a member/ex member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS (circle)
- I am the spouse of a member/ex member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS (circle)
- I am an accredited representative of the ADF philanthropic organisation
- I am a civilian who currently works alongside ADF personnel, or have done so for at least one year at: \_\_\_\_\_ (Location)
- I am a member/ex member of the Armed Forces of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of country) currently residing in Australia
- I am none of the above and apply for Associate Membership.

## Military Christian Fellowship Statement of Belief

To ensure that members of MCF agree to the basics of Christian doctrine, applicants must, in accordance with the MCF Constitution, sign the following Statement of Belief. This Statement is based on the 381 AD Nicene Creed; the most commonly used statement of Christian faith in the history of the church:

*I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men (meaning all) and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scripture; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one holy catholic (meaning universal) and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sin. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. I believe that the Holy Scripture is inspired by God and is the authority in all matters of faith, teaching, activities and personal conduct concerning MCF.*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Faith Under Fire

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia - Seminar 2011

3rd September 2011

Faith Under Fire will encourage and equip Defence personnel to increase their faith and prepare them to overcome physical and spiritual attacks in the line of fire.

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Historically, faith has strengthened the resolve of armed forces to achieve extraordinary results under the most trying of circumstances.

Faith Under Fire is open to anyone associated with the Defence community who would like to exercise and strengthen their faith under fire so that they can be the people that God has created them to be and make a difference for the kingdom of God



## Venue:

### R1 Theatre

Sir Thomas Blamey Square  
Russell Offices  
CANTBERRA ACT

## Details:

Registration 8.40 am for 9.00 am start  
Lunch (Provided) 12.30pm  
Close 3.00pm

## Contact:

MCF-A National Staff Worker

### Ann Lock

CP3-1-130

Department of Defence  
CANTBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6266 4950

Fax: 02 6266 3578

Mobile: 0410 556 436

Email: [ann.lock@defence.gov.au](mailto:ann.lock@defence.gov.au)

Website: [www.mcf-a.org.au](http://www.mcf-a.org.au)



Lieutenant General David Hurley, AC, DSC  
Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF)  
Patron - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia



Brigadier (Ret.) Jim Wallace, AM  
Managing Director  
Australian Christian Lobby



Bishop Len Eacott, AM  
Anglican Bishop to the ADF



Robert Fergusson  
Senior Associate Pastor  
Hillsong Church

## Booking Details

(Note: Bookings for the Defence Christians Dinner 2011 are arranged separately. Email: [annemena@hotmail.com](mailto:annemena@hotmail.com))

**Cost:**  
\$30 per person

To make a reservation, please email or forward the following details to the MCF-A National Staff Worker (contact details at left)

- \* Your name (include first and last name)
- \* Your contact details (email and/or phone)
- \* Guest name(s) (include first and last name(s))
- \* Payment method

## Payment Methods

Please complete your payment by 26 August 2011

### Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include your name in the reference.  
Account Name: Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

BSB: 803-205

Account Number: 20514572

DEFERRED Member Number: 66126

### By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to:  
Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

# Faith Under Fire

Bishop Len Eacott

## What is 'Faith Under Fire'?

Faith Under Fire is a course being developed that examines the place of faith in the ADF. But we don't just leave it at a generic all encompassing 'faith', we challenge people to investigate the claims that Christianity makes about itself by focusing on its historical basis.

The course is based on an existing program developed by the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) called Life of Jesus, but in each episode we've added ADF footage and interviews with senior officers, sailors, soldiers, airmen and women.

## How do you convince members of the ADF to engage with this topic?

Faith Under Fire is aimed at all members of the ADF, regardless of rank or religious belief – not just the 'God botherers' as many like to put it. But this is a broad group and you can't ignore that 18-25 years old males make up a large part of this demographic. So this has probably been our biggest challenge – convincing young men with little or no church background to watch a 'documentary on religion'. So we tell people that there are three good reasons to consider doing the course:

**Spiritual Resilience.** Most of us in the ADF think about physical, mental and emotional resilience. Very few consider the role and importance of being spiritually resilient. So we're promoting the idea that failing to recognise our own spiritual dimension and fitness, as well as those we serve with, is a significant shortfall.

