

CROSSFIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA † NUMBER 23 † JULY 2012



National Day of Prayer | Supporting the Community | Spiritual Bootcamp



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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, CP3-1-160 Campbell Park Offices, Canberra, ACT, 2600 Australia.

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Your contribution will help support the work of MCF within the Australian Defence Force.



contents

- 1 Chairman's Report
- 2 Chaplain's Corner
- 3 National Day of Prayer for Defence
- 5 Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) Conference - October 2012
- 8 Faith under Fire Implementation
- 10 How to Survive the Battlefield of Life
- 11 Defence Christians Dinner 2012
- 12 Application for Membership of MCF
- 14 MCF Seminar - Spiritual Bootcamp
- 15 Fresh Starts: When military life means a new beginning to fellowship
- 16 The Impact of Christians on Society
- 17 Staff Worker Report
- 18 Forum of Christian Military Ministeries (FCMM)
- 19 Solid Rock Ministeries
- 20 Kingdom Generosity through Blood Donation
- 20 Bible Society
- 21 Bob Kenneth Obituary
- 22 HomeGuard Australia
- 22 MCF Centurion List
- 23 News from Afghanistan
- 23 MCF Small Group Code of Conduct
- 24 Reflection on the National Day of Prayer
- 24 Congratulations

From the editor...

Mr David Coleman
(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: AB Andrew Dakin
After a challenging first week of the Fleet Concentration Period, HMAS Collins drops anchor in Jervis Bay on sunset.



Chairman's Report

LTCOL Jamie van Heel



Long ago the military came to understand that strict discipline is essential for changing habits, in fact it was the professional army that invented "boot camp." In the initiatory experience of boot camp, all soldiers endured their wills being broken, their bodies hardened, and their minds indoctrinated, or reprogrammed. Boot camp today is a system of intense disciplines that you cannot just walk away from. It is the bridge between what you were and what you are to become.

We all need a Spiritual Boot Camp. Jesus had his wilderness experience where he spent 40 days in the desert and conquered his earthly desires. He was left tired, hungry, and thirsty, however was able to resist the temptations that his enemy the devil was putting before him. Many other biblical characters also had some kind of wilderness experience to equip them for God's service.

I'd like to thank the outgoing Council member CAPT Mark Bali for his service as Secretary over the past two years. He has been an extremely valued member of the team who has additionally assisted with the production of the Crossfire magazine and MCF Seminars. I'd like to welcome LCDR Daniel Sutherland as the new Secretary and WGCDCR Alf Jonas as the new evangelism coordinator.

Lisa Thomas, our new Staff Worker is settling in well. She has been a great support to the MCF Council keeping contact with the MCF regional POCs and the general membership. Lisa is working 5 days a week however we are currently only able to support her financially for 3 days per week. I'd like to increase her pay in the 2nd half of this year, which will be possible through the generosity of our membership.

MCF hosted the National Day of Prayer for Defence on 24 March; a spiritually significant event for Australian Defence Organisation. The 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 ADF culture and the implementation of the Pathways to Change strategy, Chaplains, and Defence senior leaders. An article on the National Day of Prayer appears later in this edition of Crossfire.

The ADF Faith Under Fire Course is now available through chaplains and is a great resource for Defence personnel to understand from a historical perspective who Jesus was and to understand the concept of spiritual resilience. I assisted chaplains run a course from 29 March to 10 May in Russell Offices. I encourage MCF members to become involved with their chaplains in leading this initiative and inviting their work mates to participate in the course.

The next Defence Christians dinner is scheduled for Friday 31 August (see page 11) where we are privileged to have the former Governor General of Australia MAJ GEN Mike Jeffery sharing with us on Christian leadership.

The MCF Seminar titled Spiritual Boot camp is scheduled for Saturday 1 September, following the dinner (see p14). The seminar will encourage and equip Defence personnel to increase their spiritual discipline and resilience in the physical and spiritual battlespace. We have a great list of guest speakers including GEN Hurley, BRIG Fortune, Christian athletes, PCHAP Earl and Sean Stanton.

Australia is hosting the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) conference in Brisbane from 1-4 October. We are expecting representatives from 10 SW Pacific countries and you are most welcome to be part of this conference. Details are enclosed in this issue.

MCF have developed a relationship with the Bible Society in 2012 which will enable MCF members to access Bible Society resources, and MCF to incorporate international Defence Christian products into our deployment packs. I am participating in the Bible Society's Live in the Light campaign (refer page 20).

The Olympic Games are just around the corner and we as Christians are all competing in our spiritual Olympic Games. The difference is our race is for the duration of our time here on earth.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1Corinthians 9: 24-27



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Murray Earl



The Lord's Prayer (also known as The Disciples' Prayer as it was the disciples whom asked Jesus, to teach them to pray).

This prayer is mentioned twice in the New Testament, in Matthew 6: 5-15, as part of the great Sermon on the Mount and in Luke 11:1-13 as part of general teaching on prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is a many layered "model" prayer and the layers of this prayer are staggering. It can be understood at a spiritual, psychological, physical and mental level; in fact the sheer breadth of this simple prayer of less than fifty words is the study of a lifetime. This prayer in fact, studies us over a life time.

This prayer has been the standard prayer of the church in season and out of season since the beginning. Children can know it, illiterate people can remember it, worshipping people join together in saying it and dying people recall it, ere they tread the verge of Jordan. This prayer is usually said at baptisms, weddings and funerals, for it is the prayer of the people called "Christian".

It derives from the practical elements of daily life, thus the disciples engaging questions, "*Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples*". (Luke 11:1-13) In the Matt 6:5-15 version of the Lord's Prayer, John is not mentioned.

Two aspects about prayer emerge out of this request. Firstly, that prayer has to be learned and secondly, that it can be learnt from others. This reality should be front and centre then, in any quest to be a person of prayer. There are basically two versions available today, one in the Elizabethan language of history and a more modern version; both basically say the same thing.

The prayer begins with *Our Father* in the Matthew edition and simply *Father* in the Luke version. In Matthew the prayer is couched in the context of private prayer. Jesus enjoins his followers to be circumspect in prayer, it is a private business between the believer and God as Father which carries a certain intimacy unique to the relationship. However, at the same

time such a relationship is corporate, thus the prefix *Our* to the Father *in heaven*. As John Wesley said, God knows nothing of "private" faith. While we have a personal faith, we always belong to the family of faith, the church. So in our prayers, even in our "closet", our prayer is always *Our Father*, not my father as we join our prayers with others around the world to be the body of Christ, universal.

The Lord's Prayer then follows on with seven petitions. They are simple statements and requests about the nature of Christian living and prayer. The Luke version is specific about the constancy of prayer and how to be a person of prayer, is to be consistently vigilant. God seems to like persistence.

