

CROSSFIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA † NUMBER 27 † MAY 2016



Centurions | Spiritual Warfare | Hope



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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:

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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: ABIS Bonny Gassner.

Chairman's Report

LTCOL Jamie van Heel



'... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

I'd like to welcome LTCOL Scott Watkins, LCDR Anne Mena, SQNLDR Adam Paull and CAPT Jacob Choi who joined the MCF Council and thank WGCDR Alf Jonas, SQNLDR Aaron Downs, Rev Kenny Delamore and FLTLT Scott Minchin for their service to the Council in 2015.

Mr Michael Nott our National Administrator has been employed in the role now for 12 months. He is adding value with his administration and ministry skill sets.

MCF hosted the National Day of Prayer for Defence on 19 Mar 16. This was a spiritually significant event for the 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, the implementation of the Pathways to Change strategy, Chaplains, and Defence senior leaders. Thank you to those who facilitated people in your region to pray for specifically for the Defence issues. In all, there were 28 groups who met across Australia and abroad praying for Defence.

It was great to hear the honorable Stuart Robert MP, former Assistant Minister for Defence reflect on his time in the military and now in public office at the 2015 Defence Christians Dinner. My three word takeaway from his address was that in the military and in life you need to be fit, competent and caring.

The next Defence Christians dinner is scheduled for Friday 5 Aug 16 in Canberra. We are privileged to have AIRCDRE Al Clements Commandant ADFA as our keynote speaker.

The MCF Seminar titled 'Hope' is scheduled for Saturday 21 May 16 at RAAF Base Williamtown. It is exciting to hold the first MCF National Seminar outside of Canberra. I'd like to thank Sam Hays for agreeing to lead the seminar from Williamtown. Many of our Service men and women are suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from the physical, mental and spiritual wounds that have received on operations or during their training. As Christians we have our hope in Jesus. We should want to tell others about the hope we have in Jesus and how he can assist them in their recovery process. At the seminar, we have an inspiring list of guest speakers including: BRIG Dan Fortune (Patron of MCF), CHAP Rob Sutherland, Mr Dave Hodgson Ex Rhodesian Special Forces and Entrepreneur, SQNLDR Paul Simmons F/A-18 Fighter Pilot and Instructor and CPL Andrew Summers and his wife Tina who are PTSD Advocates.

We are aiming to have 100 of our membership who commit to praying for, promoting and resourcing MCF. If you would like to be an MCF Centurion with the other 6 MCF members who have already committed too, please advise the MCF office on mcf.office@defence.gov.au

This editions theme Centurions is based on Matthew 8:5-10 (NIV)

- ⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."
- ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"
- ⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
- ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."



Defence Christians' Dinner 2015

David Coleman

The annual Defence Christians' Dinner was again enjoyed at the Canberra Southern Cross Club on the evening of Friday 4 September, with over 200 Defence personnel and their friends coming together to share in fellowship over delicious cuisine.

In between courses the keynote speaker for the night, the Honourable Mr Stuart Robert MP, then Assistant Minister for Defence, provided attendees with an engaging and challenging message on his pilgrimage from ADFA Cadet to Assistant Minister and his many experiences in between. He provided the clear take home message of the importance of being competent, fit and caring, not just in the military context, but in all avenues of life and duty.

To be competent, not just technically, but also in leadership; to be fit, which is helpful for all but an essential element for military service; and

to be caring, stressing that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care and the importance of placing people above process. He challenged those present by stating that there are many different ways in which people come to a knowledge of Christ as Lord and Saviour, but they all start with someone caring enough to share Christ with them.

The dinner was also attended by MCF Patron BRIG Dan Fortune who provided an appropriate vote of thanks to the minister and his wife for their time and effort in attending the dinner.

The dinner was also a good opportunity to hear brief updates from each of the Christian ministries associated with Defence; their past achievements, challenges and anticipated activities for the coming year.

Next year's dinner promises to be an equally engaging event. If you are interested in attending, it is scheduled for Friday 5 August, with details will be promulgated via the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) website (www.mcf-a.org.au) and on page 16 of this edition of Crossfire magazine.

The MCF is again grateful to the staff at the Canberra Southern Cross Club Woden, for their provision of the superb facilities and wonderful service.



National Day of Prayer for Defence

LTCOL Jamie van Heel

The 2016 National Day of Prayer for Defence was held on Saturday 19 March 2016 with 28 groups meeting to pray across Australia and internationally.