**Worldview.** All of us of us have a worldview that influences how we think, communicate and behave. This is evident in our ADF values, how we treat others, our laws etc. In Australia, like it or not, our culture has been shaped to a large extent by a Judeo-Christian worldview. So we are encouraging people in the ADF to explore a significant and undeniable part of their worldview because it helps us understand ourselves, those we lead, and people we come into contact with. In short, how can we effectively



communicate with, and appreciate people groups and cultures in countries we deploy to, if we don't have a reasonable understanding of our own worldview? I think Faith Under Fire will be really helpful in this regard.

**Looking after people.** We do an excellent job in the ADF of providing our people with good equipment, training, conditions of service etc. We even encourage and help our members to be personally organised, manage their finances, and write a will. So much is done to help prepare us for the uncertainties of life in Defence. So it makes sense that we also help people to explore some of life's

big questions before we find ourselves in combat or under some other difficulty – leaving subjects like this to the 'heat of the moment' just doesn't make sense. An SAS officer recently reminded me of that well known saying that 'there are no atheists in fox-holes'. Each time he has been on operations, his soldiers have gone from general indifference regarding God, to wanting a chaplain at hand to talk with.

## How have these ideas been received?

It's been very positive and I think it's hard to argue that there is little or no value in exploring this subject. Even some of my friends who consider themselves atheist are encouraging and are curious to know more about the course. Hopefully all members of the ADF, regardless of belief or religious persuasion will also see some merit in it.

## What will the course look like?

Faith Under Fire will be a DVD-based course run over six meetings. A leader will host a small group and facilitate each meeting with discussion and questions related to issues raised on the screen. What may be new to participants is that we invite them to read the Gospel of Luke during the course. We want people to feel relaxed, ask questions and have a fresh look at what Christianity is on about. The course will encourage participants to critically examine, reflect and ask questions on the material provided in the hope that it will challenge them to respond to the life changing news





about Jesus Christ! Each episode runs for about 20 minutes, so combined with some social time and discussion, should typically run for about an hour.

### Who are the presenters?

The Life of Jesus part of the course is presented by Dr John Dickson and Dr Greg Clarke from the CPX who both have significant 'street cred' as engaging communicators, authors and historians. But for the ADF parts of the production, the presenter is Chaplain Tim Booker. Tim has served in the regular Army on operations as well as with the 3RAR but he probably could never have imagined what would

follow a short meeting and a screen test we did more than a year ago. Tim has been excellent and has taken this up-front role in his stride. For instance, he readily agreed to the idea of jumping out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft in the opening scenes, and enduring sea-sickness while presenting an episode.

### Where did you get the name 'Faith Under Fire'?

Well, we ran a competition and this name seemed to appeal to people – it sounded catchy but we had to think about what it stood for. It has two meanings. The first, explores the idea of how well the Christian faith holds up under fire. Let's face it, Christianity makes some outrageous claims about itself which beg investigating. We thought it strange that ADF men and women are trained to make objective decisions made on factual evidence and yet so many wrong assumptions and decisions are made about Christianity. We wanted to be bold with the idea that the historical Jesus, at the centre of Christianity can also be investigated and considered for who he really is and not what he is often misunderstood to be.

The second meaning is also a challenge of sorts as it encourages each of us to think about how our faith would survive under fire, whether in contact or when life inevitably gets tough. What are we putting our trust in? Is it more than wishful sentiment or half-baked notions such as "God's me mate, so it will all turn out in the end". We really want Faith Under Fire to engage and challenge people to think and talk more with mates about what it really means to be Christian.

### How is the project going?

I don't think any one of us realised at first just how long it takes to make a production like this, even if everything goes to plan. We are thankfully in the closing stages of post-production but Faith Under Fire has not been without its challenges including a lack of staff, and filming days lost to bad weather and deployments. We have been very mindful (and appreciative) of people praying for the project which has turned out to be far bigger and more complex than we first envisaged.