The seven petitions are:

1. Hallowed be your name
2. Your kingdom come
3. Your will be done (on earth as it is in heaven)
4. Give us this day our daily bread
5. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those whom sin against us.
6. Save us in the time of trial (lead us not into temptation)
7. and deliver us from evil.

The prayer is not dissimilar to the Ten Commandments. It (like the Ten Commandments) starts off in acknowledging the nature of God and our need to acknowledge whom God is in essence, and our response to that understanding (1-3), then moves to our relationship with others in the world we inhabit (4-7). To work out what this means will take a lifetime and just when you think you have some understanding of it, another layer appears.

In some traditions an ascription or doxology concludes the prayer, *for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory...*, or in the modern version *for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours....* This is a song of praise and thanksgiving.

The Lord's Prayer carries within it the four basic elements of prayer summarised in the acronym, ACTS. Adoration (1-2), Confession (5), Thanksgiving (1, 2, 4) and Supplication (or intercessions, - prayers for ourselves and others) (4-7). All prayer should carry these aspects of prayer, as they are included in almost all prayers in the Bible of which there are many.

One way to learn to pray is to write down each line of this prayer with a space under each line, then pray the prayer and add in your responses to each of the seven petitions. Over time the depth and breadth of this prayer of our Lord will be to us - life.

Lord teach us to pray.....



National Day of Prayer for Defence

LTCOL Jamie van Heel



The inaugural National Day of Prayer for Defence was held on Saturday 2 April 2011. The MCF Council was approached by a Defence member's wife, Jacqueline Bedson, in February 2011 to hold a National Day of Prayer for Defence. I prayed about this suggestion and sensed that God was saying to me that this day was on God's heart for the ADF in moving forward and it would be a strategically significant spiritual occasion where Defence Christians can stand in the gap for Defence service men and women and the Defence Organisation.

This year's National Day of Prayer for Defence on 24 March was held in 12 locations across Australia and internationally in Afghanistan and Thailand. I appreciate the commitment of MCF members and Defence Christians to allocate time to praying for the ADF in a challenging time for Defence members, families, leaders, and government.

This year we prayed for protection of our Service men and women on operations and those who have been physically, mentally or spiritually injured whilst in the Service. We also prayed for ADF culture and implementation of the Pathway to Change Strategy, ADF Faith Under Fire Course implementation by the chaplains, the SW Pacific AMCF Conference in Brisbane 1-4 Oct 12 and unity between Defence Christian military ministries. A more detailed record of what was prayed for in on the MCF website www.mcf-a.org.au.

As I was praying for what was on God's heart for this prayer day, I had a sense that personal and corporate reconciliation was on God's agenda. As you know, sin separates us from God

and he wants us to keep short accounts with him so we can boldly come into his throne room and be intimate with him as he designed us for worship and relationship. I was led to 1 and 2 Samuel and I read about David, a man after God's own heart, a military man, a leader, a worshipper. He knew what it was like to go against the natural odds and be victorious with God's power in defeating Goliath, leading the armies of Israel to glorious victories, suffering from persecution under King Saul with numerous attempts to take his life, and writing psalms as a gift of worship to express his intimate relationship with God.

As much as David was a man after God's own heart he also fell into temptation through adultery with Bathsheba and then tried to cover up his sin by having her husband Uriah brought back from the front line to be with her. When this plan failed he sent Uriah to the front line to be killed in order to avoid exposing his sin. The prophet Nathan then told David that he knew what David had done. At this, David wrote Psalm 51, a psalm of heartfelt repentance. I recommend that you read it.

What can Jesus teach us about prayer?

Jesus demonstrated a regular and passionate prayer life, sometimes in public and sometimes alone. He also prayed at critical moments in his life. Jesus taught His followers to pray a simple daily prayer. You may know it by heart already as "The Lord's Prayer," but it will become more meaningful to you if you take time to think about what each phrase means. Then say it in your own words:

- "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name." At the beginning of your prayer, acknowledge that God is your Father. For example, you might pray, "God, thank you for loving me and adopting me as your child, though I did nothing to deserve your love."



- “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” These phrases are all about your desire to have God’s ideals acted out here on earth. Ask God to show you what he wants done today and to give you the energy or courage to do it. Ask him to show you any ways in which you might be unaware you are doing something that is less than his ideal and to help you change.
- “Give us this day our daily bread.” Ask God to provide for you physically today. Feel free to ask for other needs such as well. Get specific about what you need and thank him for the ways he has provided for you in the past.
- “And forgive us our trespasses even as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Ask God to forgive you for those things you know you have done wrong. You may want to pray for God’s help in conquering a sin that keeps recurring in your life. Ask God for his forgiveness and thank him. Then, think about whether there is anyone in your life who you have not forgiven. Take a moment to mentally forgive others. Ask God to intervene in those areas of your life.
- “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” After praying for forgiveness, pray for protection from temptations and evil for self and family.
- “For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.” Acknowledge that God has the power to answer your prayers and perform what he has promised.

For God’s kingdom to come and God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven within the Australian Defence Organisation, God prompted me to develop a prayer for Defence reconciliation to God. This is a powerful prayer that is spiritually significant.

Prayer for Defence reconciliation

Lord, we thank you that you have great plans and purposes for the Australian Defence Organisation. We are sorry that there have been occasions where we as Defence members, past and present, may have not appropriately exercised our responsibilities and have caused physical, mental and spiritual injuries to other members. Additionally, our culture has been tolerant of some of these actions. These actions have served Defence poorly, hurting our people and damaging our reputation. We admit our shortfalls and seek your wisdom Lord Jesus and acknowledge that it is only through your atoning sacrifice at Calvary and the blood that you shed, that our sins can be forgiven. We want to be in alignment with your will. We thank you that through taking hold of your victory at Calvary we can trust your word that you will purify us from all unrighteousness as we have confessed our sin before you. We desire to learn your ways. By faith, with your leading and guidance, we will be able to deal with the past and move

forward into your will for us. We thank you for the strength that comes from our Godly heritage and we desire to take on the values of your kingdom culture of right honour, respect and truth. Lord, give our senior leadership your wisdom to implement changes to our culture that conform to your will, and give our Defence members the right attitude to change aspects of our culture that are not becoming to you and our professional Defence organisation. We commit our Defence organisation into your hands and pray that righteous men and women will lead it to fulfil the purposes and plans that you have for our Defence organisation and our nation.

In Jesus name.
Amen



Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) Conference

“Hands Across the Pacific”

Brisbane Conference 1-4 Oct 12



Don't miss this exciting opportunity to join hands with fellow Christians from other Pacific nations in a Journey of Faith and shared experiences.

The vision of AMCF is to encourage the formation and growth of military Christian fellowships (MCFs) within and among national security forces. The goal of the AMCF is for every country in the world to have a mature and effective MCF. The motto of the AMCF is **“All one in Christ Jesus”** and that is what we pray and seek to be.