The National Day of Prayer for Defence is an annual event that commenced in 2011, for all Defence personnel and those in the community who have a heart to pray for Defence. We appreciate the commitment of many who gave their time to pray for the Australian Defence Force. The ADF needs your continued prayers to spiritually uphold the Defence Organisation to God in order to positively impact the lives of Defence personnel in these challenging times for Defence members, families, leaders and government. We also need prayer for wisdom and strength to make the right decisions to guide our nation into the future.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

This year at the RMC service the audience was challenged to stand firm in their faith and honour our God. With our nation becoming increasingly secular, our Christian / Judeo heritage and values are being challenged. In Daniel 3 we see how three men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stand firm in their faith and honour their God despite the consequences.

Daniel 3:16-18

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Next years National Day of Prayer is scheduled for Saturday 8 Apr 17. If you would like to be an MCF Prayer Warrior who will pray for Defence issues on a regular basis please email Dr Brendan Pell on brendan.pell@gmail.com



MCF Seminar – Centurions

BRIG Dan Fortune



The theme of Centurions is really topical for Defence Christians as it talks to key themes that resonate such as Service, the humanity of centurions, and importantly it talks of faith. From my understanding, Centurions often were conflicted men in biblical times and this challenge remains for those serving in the ADF.

There are a number of challenges about the mission, task and environment we typically find ourselves in. However, our values and decision framework based on the foundational belief in our faith remains a compelling source of inspiration and comfort.

At the outset, I'd like to outline a little about me. I think 'selected' was the right word because when the CDF rings you up and invites you to the role of Patron it really is an offer you cannot refuse. I was deployed at the time, in a bit of a flat spot and struggling. A lot was happening operationally, we'd had a number of deaths and I was seeking, through my faith, to manage my responsibilities and just persevere whilst managing my obligations as a leader.

Speaking to GEN Hurley was an uplifting moment but also quite confronting with regard to assuming the role of Patron. I felt I did not possess the depth of the learned theology that others would have and I am very aware that rank and appointments mean nothing in this space; I'm just a redeemed sinner.

My service has really been the catalyst, in many ways, for my journey of faith.

I was brought up in a Christian family that was not really church-going so it was a somewhat patchy experience of Christianity in my youth. There was a connection; however, on reflection, not a deep well-practiced muscle memory connection.

I joined the Army aged 17 years, 2 months and during my early service, if I hadn't broken all the commandments, I'd thought about doing so.

It was only when I came to Duntroon and through that environment, as well as the outreach of the padres, that the Spirit that was in me began to connect. It has also been through my family - I've been blessed with a wife and we have two grown-up daughters, who are a credit to their mother! It was in the journey as a parent; a very young parent, and my relationship with my wife, that I needed to use the strength of the Christian faith to work through those challenges. It was really through my service that I confronted my own mortality, particularly in operational service, that I was convinced that my faith was strong and I was drawn to and continued to seek God and grow in that journey.

The issue that the minister and I talked about last night was around moral injury and what you confront on operations. It was difficult and challenging at times. Last year, when I was deployed and in command, the reality that I had spent two of the last four years away on deployment, really helped strengthen and deepen my faith. In many ways it had been a way of seeking to heal some of the damage, dents, bruises, and psychological injuries I received through my service. That's the way my journey of faith has been.

As Patron, I really do feel inadequate. I don't have a great set of experiences. I'm learning and I feel a little vulnerable and insecure in many ways regarding what this appointment should mean. When I look you in the eye, it's not BRIG Dan Fortune, DSC and Bar, but Dan Fortune, one of the flock who continues to grow and learn in faith. As such, I ask for your prayers and your support as we work together in our calling to fulfil the great commission.

Where would I like to see MCF and the defence Christian community? Where should we organisationally be looking to outreach?

As I have consistently outlined, I think the area around operational mental wellness and mental health is important. There's no higher priority in the ADF. It is increasingly





recognised that there is a need to put more resources into looking into the moral injury and spiritual wellness, as part of the comprehensive approach to mental health.

The legitimate and important ongoing care for service men and women, veterans and their families should be further explored and developed. I think the defence Christian community and MCF should be part of that narrative. We've got to be involved as it is a contested space. We have to manage and nuance our message carefully, but that doesn't mean we compromise our message or be unnecessarily oversensitive about the place of Christian faith. This is certainly an area I intend to work on with ongoing advocacy and debate.

Second is the broader issue of seeking to provide a witness to Jesus. Through our conduct we demonstrate the redeeming power of the message of our faith and display the appropriate values based leadership.