Having said that, it's been very rewarding and a privilege to work with the team delivering Faith Under Fire. We hope the course will be useful and that it plays its part in engaging our fellow Service men and women with the Gospel.

# A Short Introduction to Prayer as Spiritual Warfare

SQNLDR Mal Wilson



Mal Wilson is an engineer in the Airforce, a passionate prayer and an elder at Cornerstone Christian Church in Canberra. He presented on prayer at the Battlesmart Seminar. The transcript below is a summary of his presentation.

### Who is God?

For me, the context for any Christian discussion of spiritual warfare must begin with two foundational questions, who is God, and what does He require? John's gospel lays out for us in John 1 that Jesus is the Son of God who created the heavens and the earth, and that this same Jesus gives to men and women the right to become children of God on the basis of faith. In John 14 and 15 Jesus declares Himself to be the way, the truth and the life, that if we love Him we will obey what He commands, and then we shall be friends and children of God. The fundamental basis for any discussion of spiritual warfare through prayer is through relationship with God, through faith in Jesus, and demonstrated through obedience.

### What does God say?

In the context of spiritual warfare, what does God say and what does He require? The following verses help inform my approach to prayer as spiritual warfare, and it is these that I will share with you.

Ephesians 6:10-18 "...For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ....Therefore take up the whole armour of God, ...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."

Since our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, we should pray always!

### Spiritual warfare

Prayer and spiritual warfare is a somewhat controversial topic, and for some perhaps a divisive one. I do however assume that for those of us involved in the profession of arms, or closely associated with it, that this area of life is congruent with who we are and how we see ourselves. As military men and women we understand issues of authority, delegation and obedience in ways that are perhaps foreign to many of our Christian brothers and sisters outside Defence.

The concept of spiritual warfare is based on the ideas of warfare and spirit! Warfare is the activity to be undertaken, spirit describes the how, why and what of the warfare. There are many facets to spiritual warfare, and many ministries that contribute their critical components to it, some of which are mentioned in Ephesians 4. Then in Ephesians 6 God commands His people to put on the whole armour of God in the battle against the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. One of the elements of the armour of God is prayer, and it is the area of prayer in the context of spiritual warfare that I will focus on.



## Communion with God

In my experience, prayer is simply communion with God, a dialogue, not a monologue. Prayer is more a relational lifestyle than an activity. In the same way that we communicate with our parents, partners and friends, God desires that we stay prayerfully in relationship with Him. Given that there is a battle to be fought, we need to create a lifestyle where our natural reaction under all situations is to commune with our God, to hear what He says about the situations we encounter, to seek His good counsel, and to follow His directions and commands.

Thessalonians 5:13-22

*"... Now we exhort you, brethren ... pray without ceasing ... for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

Since the battle is real, we should not only pray frequently or regularly, but always! This is perhaps the most confounding issue for busy people engaged in the minutia of work and family, pulled from pillar to post by the requirements of a busy life. How do we pray without ceasing and where do we find the time?

This takes me back to Ephesians 6, unless prayer is our lifestyle, unless we discuss our lives with Him from moment to moment, unless His view of the minutia of our life is constantly before us in our minds and in our hearts, how will we be able to stand when the battle is at its most fierce, and we find ourselves called to fight for the lives of those around us, those being stolen, killed and destroyed by the enemy (John 10:10).

## Becoming like God

Peter 1:1-4

*"... His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness ... that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature..."*

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is given to us that we might be partakers of the nature of God. To become children of God is to become like Him. This transformation of human beings into children of God is not something that we achieve alone. Rather, it is God working through us, through our obedience and our brokenness that is at the heart of the transformation. Do we want it? Are we prepared to pay the price? Are we prepared to be glorified?

John 14:12-14

*... he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do...*

Greater things than Jesus did, we are to do! The transformation of our nature is not just that we might live fulfilling and productive lives, though that is the inevitable consequence. God has created us for good works that He has prepared for us before we even knew Him (Ephesians 2:1-10).