AMCF has members today in the security forces of some 120 nations, of which over 100 now have an MCF. About half of those nations have one or more established military Christian fellowships, and many have informal gatherings of military Christians who, for several important reasons, are not formally established.

AMCF has 14 regional vice presidents. Their role is to encourage the national MCFs and coordinate regional activities. The AMCF Vice President of the SW Pacific region is Principal Chaplain Eric Burton.

Eric and Lynda Burton made some very useful contacts in Western Samoa and Tonga courtesy of the cruise liner Dawn Princess. We discussed with local contacts the upcoming Brisbane AMCF conference, handed out the advertising brochure and encouraged them to identify those emerging Christian leaders who could be greatly encouraged by attending the Brisbane conference and possibly the world 2014 AMCF conference in South Africa.

Australia is hosting the AMCF South-West Pacific Conference in Brisbane from 1 – 4 October 2012 at the Brookfield Convention Centre. Join us at the Conference, learn of the challenges facing us all and become partners in your Christian walk with your military and emergency services colleagues from other South-West Pacific nations. We anticipate strong attendance from Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Korea, Micronesia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, with a number of other regional nations also expressing enthusiastic interest. Contribute to this important ministry as a member of the Australian contingent at the Conference; there is still time and space if you would like to come.

Full details and the registration form are available from the MCF website www.mcf-a.org.au. The Conference begins with registration from 3.00pm on Monday 1 October and concludes after lunch on Thursday 4 October 2012. Serving personnel should contact Lisa Thomas at the MCF Office to register for the conference. The conference costs just \$345, including registration, accommodation and meals. If you require a letter from the MCF Chairman to attend on duty, please advise Lisa with your registration. Are you unable to attend for service reasons? Perhaps you could contribute to the attendance of Pacific nation representatives by making a tax deductible donation to the MCF marked “AMCF Conference Sponsorship”. We are seeking to raise twenty thousand dollars to subsidise travel costs for SW Pacific attendees who do not have funds to travel themselves. Please pray for funding to support SW Pacific delegates, for the administrative arrangements to go smoothly for delegates and that those who God wants to be there will be able to attend.





AMCF South West Pacific Regional Conference

Brisbane 1 - 4 October 2012

Location

Queensland Conference and Camping Centre, Brookfield, Brisbane, Australia. The conference centre is located 25 minutes from the Brisbane CBD in a beautiful park and forest setting which includes a swimming pool. (See <http://www.qccc.com.au/gallery.aspx?id=1> for more information and photographs of the conference location).

Accommodation

Most accommodation will be in single or twin bedrooms, with a few people sharing each bathroom. In some cases up to five delegates of the same sex will share a dormitory. There are also facilities for handicapped persons. Brookfield is fully catered.

All meals plus morning tea, afternoon tea and supper will be provided.

Who should attend?

Serving and retired military and security forces personnel and their spouses from nations in the Pacific are invited to attend. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a children's programme.

Major speakers

Chaplain Maumau Monu of the Australian Army and Chaplain Misael Boude of PNG will speak on the conference theme.

Drawing on his experience including a deployment in Afghanistan, Chaplain Al Lavaki will speak on "I lift up my eyes to the hills: where will I find help?"

Workshops

The topics addressed by the major speakers will be expanded upon in several workshops. These include:

- Integrity in handling money and possessions in professional life and in the family.
- "Model" Christian military family including dealing with separations and deployment.
- "Maintaining faith under fire" – facing challenges to our faith.
- Christian leadership in the military/police.

Costs (per person)

Registration fee: \$95 (This is to be forwarded with the registration form and is non-refundable after 31 August except for official military reasons).

Accommodation and meals: \$250

While the most benefit of the conference will be obtained by living in, day visitors are welcome. The cost of day visits will be provided on application. Please note that only food provided by the conference centre may be consumed there.

Payment Methods

See the registration form.

Please note that Account No 20753492 is not to be used for tax-deductible donations.

Support for Pacific Delegates

You are invited to help make this opportunity available to representatives from the Pacific Islands by making a tax-deductible donation to the MCF of Australia, earmarked "Regional Conference." If making a donation by cheque or money order you are asked to send it as a separate payment from your registration form. You may also make a direct deposit to the Military Christian Fellowship account BSB 803205, Account No 20325435. \$95 will pay a registration fee; \$430 will pay registration, accommodation and insurance; around \$1600 will pay an average fare. Your fellowship or church group could consider how they could help.

Where to submit

Registration Forms

Forms are to be sent to:
AMCF Regional Conference
MCF-A
Campbell Park Offices
CP3-1-160
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Registration may also be done by email to mcf.office@defence.gov.au provided that a direct deposit of the registration fee has been made.

Closing Date

Registration forms and the registration fee should be returned by 10 August. Later applications will be accepted if accommodation is available.





AMCF South West Pacific Regional Conference

Brisbane 1 - 4 October 2012

Your Details

Given Name:	<input type="text"/>	Family Name:	<input type="text"/>
Rank/Title:	<input type="text"/>		
Phone:	Day:	<input type="text"/> (include country code if outside Australia)	
	Night:	<input type="text"/> (include country code if outside Australia)	
Fax number:	<input type="text"/> (if applicable)		
eMail:	<input type="text"/>		

Postal Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Spouse/partner (if attending)

Given Name:	<input type="text"/>	Family Name:	<input type="text"/>
Rank/Title:	<input type="text"/>		
Phone:	Day:	<input type="text"/> (include country code if outside Australia)	
	Night:	<input type="text"/> (include country code if outside Australia)	
eMail:	<input type="text"/>		

Are you currently a member of MCF or another Christian group in your Defence/Security force? Yes / No

Do you require accommodation at the conference venue for the period of the conference? Yes / No

Please specify any special dietary requirements:

Do you wish to have your name and contact details published on the Conference delegate list? Yes / No

For Overseas Visitors Only:

Do you require a home stay before or after the conference?	Before:	<input type="text"/> Yes / No	After:	<input type="text"/> Yes / No
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Payment: (please tick your selected payment option)

I have included a cheque/ money order for _____ (\$95 AUS/person) registration fee

OR

I have made a direct deposit to the AMCF Account for \$ _____

(Please include your surname in the Reference field: **AMCF Conf-Surname**)

BSB: 803205

A/C: 20753492

Signed: _____ Date: _____

REGISTRATION FORM



Faith Under Fire Implementation

PCHAP Len Eacott



How has it been received?

Since its launch by CDF in July last year, popularity in the ADF's Faith Under Fire course has grown steadily. The course seeks to raise awareness in Defence that what we believe matters, while dispelling the myth that there is no such thing as a neutral position (including atheism). The key messages of the course highlight the importance of spiritual fitness; the profound impact of the Christian faith on Australian culture and the ADF; and that Defence members should consider their personal belief to be relevant in their service career.