Many of you would know about the First Principles Review. One of the focuses is around behaviours and at this point, in my view, what this practically means remains an immature discussion.

As we all know the challenges of implementing the Defence Pathways to Change vision remains confronting, including cultural issues around behaviours within the services.

There are some complex issues the ADF is dealing with including restorative engagement and ongoing cultural reform. I think again that this is a legitimate and important space for Defence Christians to contribute to in a measured, mature and humble way.

We don't want to be seen as sanctimonious. We all have human frailties but there is an element of our faith that gives us a certain strength, wisdom and insight from our reading of the scriptures and our values.

Where would I ask for your help? I think we can do more as an organisation in outreach. We have got to try to build a wider network across the demographics. I know there's great work being done in places like ADFA. There's a whole range of collaborative Christian defence organisations. There was a cavalcade of people who got up and spoke about their ministries at the Defence Christians' Dinner last night.

Across the board I think we need to do more, engaging with individuals and then through an invitation bringing them into that instrument and that witness of faith.





I'd appreciate the ideas you can bring to that. With the social issues we are facing and the battle of ideas at the broader security level, we've got to do more.

Social media is a space we don't fully understand and really utilise. It's about building a network to have the opportunity to have a conversation about our faith and our witness. We'd like your help on that. Email the MCF office. Email me. Have a discussion.

The risk is we will all, to some extent, just be in a sheltered workshop. This isn't the audience we need to do outreach to; though it's important for encouraging and reinforcing our faith. The seminar should be full; people should be lining up. We should need a bigger venue if we are going to be a relevant, contemporary and important element of the debate in the ADF going forward. So that's the challenge. I don't know the answer but I think there are elements we need to work harder on.

I'm very humbled and privileged to have been appointed as Patron. I'm on a journey with you.

2 Timothy 1:7

"God did not give us the timidity... But he has given us the spirit of power and of love and a calm and well balanced mind and discipline and self control"



Why being a Christian is good for the ADF

COL Mick Mumford



The mission of MCF is to promote Christianity in the ADF. Interestingly, only one of its ministry objectives is to support military Christians; the other two being evangelism and supporting Defence chaplaincy. The mission of MCF is the right one; MCF should not exist to make life easier for Christians to be in the military. Indeed, the question shouldn't be "how can we make life easier for Christians in the ADF?"; instead it should be "what does Defence get from its military Christians?" Indeed, that is the question that Christians should ask themselves in every part of society they impact. What does Canberra get from its Christians? What does Australia get from its Christians? What does the world get from its Christians?

Are Christians demanding that the world conforms to what they want it to be or are they contributing in a way that leads people to an understanding of God's incredible, eternal invitation? Should we as Christians demand that our society only allow laws that accord with our beliefs? Do we expect our government to provide "protection" for our beliefs? Is this what we as Christians are supposed to be? Are we the mouthpiece of God, telling the world what they should do or not do, where it pleases us to do so? Or are we the hands and feet of God, showing people how important they are regardless of the circumstance and the people who need us? The same applies for Defence Christians. Are we the

mouthpiece or are we the hands and feet of God?

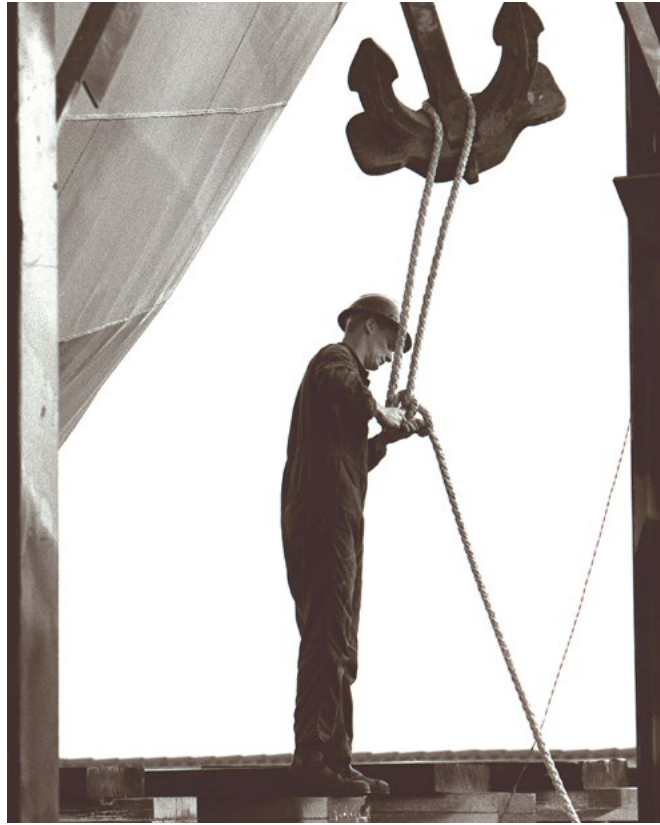
In 2006, a whistle-blower gave a copy of a video to the News of the World. It was footage taken inside a British Army patrol base in Iraq of a group of soldiers beating unarmed local youths in retaliation for a series of riots. It is disturbing footage. What should concern military Christians even more is that there were over one hundred British Army soldiers at that base, most of who could see, or walked past, the abuse. What influence was evident from the military Christians among those who either participated, watched, or just walked past? Was the violence in that video acceptable either militarily or from a Christian perspective?