These works are both the mighty and dangerous things that transform the world around us and the small things that pass unseen by men. You may well ask the question, how can our works be greater than Jesus'? Consider the number of people who came to be Christians during Jesus' walk upon the earth, then ask the same question regarding Billy Graham! For each of us, God has a plan for good works. While you and I may not yet know what God has planned for us, what is sure is that he has such a plan, and the question is are we prepared to fulfil His plan, or grieve the Holy Spirit by our disobedience.

Matthew 16:13-19

*"... I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it..."*

## Offense or Defense?

During warfare, we conduct both offensive and defensive operations. How do we see ourselves in the battle? Are we victors facing a defeated foe, or are we the ones constantly being overrun? Further, note who Jesus declares is on the offensive and who is on the defensive. It is Satan's gates being assailed by the church. It is Satan fighting a rear guard action, hoping against hope that he will be able to regain his former place in heaven. Do we act as if we are assured of victory, or do we believe Satan's lies that we are defeated, that there is no hope, and that the best we can do is fight a delaying action till Jesus returns?

Matthew 16:13-19

*... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven...*

Furthermore, in the midst of the battle, what is your authority and what is your power? If you are a partaker of the divine nature, conformed to the image of the Son, whose power dwells in you? It is the same power that called the creation into being and raised Jesus from the dead. Do you believe it and are you prepared to walk in it?

I am not talking about blind faith here; what has God declared to be true in the situation you find yourself? To pray in the Spirit is not just to pray in hope, but to pray what God has already declared is true! Is God calling you to take the high ground in your life, is he calling you to rest, or to stand with a brother or sister in their pain? You have the authority to bind and loose what God has called you to bind and loose. Please don't miss the victory because of either false bravado or timidity!

Matthew 12:22-29

*"... if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ... how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house..."*

Therefore, bind the strong man and steal his stuff!!

## Who should pray?

Each of us is called and gifted by God for the works He has prepared for us. All however are called to pray! The ministries of Ephesians 4 are there for the building up of the body. Those called to teach should do so, so that all are equipped to teach. Likewise, those called to prayer should equip those in the body to pray. Those of us called and gifted for a ministry of prayer have the responsibility to not only pray, but to teach our brothers and sisters how, and to stand with them in the midst of the battle.

If you believe God is calling you to the ministry of prayer, find others who pray and work with them. If you need more power and authority in your prayer life, find those called to the ministry of prayer and get their assistance. It would be my pleasure to discuss prayer with you at any time. I can be contacted at [mal.wilson@defence.gov.au](mailto:mal.wilson@defence.gov.au). God bless!

MCF have a prayer coordinator and a prayer warriors team. If you would like to become a prayer warrior please contact [oliver.kaese@defence.gov.au](mailto:oliver.kaese@defence.gov.au)





# Solid Rock Ministries

Mrs Janet Mumford  
solidrockmin@optusnet.com.au

“Battlesmart” What does this mean for us as wives or partners of serving personnel? The Bible reminds us that we are all in a battle, one which is perhaps unseen, but very real. Ephesians 6:10–18 describes this battle well!

We’d probably all agree that times when our men are deployed can be times of great battle. While the battles can be ones that are thrown at us due to life circumstances they can also be battles within ourselves due to our own weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Recognising what these weaknesses and vulnerabilities are is the first step to battling them. We can be sure that the enemy will want to play on these while our man is away. These will be different for each woman but they may include:

Depression, anxiety, abuse of alcohol, desire for other men, over-eating, under-eating, not looking after ourselves properly, over-exercising, under-exercising, over-spending, extreme internet or Facebook usage and becoming involved in internet groups that aren’t appropriate, looking at internet sites that aren’t appropriate, and so on - I’m sure you can think of many more!

The second step to battling our weaknesses is to be smart! We need to be smart and think ahead and plan ways to ensure they don’t become dominant in our life while our man is deployed. For those who struggle with depression there may be a need to have some plans for how to fill your week with positive moments. Perhaps joining a hobby group or support group of some sort, arranging regular coffee dates with friends or play dates with other mums if you have children could be helpful.