Faith Under Fire has aroused interest from within Defence and the general public. Each of the three Service papers recently included articles from chaplains discussing the importance of spiritual fitness, as well as their own experience with the course.

An ABC Radio National programme which aired on ANZAC Day featured Faith Under Fire as well as the important role chaplains play in people's lives, especially for those on deployment. This was a 'good news' story for Defence as the public got to hear the value the ADF places on caring comprehensively for its people.

Faith Under Fire courses have been conducted on deployment and in barracks, including a course recently run jointly by chaplains and MCF at Russell, Canberra. Although Faith Under Fire has been designed primarily to be led by chaplains, this should not limit others who would also like to lead a course.

A Navy chaplain is currently training junior leaders to run courses on their own, aboard ship. This is a great initiative and highlights the versatility of the course, that it can be led by a variety of people in a wide range of settings across Defence. MCF groups should also be encouraged to consider running their own Faith Under Fire courses, coordinated through their local chaplain who can obtain course material and provide assistance if necessary.

Although best suited for use in small groups, some leaders have said that one-to-one delivery has also been well received. A chaplain on operations recently mentioned that he was able to give the DVD and Course Manual to people to view in their own time. He followed this up with regular one-on-one discussion about the questions and issues raised in the course. Thinking through the most appropriate way to promote and present Faith Under Fire may take time, but it is an essential step in helping people to engage with the course material.

Faith Under Fire has been formally approved as a Defence course. It has a PMKeys number and comes under Defence's character leadership training. The course is being pitched to COs and senior officers as being highly relevant to human capability development. While it focuses on explaining the claims and historical evidence of the Christian faith in detail, it does so in a way that enables participants to objectively consider the information presented and to think through its implications. This may become a very personal journey for some and involve further investigation into what it means to be a Christian. However, those considering leading courses should also be mindful that Defence members need freedom to engage in the course in a way that is informing and challenging, but at the same time respectful of the beliefs they currently hold and the stated purpose of the course.

Whatever the response to Faith Under Fire, the challenge is to keep the place of faith in a modern Defence Force alive. The relevance and importance of faith for many in uniform is clearly evident and Faith Under Fire is one means of exploring this topic.

If you have not done the course or would like to know more, why not contact your local chaplain for information.

The following article is a fuller version of the one recently featured in Army News and highlights the importance of belief in the ADF environment.





Does what you believe matter?

Chaplain Grant Dibden



Military combat is the most demanding activity anyone can be involved in. It pushes people to their limits, demanding each individual give their all - physically, mentally, emotionally and even spiritually.

War can bring out the best and worst in people. In combat our personnel have society's ultimate sanction in their hands: the controlled and deliberate use of force. This may involve the destruction of life and property. Junior leaders and soldiers are frequently challenged to make tough decisions, under pressure in complex environments. This tremendous responsibility is borne by personnel who are often young and relatively inexperienced in life. The character of each soldier can be critical to how they cope.

For this reason our senior officers and allies have always recognised the importance of developing good character. Army reflects this in its comprehensive approach to soldier fitness and in its aspirations under Army Objective Force 2030.

In this context, what a person believes matters. Our beliefs have a profound impact on our worldview, values, morals, ethics; all of which are closely linked to our character. We cannot pretend that combat calls on every aspect of our being without also considering the significance that our beliefs and character play.

Recently, the ADF Faith Under Fire courses were attended by more than 70 personnel on deployment in Timor. HQ FORCOMD has also just run the same course. Faith Under Fire addresses belief and character in Defence. It is a DVD-based course that has a contemporary, ADF view of life. It offers a way to explore this topic and seeks to help prepare our people for the uncertainties and difficulties faced in combat and in the barracks.

Here some feedback from HQ FORCOMD personnel on Faith Under Fire:

LTCOL Mick Abrahams said "Not only is it incredibly valuable personally, in terms of knowing yourself, but it is an indispensable tool for those in command positions to understand what is the basis of belief of many of those under their command."

WO1 Clay Baker "Any soldier would benefit from attending the course".

LTCOL Craig Bickell said "It is an honest, down to earth examination of the historical person Jesus that provides an understanding of the Christian faith's influence on western civilization that continues to influence people in the ADF today. It's suitable for all regardless of rank, belief or religious persuasion."

Belief is a fundamental part of character and understanding ourselves will help to prepare us and those we care for and lead. Attending or running a Faith Under Fire course may be time well spent.

Please contact your local chaplain if you would like to know more about Faith Under Fire, or if you would like to receive the DVD and course manual.



How to Survive the Battlefield of Life

Ross Babbage



“Perhaps we should focus on the tough issues that face every teenager as they progress to adulthood,” was the tentative suggestion from a youth group leader.

“Yeah, let’s focus on the hard issues. That’s really cool!” responded a vivacious young woman. “I think that many young people would be interested in learning how to cope with the tough issues they face.”

That was where the new Christian outreach initiative on the South Coast of NSW gained serious traction. While there are several church youth groups on the coast most local teenagers know little about Christianity. The teenage Christians in the Presbyterian Youth Group decided to do something about it.

The principals of the local high schools were all enthusiastic, promising to promote the planned activities and give free access to school facilities. Many parents and even sections of the local media offered support. Several church congregations prayed fervently.

But who could best teach teenagers how to prepare themselves for the tough times ahead? There were several good suggestions; a leading Christian international aid worker, a Christian doctor or nurse who has returned from a tough overseas posting, and then someone suggested inviting one or two Christian ADF officers to come and share their experiences.

Jamie van Heel from MCF and David Stephens from Fighting Words jumped at the opportunity. They generously agreed to travel down from Canberra to present to a group of unknown size at Moruya High.

During the lead-up the local towns were plastered with “*Surviving the Battlefield: Keeping Body and Soul Together*” posters and most of the local newspapers and radio stations ran stories about the initiative.

Presentation evening saw heavy rain, flooded roads and ‘stay inside’ weather. Nevertheless, 64 people arrived, donned name tags, watched video and slide presentations and listened intently to the lessons Jamie and David shared.

David talked not only about God’s comfort and guidance on Defence operations but also when climbing some extremely challenging cliff faces. Jamie talked primarily about the lessons from his command experience in the Sudan. They



both emphasised the importance of young people building physical, emotional and spiritual resilience.

Jamie quoted from Psalm 91:

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday....If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

Jamie also explained the strength that he drew from the passage in Ephesians 6 which encourages us to:

“be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God....”

When the formalities finished there was no rush for the doors. Nearly everyone stayed to talk over supper and many parents joined us. Most were still there an hour later! It was a promising start to this new outreach ministry.