No doubt those were difficult circumstances that those soldiers found themselves in. Indeed, we should feel pity that they felt the need to employ such brutality. Statistically, if the 2011 UK census statistics are applied, there should have been about 60 soldiers in that base who declared they were of Christian faith. Of those 60, about 10 should have been active in their faith. Plus, at the very least, the Battalion these troops came from had a Chaplain. If those ten active Christians are there, what influence have they had on the actions of their colleagues? In that context, what value did the British Army get from its military Christians on this day?

The Centurion in Capernaum is an example of someone who was the hands and feet of God, not just a mouthpiece. This man changes his environment by his faith. He doesn't ask for the environment to be changed to help his faith. As we can see in the account in Matt 8:5–11, his faith changes the environment around him. The Jewish leaders of the day actually speak on his behalf; this man has standing. Why? He is an influence because he has served others. He was a man of uncommon service. His duty statement was Centurion, but his service to others as a believer was the most influential aspect of his life.

In addition, even though he is a successful military officer and a popular member of the community he still doesn't think that he is worthy of being in the same room as Jesus. This man is a man of humility. He has every reason not to be humble but he is. And finally, his servant is sick. In the Middle East, two thousand years ago, slavery and servitude were part of society. Servants were valuable but not so much for





one of the government elite. The Centurion describes the servant as “suffering terribly”. Compassion drives this man. So, this soldier is a person of service, a person of humility, and a person of compassion. What does Jesus tell us is behind his service, his humility, and his compassion? What is the fuel that drives him? Jesus tells us that this is because he is a man of faith. This man is influential, not because he is a senior military officer, but because he is a man of service, humility, and compassion, which is fuelled by his faith in God.

The ADF needs men and women like this Centurion. The ADF needs military Christians because they serve others. They don't just turn up and fulfil their military duty statements; they go beyond what is expected. The ADF needs men and women of humility, not those enamoured with their rank, experience, or position. Humble people don't bully and harass. Humble people naturally respect everyone around them and model that for others. The ADF needs people of compassion; the sort that show compassion and do what is right even in the heat of combat. Compassionate people don't breach rules of armed conflict or use excessive force or ignore rules of engagement.

The ADF needs people like the Centurion. It needs people of faith. My experience is that most people anchor themselves psychologically to faith in something, be it family, or friends, or self. In fact, Defence expects us to have faith, maybe not

religious faith, but faith in each other, faith in our equipment, faith in our leaders. The problem with having faith in those things that Defence asks us to is that, sooner or later, trust will be broken and faith will be shaken.

A military Christian however brings a different level of trust to the fight, or at least should. They not only trust in themselves and their mates, but when all else fails, they have a faith that cannot be shaken. They have faith in a loving God who promises them an eternity with Him. The same faith that the Centurion had two thousand years ago. When all else proves untrustworthy, the military Christian serves beyond their duty statement. When all else proves untrustworthy, the military Christian is humble. When all else proves untrustworthy, the military Christian is compassionate.

Military Christians shouldn't need Defence to support our faith or faith in God, even though it does; after all, MCF exists, Chaplaincy exists. Defence does support Christians but we don't need it to. To think Christians need that support means we don't understand fully who we worship. While we don't need Defence to support Christianity, Defence sure needs us. It needs us to be the moral compass in morally ambiguous situations. It needs us to be people of steadfast courage when all around us have lost that which they have placed their trust in. When their anchor fails, Defence needs us because our anchor won't fail.