For those who know that excessive alcohol consumption can be an issue, maybe a decision needs to be made not to drink on your own and to give a friend permission to curtail excessive drinking. If other men are a temptation maybe the decision not to be alone with a man would be a good one, as could ensuring there are plenty of social activities with other women to keep you busy. If over-eating or under-eating are issues then perhaps it would be a good plan to arrange to eat a number of meals a week with a friend to ensure you eat the way you should. Computer usage: perhaps pre-planning the time allowed on the computer could be helpful as could an accountability package that allows a trusted friend to be informed if you go to sites that you shouldn’t. Over-spending: going to the shopping centre with a definite list of what’s needed rather

than just to wander may be helpful.

We all have weaknesses and areas where we are vulnerable. This is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather than living in denial about our weakness or assuming that “we’ll be right”, the smart thing to do is to recognise those weaknesses and plan for them. Planning may involve getting professional help or sharing the problem with a trusted friend so that she can be a positive support. If we work through ways to deal with our weaknesses before we are in the midst of the battle we can face the battles more confidently and we can come through them victoriously.

# Forum of Christian Military Ministries

CAPT Mark Bali



The Forum of Christian Military Ministries held its annual meeting on 4 November 2010 in Canberra. The aim of the meeting was to discuss evangelistic efforts of the various ministries, and look for ways to improve coordination and synergy in our efforts. Groups represented included MCF, AMCF,

ACCTS, Fighting Words, Navigators, Everymans’ and Home guard. Unfortunately, Red Shield Defence Services and Solid Rock ministries were not able to join with us.

Wednesday evening was the start of activities with a dinner for attendees. Anne Iuliano, a pastor and ministry lead for Homeguard, a network for parents of military personnel, provided a talk on ‘Looking After Yourself in Ministry’ – a very pertinent point for a room full of people leading ministries! On Thursday morning, the seminar saw each ministry present how they are involved in evangelism. It is amazing to see the variety of ways that can be effective in sharing Jesus with others.

The afternoon was a workshop session to identify if there were ways we could work together to improve our reach, resources and approach to better share our faith. A number of initiatives are being followed through from this activity, largely involving creating joint resources such as a contact card that will list each ministries contact details, and their coverage around Australia. More information will follow as we develop these products.

The next FCMM conference will be on 02 November 11, and will concentrate on looking at ways to ‘Fill up the Tank’ for Defence Christians. Please pray that we will continue to grow in working together for the one cause in Christ to build the kingdom of God in the ADF.



# Staff Worker Report

Rev Ann Lock

Sometimes people ask me 'what does the staff worker do?' Here are few snippets from my 25 hour week:

## What does the staff worker do?

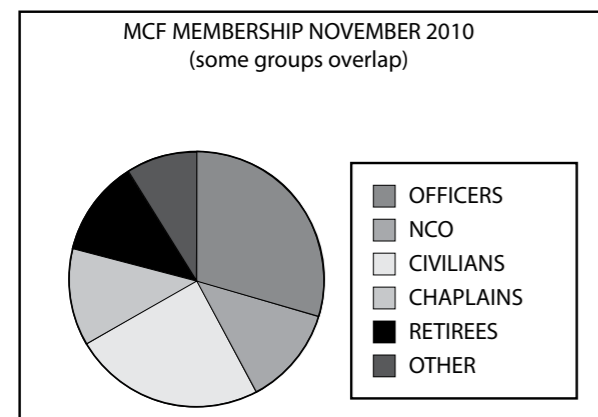
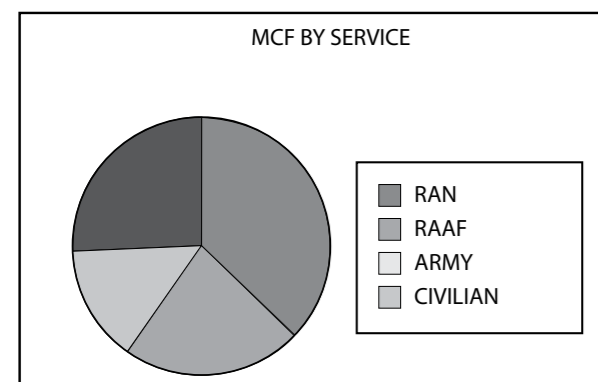
Supports and facilitates *Operation Fruitful Tree*, the MCF Strategic Plan, by facilitating the objectives:

- being an instrument through which others in the ADF are led to Christ
- encouraging, supporting, and developing Christians in the ADF, especially when deployed
- supporting actively the ministry of ADF Christian Chaplains

## How does this happen?

Through:

- **communication** between members
- **support** of members, particularly through the Council and Area Representatives
- **resources** for members
- **administration** through the MCF office



## 3 areas of particular interest:

### Staff Worker Visits:

- Since July 2010 I have visited DSTO Edinburgh, RAAF Edinburgh, HMAS Albatross, HMAS Cerberus, RAAF East Sale, Defence Plaza Melbourne, HQJOC, Campbell Park, ASCS Weston, HMAS Harman, RAAF Williams-Laverton, Robertson BKS, HMAS Coonawarra, DSTO Port Melbourne
- These visits are great opportunities to meet MCF people, the Chaplains and attend group meetings. They also provide a grass roots understanding of MCF in contrast to the mainly electronic view from the Canberra office.
- An increasing role for the visits is sharing news of other groups and encouraging prayer for each other. It would be great to hear from you on what God is doing in your small group or ministry.
- I am planning to visit Queensland members mid 2011.

### MCF Events:

- The latter half of 2010 has been a busy time with MCF related events: Defence Christians Dinner, Battlesmart Seminar, AGM and FCMM Dinner and Seminar. You'll find reports on these events in other sections of Crossfire.
- Plans are underway for the AMCF (Association of Military Christian Fellowships) Conference in October 2012. Delegates from SW Pacific countries will gather in Brisbane for 3 days of learning and encouragement.

### What Does MCF 'look like'?

- Changes to our database have enabled a 'snapshot' of MCF. This helps us to be strategic in future planning.
- Currently MCF has 51 Centurions and 38 Prayer Warriors. Please invite other Defence Christians to become an MCF member or Centurion so we can together contribute to building Gods kingdom in the ADF. Applications to become a member of MCF and/or a Centurion are included in this magazine.

### And lastly, the words that shape my role as Staff Worker:

*'He (the Lord) has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'*  
Micah 6:8 NRSV

# Evangelism Update

CAPT Katie Chapman

I have been steadily analysing a range of different resources for evangelism and have written summaries about them in order to try and help members choose the right resource for their situation. There are items available NOW for loan, purchase or free of charge from MCF through the National Staff Worker, Ann Lock. I hope to get the information on the Resources page on the website soon!

## Evangelism resources currently available include:

**Going Public:** a DVD package aimed at building relationships with people in the workplace such that the topic of Christianity can be discussed.

**Gospel Talk:** a booklet by Fighting Words ministries that has tools and ways to broach the topic of Christianity with someone and get a meaningful discussion happening. It is aimed primarily at the 18-26 year-old bracket.

**For Christ's Sake:** a booklet designed to introduce a single reader to Jesus' character, and discuss this with a Christian friend.

**Alpha Course:** a ten week DVD introduction to Christianity.

**Christianity Explored:** a 10 week Bible study based introduction to Christianity course, that can be shortened to around 6 weeks.

**Christianity Explained:** a 6 week bible study based introduction to Christianity course.



The Forum for Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) was a great opportunity to discuss what other ministries are using and what is working for them. We are all committed to sharing our knowledge, so soon we will have further summaries about additional tools available and will hopefully increase our collection available for members to use.

We have also started building a collection of encouragement materials for members to borrow. These also have a short summary to help members choose the right book for their growth. So far these include *Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis and *Driven by Eternity* by John Bevere. If you have found a particular book,

website or resource helpful to you as a Christian in Defence, I encourage you to write a short summary about it and send it to the National Staff Worker for consideration by the council. I am looking at increasing our resources for base Bible studies as well. I want to ensure MCF nourishes and supports its members so we can be effective as living examples of God in our work places, which will in turn lead people to God!