Defence Christians Dinner 2012

Friday 31st August 2012

'Service in the Spiritual Dimension'

You are invited to the Defence Christians Dinner for 2012

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

Major General (Retd) Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC

At age 16, Michael Jeffery left Perth to attend the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He served in Infantry and Special Forces serving operationally in Malaya, Borneo, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam, where he was awarded the Military Cross and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

He has served as the Commanding Officer of SASR and many high level appointments including the Director of Army Special Forces.

Currently he is Chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, The Global Foundation, FDI and Outcomes Australia and patron of some other 18 charitable organisations.

Married to Marlena, he enjoys golf, cricket, fishing, reading and music.

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

Please email your booking details to:

Lisa Thomas
mcf.office@defence.gov.au

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)

Enquiries

Lisa Thomas
Email: mcf.office@defence.gov.au
Phone: 02 6266 4950

Cost (per person):

Earlybird (pay before 10 August)	\$50
Standard (pay before 24 Aug)	\$55
Late (pay after 24 Aug)	\$60
Group Bookings (8 or more before 24 Aug)	\$50

Payment Methods

Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include reference: "**Your name — Dinner 2012**"
Bank: Defence Force Credit Union
Account Name: **Military Christian Fellowship**
BSB: **803-205**
Account Number: **20753492**
DEFECREDIT Member Number (if required): **66126**

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to: *Military Christian Fellowship*

Mail to: Lisa Thomas
CP3-1-160
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Application for Membership of MCF

Return to Military Christian Fellowship-A, Campbell Park Offices CP3-1-160,
Northcott Drive, MAJURA, 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: _____

MCF Centurions make a difference in the ADF

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

Mailing Address): _____

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 \$10, \$20, \$50 or \$100 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: _____

Date: _____

Return to:

Military Christian Fellowship-Australia, CAMPBELL PARK OFFICES: CP3 -1-160
Northcott Drive, MAJURA, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

For further information ring MCF Staff Worker on 02 626 64950 or email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Only MCF members can become Centurions. MCF membership and Centurion forms are available online at www.mcf-a.org.au, from the MCF Office at CP3-1-160, 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.



SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia - Seminar 2012



Saturday, 1st September 2012

The MCF Spiritual Boot Camp Seminar will encourage and equip Defence personnel to increase their spiritual discipline and resilience in the physical and spiritual battlespace.

The military has come to understand that strict discipline is essential to changing habits. A boot camp is the bridge between what you were and what you are becoming. Jesus had his wilderness experience for 40 days in the desert. David, a man after God's own heart also spent much time in the wilderness. Their experiences focused their spiritual discipline and resilience and equipped them for ministry.

The MCF Seminar is open to anyone associated with the Defence community who would like to exercise and strengthen their spiritual discipline and resilience so that they can be the people that God has created them to be to make a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Venue:

R1 Theatre
Sir Thomas Blamey Square
Russell Offices
CANNBERRA ACT

Details:

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

Contact:

MCF-A National Staff Worker
Lisa Thomas
CP3-1-160
Campbell Park Offices
Department of Defence
CANNBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6266 4950

Email: mcf_office@defence.gov.au

Website: www.mcf-a.org.au



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



Chaplain Murray Earl
MCF Chaplain's Representative



Brigadier Dan Fortune
Deputy Special Operations Commander
Special Operations Headquarters



Sean Stanton
Senior Pastor
Canberra Christian Life Centre

Booking Details

(Note: Bookings for the Defence Christians Dinner 2012 are arranged separately)

Cost:

\$30 per person

Payment Methods

Please complete your payment by 24 August 2012

Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include your name in the reference.

Account Name: Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

BSB: 803-205

Account Number: 20753492

DEFECREDIT Member Number: 66126

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to:
Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

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

Fresh starts: When military life means a new beginning to fellowship

LT Jacob Choi



It seems a long time ago when I marched off the RMC parade ground for the last time to be commissioned as a Lieutenant, but this time last year, I was still edging through the last stage of the General Service Officer course at Duntroon.

It is now April and I am not the new guy any more – at least at my unit. But on the extra-regimental side of life, I am halfway through my posting with half my foot in the door of a local church. The end of the year is crawling up and I know that Deb and I will most likely move to Albury-Wodonga. Of the next nine months I will spend half that time away from Sydney either for AACAP (EX SAUNDERS) or on course.

We are a unique community, as military Christians to experience the forefront of new experiences in both a new unit and a local church. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than a third of Australians changed their address in a recent five year study from 2001 – 2006. While most moved within their local area (71%), 1.9 million Australians relocated to a different city or region.

Defence, while unique for many reasons, is therefore not as unusual as at least one in approximately twenty Australians when it comes to relocations interstate. We are a snapshot of the Australian population and we are on par when it comes to picking up the house contents and sending them across the border.

How, then, should this translate into our interaction with a new community and the local church?

Take into account that across Defence, over 60% of families were satisfied with their links to the general community according to the *A Picture of Australian Defence Force Families* study released in 2009. In contrast, only 38% of respondents

were satisfied with their links to the Defence community – most of these leaned heavily to dual Defence partners and members whose partners were employed.

The body of Christ is a critical part of the general community – one that some Defence members shy away from, but others are drawn to. Perhaps it is too comfortable in Sydney to take for granted the many churches that are around, negating the need for base small groups. But the reality is that Christian soldiers can not afford to attend every Sunday at the same church service, given that exercises, courses and deployments often interfere with that desire.

The question then is not “how can the church accommodate Defence members?” because other professions in this age also require frequent travels. The question that we ought to present to **both the local church and Defence** is “how can military Christians commit to a ministry they can grow and participate in?”

Both the church and military will gain new people posting into a new location. While the military generally absorbs new personnel a few times a year, the church is continuously seeking new members. Retention is an important word for both arenas, as both camaraderie and fellowship can be forged only through faithful commitment.

We, the uniformed prayer warriors, can work that medium. We are given a fresh start every few years to a new community and ought not to waste that precious time before the next move comes upon us. The mission life of a service member is not necessarily sharing the gospel overseas on deployment or counselling soldiers in barracks – it is an ongoing commitment to see that the house of the Lord is influencing our local communities.

In 2 Samuel 7, David seeks to build a house for the Lord, but...

⁵“This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

We serve the God who moved with the Israelites through the desert, who is also the same God who has laid out his church across the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. We move from



one arm of his church to another arm of his church to serve his same purpose. Perhaps it is a change of attitude that will welcome us into the next church we attend for the first time – we are not merely the visitors, but the homecoming ministry team.

The Lord “will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be

disturbed” (v. 10), but our duty is to reach our local church as they endeavour to minister to the local community. Moreover, we are the crucial link to ensure that fellow Christian Defence members are welcomed into the church. Consider for the action items, “engage in small group fellowship”, “join mens’/ womens’ fellowship” and “partner with church” to be added to our march-in proforma...

The impact of Christians on Society

FLTLT Scott Minchin



As Christians it is easy for us to be thankful, we have a relationship with our loving Father, a faithful God who through his grace bestows upon us blessings beyond measure and the joy of sharing in a relationship with Christ. In our covenant with him and with fellow believers we share the joys of faith, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. But what of broader society? In examining the effects and impacts of Christianity, all too often commentary focuses on the perceived negative impacts of religion, and the ‘atheist sector’ regularly points out the varying malaises of society, that are ‘attributable’ to the church. No question about it, there are examples of where society has failed the teachings of God. These are faults of man, not God, but it begs the question, has society benefited from Christianity, and has the movement which started over 2000 years ago contributed anything meaningful and beneficial to society in general?

The answer is a resounding yes. Both contemporaneously, and historically, Christian believers have bought about significant social change to benefit the broader community. The abolition of the slave trade (chronicled in the film *Amazing Grace*) came about through the actions of Christians. Hospitals, Orphanages and Care facilities owe their establishment to Christian values. Christians pioneered women’s rights, changing the rights of women globally. The cessation of the abhorrent practice of widow burning in India can be traced to the intervention of Christians. It was Christian’s who changed the child labour laws - introducing a series of controls that prevented the exploitation of children working 16 hour days. The reform of the judicial and prison systems can be attributed to Christians. Christians are present in civil, political and social reform. It is neither hyperbole or inaccurate to note, that significant major improvements in the social well-being of humanity, can be linked to Christians. Any examination of the heart of Christianity doesn’t find the teachings of Christ wanting - the compassion, love and tolerance that drive social justice and social reform - can be linked to the efforts of Christians implementing the teachings of our Saviour. Our Saviour represented the grace, love and truth that is the heart of how we worship him, on a 24/7 basis.

In thinking about our faith and the joy it brings us, we can consider the motto of the Salvation Army in their response to natural disasters, ‘The Power of Christ Compels Us’. Society more broadly has much to be thankful for, that the messages and power of our Saviour Jesus Christ, has compelled many Christians to change the world for the better, and benefit not just those who believe, but all who share the kingdom of God.

FLTLT Scott Minchin (RAAFR) is a SECPOLO and the Vice Chairman of MCF. His journey to faith commenced as an adult, after a long time between Sunday School and attending church as an adult. He (was) a keen sportsman, is married to Jane, a teacher, and the proud dad of Cooper James Hugh. He is currently working at HQJOC as the OPSO (Force Protection) for Pacific Partnership 12, a US sponsored Humanitarian Assistance Mission.



Staff Worker Report

Mrs Lisa Thomas



I started in my role as MCF Staff Worker on 30 January this year and have been warmly welcomed by email, phone and in person. Please continue to contact me at the MCF Office at mcf.office@defence.gov.au.

The main event for February was the Defence Community Organisation Welcome day at Duntroon, where everyone who attended received a copy of a Crossfire magazine. Next year I hope to send copies of Crossfire to other DCO welcome events Australia wide.

March began with the Area Rep/POC phone conference. MCF's vision, mission and objectives as stated in the strategic plan for 2010-2014 Operation Fruitful Tree were remembered to all by MCF Chair, Jamie van Heel. A copy of Operation Fruitful tree is available on the website. Contact me if you would like a copy by email. Promoting Christian Faith in the ADF was highlighted in the reports from the MCF Group representatives and every group that participated in this conference also organised an event with their local chaplain for the National Day of Prayer for Defence. Enthusiasm generates action.

Our creative Triune God generated much prayer within the ranks of MCF for Kingdom building within the ADF and ADO through the National Day of Prayer for Defence at 13 locations across Australia and overseas in the MEAO and Thailand. It was a truly spiritually significant event for the Defence Organisation. There was flexibility for groups to meet during the week if the Saturday was not suitable for their local group. We would love you to be involved in next years National Day of Prayer for Defence, whether for a short time of prayer or

for a whole service, mass, or time of worship. During the 2012 NDoP, the Lord was praised, and the ADF was upheld in prayer.

The focus of April and May was the Faith Under Fire course. 53 busy people in Canberra committed to one or more weeks as their work permitted. They picked up a copy of the course DVD and booklet to catch up on any episodes they missed or would like to review. Each episode stands alone, yet builds a fuller picture of the whole series. Both military and civilian personnel joined this program at the R1 theatre. Smaller venues are also suitable to promote discussion.

The Defence Christians Dinner on 31 Aug and the Spiritual Bootcamp Seminar on 1 Sep are events to commit to your calendar. Former Governor General Major General Michael Jefferey will speak at the dinner, and the CDF GEN Hurley will speak at the seminar. Come along for a time of mutual encouragement and as a strong statement that Christians in Defence are alive and active!

By the time this magazine is produced, I will have visited Kapooka, and HMAS Kuttabul. I hope to also visit other chaplains, Christian military ministry workers, and MCF members at places near these. Let me know if you would like a visit from me and I will be liaise with the MCF regional POC in your area.

The Forum of Christian Military Ministry Bookmarks have arrived and have been distributed to chaplains at HMAS Cerberus and ADFA, to RSDS at RMC Duntroon, to Solid Rock Ministries, to Everyman's Bandiana, and to Fighting Words Wagga Wagga. Contact me to get some to give away. Previous grapevines have displayed them.

Prayer requests may be sent to Prayer Coordinator PO Olly Kaese, oliver.kaese@defence.gov.au who treats all requests as confidential for Prayer Warriors only. Details are left out, but hopes for healing and wholeness and blessing are most definitely included. Please contact Olly to share your load with those who are assured of God's care, intervention, and guidance.

And a blessing for all:

*May God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be the truth on which life and death are built,
the hope that cannot be destroyed,
the freedom from which love and justice flow,
and the joy that has eternity within it.*



Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM)

LTCOL Jamie van Heel



The 2011 Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) was conducted in Canberra in November last year and was facilitated by Mike Hanlon from Fighting Words Ministries. The theme was how we can better support and build up Christians in our ministries.

Each of the FCMM organisations presented their thoughts and ideas on building up Christians. PCHAP Geoff Webb and Bishop Len Eacott addressed this topic in their presentation to the Forum. PCHAP Murray Earl and PCHAP Garry Lock and Grant Dibden (National Director Navigators) spoke to the topic at the FCMM Dinner.

The covenant between FCMM ministries is 'Recognising that wherever two or three of us are together at one location Jesus

Christ is among us, we covenant to:

- Love one another
- Pray for one another
- Encourage one another
- Support one another
- Meet with one another
- Communicate with one another
- Coordinate with one another
- Cooperate with one another

To the end that Jesus Christ might be exalted."