# Do You Have Praying Parents?

## HomeGuard – A New Prayer Network for Mothers and Fathers of Military Personnel

When a son or daughter enlists in the military world, it produces a wide range of emotions within the parents and other family members. These emotions are intensified during periods of deployment; demanding training sessions or times of personal challenge.

The purpose of **'HomeGuard Australia'** is to connect Parents of Australian Defence Force Personnel, encouraging prayer

for their sons & daughters, especially those on the front lines of war. It will also provide support to the parents. It is a highly confidential and secure network, founded by an Ordained Minister and chaplain, who also has a son in the army.

**ATTENTION MILITARY PERSONNEL:** If you think your Mum or Dad would be interested in this network, send an email to [homeguardaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:homeguardaustralia@gmail.com).



# MCF – CENTURION LIST

NAME		RANK
Allan	Gary	COL (RETD)
Bayliss	Jan	Ms
Bielenberg	Helen	MRS
Bielenberg	Russell	LTCOL (RETD)
Blagg	James	WGCDR
Burton	Eric	CHAP
Cannon	Geoff	CMDR
Chapman	Katie	CAPT
Colton	Gregory	CAPT
Cosh	Robert	CPL
Couper	Jonathon	CAPT
Davies	Owen	CHAP
Fowle	Gary	WO2
Hays	Samuel	Mr
Hoskin	Amy	Mrs
Jobst	Mark	LTCOL
Kaese	Oliver	POPT
Lawson	Rebecca	MS
Lawson	Stuart	Mr
Liston	Peter	CAPT
Lock	Ann	REV
Lock	Garry	CHAP
Luck	David	CHAP
McPhan	Ken	GPCAPT (RETD)
Muller	Marcaus	MAJ
Mumford	Mick	LTCOL
Mumford	Janet	MRS
Neuhaus	Steve	CHAP
Ruting	Trevor	RADM
Stephens	Robert	CCOM
Stephens	Merilyn	SREP
Stoll	Talei	LS
Stone	Gary	CHAP
Sutherland	Rob	CHAP
Urlichs	Troy	SGT
van Heel	James	LTCOL
Vandeppeer	Bruce	LCDR
Webb	Shaun	SGT
Williams	David	MAJ
Wright	Jason	CHAP



## Farewell

CHAP Owen and Hazel Davies have moved to Jindabyne to take up an appointment with the Parish of Berridale and The Snowy Mountains. Owen has been a member of MCF for many years and recently served on the council as Members' Rep. We wish them well in their new role.

Mr Rodney Peet has taken up a non-Defence position and therefore resigned the position he has held for a number of years as Area Representative at RAAF Williamtown. We are grateful for the valued contribution Rod has made to the work of Military Christian Fellowship through the Williamtown Christian Network and wish him well for the future

## Congratulations



SQNLDR James Leitch and Sarah welcomed their daughter Naomi Edna born 21 August. [A]



B



C

LCDR Samantha Woods and Matt welcomed a son, Michael John who arrived safely on the afternoon of 6 October, weighing 3.7kg (8 pound 6 ounces). [B]

Mr Jonathan Thow and Megan welcomed their daughter Sarah Rose, born on 12 January and sister to Michael. [C]

LTCOL James van Heel and Johanna welcomed their daughter Jemma, born 4 January and sister to Joel and Jonte. [D]

PO Oliver Kaese and Nicole welcomed twin daughters, Eleanor and Mia born on 13 January. [E]



D



E

# Areas Reps/Contacts Listing

If your area is not listed please contact:

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**Russell Offices**  
Contact: MAJ Thomas Bielenberg  
Email: [thomas.bielenberg@defence.gov.au](mailto:thomas.bielenberg@defence.gov.au)





*"To everyone who knocks..."*



*"The door will be opened"* (Matthew 7:8)