It was agreed that we should make efforts to promulgate to our chaplains the activities that the ministries undertake to support and encourage Christians in the ADF. A Defence Christians Bookmark design was agreed to and is now available. It has a catchy photo on the front and lists the Christian ministries within the FCMM on the back.

It was agreed that a calendar of major events being run by the organisations in FCMM will be drafted. MCF agreed to co-ordinate the master calendar so we can better support and align our activities with each other. MCF agreed to co-ordinate a prayer calendar for FCMM members to pray for the big things happening in the ministry of the different organisations.

The next FCMM is planned to be conducted at the conclusion of the AMCF Regional Conference 4-5 October in Brisbane. Navigators will be leading the FCMM and the topic will be the FCMM Covenant listed above, and how we can improve the relationships between the FCMM organisations to increase the collective effect of building the kingdom of God in the ADF.



MCF, in consultation with the other Defence Christian ministries, has released three bookmarks. Two of the bookmarks feature MCF members PO Olly Kaese (Navy bookmark) and FLTLT Scott Minchin (Airforce bookmark). They were developed as part of the Forum for Christian Military Ministries and provide contact details for each of the ministries. The bookmarks are provided to training establishments for distribution to trainees and cadets.

If you would like a one, please contact Lisa Thomas at the MCF Office (mcf.office@defence.gov.au)





Solid Rock Ministries

Janet Mumford



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” Prov 3:5-6

These verses have become my life verses! There have been so many times during my season as a military wife when I turned to these verses for comfort when things did not make sense and when life was going in a direction that did not seem to fit with ‘my plan’. As a military wife so much was uncertain and out of ‘my’ control. I could not plan years in advance where

my children would go to school or where I would live at any particular time. In the previous edition of Crossfire I shared that my husband deployed last year (definitely not in ‘my’ plan) and how I had experienced a season of having my faith under fire. I shared that often it was previously memorised scripture that helped me through difficult circumstances and these verses from Proverbs were some of those that I relied upon. Even if some of what was happening did not make sense it was good to remind myself to trust in God with all my heart and not to lean on my own understanding of how things seemed. As I looked to God I could trust that He would direct my path.

Various verses from the Bible were helpful during my husband’s deployment as was a daily devotional written by and for military wives that I purchased prior to my husband’s departure. At the end of each day it was very therapeutic to read some encouragement from a woman who understood what my world was like. Some days I read two or three (they were generally “those” days) and while I will never meet the women who contributed to this devotional (written in America) it was often like sitting down and having a heart to heart with a friend who really understood the struggles, the loneliness, the emptiness and the exhaustion that comes from living the military life. These women shared their heartaches, their struggles and the way that God has helped them through. As I read their stories I found much that I could relate to. They provided me with encouragement to keep going and reminded me that I was not alone on this journey.

It was while reading the devotional that God reminded me of a dream that I have had for a number of years for a devotional for Australian military wives. Many women I talk to have stories to tell of how God has helped them in the various aspects of military life and they have graciously put pen to paper so that they can share these with others. Their stories are currently being compiled into our very own Australian military wives devotional with the prayer that they will be a source of encouragement and support for those who read it. If you would be interested in receiving a copy of the devotional once it is complete please contact me via solidrockmin@optusnet.com.au



Kingdom Generosity through Blood Donation

Sam Hayes

As Christians called to serve in ADF with our God given gifts (both natural and spiritual), we are motivated by Christ's words: "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). Our Father modelled his lavish kingdom generosity by giving us his only son Jesus (Jn 3:16). Jesus modelled kingdom generosity on earth as he ministered to people in Word, supernatural signs and deeds before shedding his blood on the cross for our forgiveness.

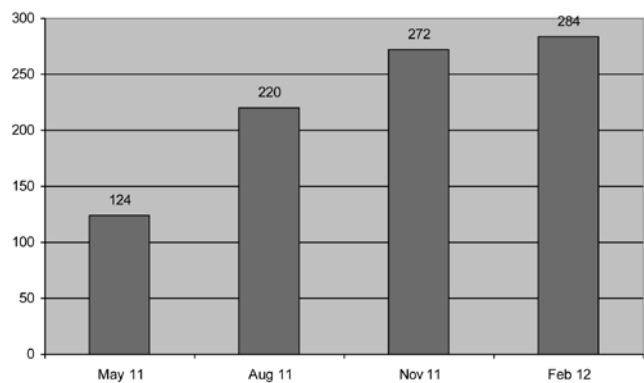
One way we can help establish kingdom generosity in our workplace is through blood and plasma donation. As we give blood and encourage others to do the same we help save lives and minister to Jesus. If Jesus were to expand his list of examples in Mt 25:35-36 I can hear him saying: "I was in need of blood and you gave it to me". It is also great to see people being blessed as they give to others in this special way.

RAAF Williamtown MCF has taken this call seriously to establish a culture extravagant blood donation at RAAF Base Williamtown. In the last 12 months there has been a dramatic

increase in blood donation as shown on graph. This has been achieved by following the leading of the Holy Spirit and implementing His strategies. Those strategies can readily be applied to any ADF work place and are based on a partnership between the local MCF group, Australian Red Cross Blood Service and base leadership.

If you would like to know more about those strategies and how you can make a difference through blood donation in your work place, please contact samuel.hays@defence.gov.au.

RAAF Williamtown Blood Donations



Bible Society

FLTLT Scott Minchin

This year, the Bible Society are running a campaign called Live Light in 25 Words. This campaign will be run with Australian churches and Christian organisations, to help Christians build a Bible habit.

Bible Society are starting with the idea that reading the Bible is easy – it can start with just 25 words. 25 words is pretty much how we communicate these days. It's what you fit in a Tweet (140 characters) or an SMS, a Facebook update or Skype, Messenger and the rest. So we're going to help everyone know God's Word the way we experience communication today, starting in short messaging.

The Bible Society believes that reading the Bible regularly is important to everyday life. The Bible Society mission is that with regular reading of a verse or two, people will form a habit

of reading God's Word; a habit that will lighten their hearts and transform their lives.

The Bible Society will have a full year of activities planned and are creating resources that will help people to start reading God's Word. All the campaign activities and resources point to October 1, the start of a month-long focus where we ask Christians to make a commitment to a Bible, and featuring friends and "influencers" in Christian ministry to read and reflect on a passage of Scripture. These will be available online as daily devotions for the whole month of October and will feature a devotional from the Chairman of the MCF, Lt Col Jamie Van Heel.

Check out www.biblesociety.org.au for more information

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)



Bob Kenneth Obituary

Russell Bielenberg (LTCOL, Retired)



Major (Retired) Bob Kenneth, a former secretary of the Officers' Christian Fellowship of Australia, one of the predecessors of the MCF, died in the UK on 25 February 2012 at the age of 92. In her tribute to him at his funeral, his daughter in part said this, "He was a brave and loyal long serving army officer with never a hint of swagger, or need of accoutrements of power or rank: He joined the army as a humble boy soldier when he was 14, went to war when he was 20. After the Dunkirk evacuation, he survived the sinking of the Lancastria on June the 17th 1940, which resulted in a record loss of life, estimated to be well over 4,000. The ship was hit by 4 enemy bombs, sank within 30 minutes, a mass of flaming oil covered the water. Thankfully, being a strong swimmer and able to help others get far away from the pull of the sinking ship and burning inferno, my father survived

in the water for many hours, eventually being picked up and taken back to Britain. He later served in North Africa (Tobruk, el Alamein defence line) in the 7th Armoured Division as a Desert Rat, took part in the invasion of Italy in 1943, and finally the intense invasion of France, Belgium and Holland in 1944 when his vehicle was destroyed by enemy gunfire. In 1951-52 he served in the Korean War."

In 1974, two years after retiring from the British army, he moved to Australia with his wife Ione. I believe I first met Bob not long before I left Canberra at the end of 1977 for a posting in Perth. At the end of 1980 he was working in Materiel Branch - Army when I returned to Canberra at the end of 1980; we attended lunch-time meetings in Russell Offices under the umbrella of the OCF. In 1981 Bob succeeded me as secretary of the OCF, a position he held until the MCF was formed in 1984. Bob was an unassuming man, but one who quietly gave encouragement and support. His taking on the role of secretary relieved me of a responsibility I had found increasingly demanding as both work and family responsibilities increased. As Helen and I later extended our military ministry to countries outside Australia through ACCTS, Bob was one who regularly prayed for us and gave us financial support until he finally retired from the public service and moved further north. Even then he continued to pray and to write letters of encouragement to us. Just five years ago, as we prepared for the last AMCF Pacific Conference and Interaction, he unexpectedly gave a large donation which gave us the confidence to proceed with those events. He was always keen to see the gospel of Christ go out into the ADF, and trusted implicitly that God would bring about his purposes through his people. We miss him and his letters.

Russell and his wife Helen serve as field staff in the Pacific and Spain for the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service.



HomeGuard Australia

Anne Iuliano



Ever wonder what your mum or dad think about you being in the Defence Forces??

It's likely that your parents are very supportive and extremely proud of you...but that they occasionally worry that you're safe or doing okay. And wish that they could just give you a hug.

Well, one thing they can do for you is PRAY!

HomeGuard Australia is a new **prayer network for parents of Australian Military Personnel**. Its purpose is to connect such parents, encouraging prayer for their sons and daughters, especially those on the front lines of war. It also provides support to, and friendship between, 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.

So **tell your parents** to check out www.homeguardaustralia.org.au

It will help both them and you!

MCF - Centurion List

MCF currently has 59 Centurions. Some have chosen to be anonymous. We are grateful to everyone who contributes through the Centurion program. If you are interested in becoming a centurion, there is an application form at page 13. We are aiming for 100 centurians to carry the Lord's word forward in MCF by 2014.

Allan	Gary	COL (RETD)
Bayliss	Jan	Ms
Bielenberg*	Helen	MRS
Bielenberg*	Russell	LTCOL (RETD)
Blagg	James	WGCDR
Burton*	Eric	CHAP (Res)
Cannon	Geoff	CMDR (Res)
Choi	Jacob	LT
Colton	Gregory	MAJ
Cosh	Robert	CPL
Couper	Jonathon	CAPT
Fehrenbach	Christian	AB
Fowle	Gary	WO2
Hoskin	Amy	Mrs
Kaese	Oliver	POPT
Lawson	Rebecca	MS
Lawson	Stuart	Mr
Liston	Peter	CAPT
Lock	Ann	REV
Lock	Garry	CHAP
Lovering	Cameron David	CFN
McPhan*	Ken	GPCAPT (RETD)
Mena	Anne	LCDR
Minchin	Scott	FLGOFF
Muller	Marcaus	MAJ
Mumford	Mick	LTCOL (Res)
Mumford	Janet	MRS
Neuhaus	Steve	CHAP
Nicholls	Kim	Mr
Nicholls	Trudy	Mrs
Roper	Tony	CMDR (Res)
Ruting*	Trevor	RADM (Res)
Quinn	Adam	PTE(REC)
Smith	Joshua	FLTLT
Stoll	Talei	LS
Stone	Gary	CHAP (Res)
Sutherland	Dan	LCDR
Sutherland	Rob	CHAP
Thomas	Darren	SGT
Urlichs	Troy	SGT
van Heel	Jamie	LTCOL
Vandeppeer	Bruce	LCDR
Watkins	Scott	LTCOL
Watson	Matthew	AB
Webb	Shaun	CPL
Williams	David	MAJ (Res)
Wright	Jason	CHAP

* Honour Centurion





News from Afghanistan

SGT Thomas has provided the following images of when the Cross was presented to the Chaplains from the congregation at Camp Alamo's Chapel (Kabul, Afghanistan). The Chaplains names are US Army Chaplain Patrick Hester, US Army Chaplain Paul Schumann and Canadian Chaplain Padre Robert Murphy, and the congregation is made up of many other nations of both Military and Civilian personnel supporting many NATO and ISAF missions.

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.





Reflection on the National Day of Prayer

Helen Bielenberg

As Russell and I drove to the Duntroon Chapel in Canberra, we were delighted to see many cars in the car park which was encouragement indeed. The singing led by Jamie van Heel and Johanna was appreciated and the prayers will all be answered by our faithful God. Afternoon tea gave us time for fellowship with many faithful MCF members. After we left the chapel, we went walking around Lake Burley Griffin and there was the new statue of Sir Robert Menzies. Russell was the treasurer of the chapel when it was built and at the opening led Sir Robert to his seat. It added a personal touch for us to remember.

Congratulations



To LEUT Adam and LEUT Kelly Masters on their wedding on 28 January.

To LT Jacob and Debbie Choi on their wedding in Singapore on 23 June (below).

Scott Minchin, Vice Chair of MCF received a Future Summit Australian Leadership Award in May. The award recognises contributions to the community and to leadership in chosen fields.

Awardees are selected on the basis of their roles in leadership across the community and the workplace, and awardees provide to the committee their vision for the community and society. Scott was recognised for his role with the Department of Defence, as a RAAF Officer, the Vice Chair of MCF and in not for profit roles. Scott is currently deployed on the USNS Mercy as the OPSO Force Protection. The USNS Mercy is providing humanitarian assistance to Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia as part of Pacific Partnership 2012.



Areas Reps/Contacts Listing

If your area is not listed or you are interested in starting a group, please contact the MCF Office at:
mcf.office@defence.gov.au

CP3-1-160

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02 6266 4950

NT

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TAS

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Back cover image by: David Coleman
"Forgiven"



*"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered"*

(Psalm 32:1)