Defeating the unseen enemy

MAJ Geoff Robertson



Disclaimer – This presentation is entirely about spiritual warfare and acknowledges that we are to submit to authorities in accordance with Romans 13:1

THE UNSEEN ENEMY

The unseen enemy doesn't want you to read this. It strikes deeply to the heart of his centre of gravity when his strategies and deceptive tactics are revealed. We are going to proceed anyway because God has other ideas!

In the film Lord of the Rings when Frodo Baggins places the ring on his finger the screen turns to black and white and he becomes terrified as he sees the parallel world of spiritual darkness. I believe this is symbolic of the reality of the unseen spiritual world in which we live today.

When a person is born again, God takes the veil away from their eyes enabling them to discern the spiritual realm. Unless we are aware that there is an unseen spiritual world the enemy can defeat us whilst we are totally focused on operating in the physical realm. Some of us have come face-to-face with the physical enemy on the modern battlefield of today but all of us are situated on the spiritual battlefield whether we are aware of it or not.

Having personally been delivered from demonic spirits, early in my Christian walk, God has purposefully demonstrated to me the reality of the unseen and evil demonic world and also the awesome unlimited power of the Holy Spirit to overcome any of our spiritual adversaries. God has also blessed me abundantly by showing me personally many of the miracles recorded in the Bible. Accordingly, I believe that every time we gather together in the name of Christ we

are like the World War II Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force commanded by U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, gathering as a council of war but as a council of war against an unseen enemy.

If the enemy is an unseen spirit, how does he wage war against us?

Not everyone is aware of the fact that the battleground is in our mind. The enemy's aim is to dominate our thinking with lies and deceptive thoughts that destroy our hope and our destiny. He continually whispers lies and deceptions in our ears, heart and mind.

Paul in Ephesians 6:12 gives us battlefield intelligence from as far back as 60 AD, '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.'

Notwithstanding, God's Order of Battle (ORBAT) is far superior to the enemy's ORBAT. Even though the enemy is an overwhelmed smaller force, he can strike against a larger force using deceptive operations.

Like the elephant that learns as a baby he cannot proceed beyond the length of his leg restraint without being hurt and as an adult is similarly constrained by his entrapped mind, the enemy aims to build strongholds in our minds that neutralize us.

God's plan, the Commander's intent, is to get his Kingdom back - he wants us to understand how we can defeat the enemy and that his ORBAT is invincible and undefeatable when we know how to rely on and have faith in him. God's ORBAT compared to the enemy's would be like comparing a fully bombed-up US Aircraft Carrier with a rubber dingy.

God wants us to know that the battle is his to win on our behalf, as we have faith in him, knowing that he has all the power whilst we have none. He wants us to access his power with our God-given power of attorney, given in Jesus' name.

This is analogous with the JTACs (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) who have no power in themselves but the authority on the battlefield to call in air, ground and naval firepower simply by an authorized call for fire over a radio.

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" 1 Samuel 17:47



THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR

The principles of war that enable an army to achieve victory can be applied in the spiritual realm. Of the ten principles of war the ADF employs, there are two I wish to review in this address, namely; Offensive Action and Co-operation.

Offensive Action

How can we take offensive action in the spiritual realm? Offensive action is aggressive, bold, pre-emptive and audacious action against an adversary, and in this case, against the unseen enemy. Over time I have slowly learned from God some practical ways we can take offensive action and I hope they will be of assistance to you as well.

• Spending time with God

- When we spend time with God and put our relationship with him first, seeking his righteousness and his Kingdom as a priority, he grants us the desires of our hearts and mentors us one-on-one. He shows us how to defeat the adversary. Therefore purpose to make regular time in your schedule and expect great things to happen.

• Praising God

- When we come before God in reverence and praise him like King Jehoshaphat did, God sets the ambushes against the enemy ⁽¹⁾

• Immediately run to God when we develop a “chink” in our armour

- When you find yourself in sin run straight to God. Like conducting an Immediate Action (IA) on the F88 Austeyr, immediately act - repent, read and speak out relevant passages of God’s word and pray in the Spirit. The enemy wants us to be isolated in guilt – accept God’s immediate forgiveness, his gift of no condemnation. Stay on the offensive.

• Establish a prayer mountain

- Reconnoitre a close training area and a field training area to spend time with God. A room in your home and a place on a “mountain” in close proximity. Expect God to speak to you through the Holy Spirit and journal your experiences.

• Discern the spirit behind every thought

- Behind every thought there is a spirit, our spirit, the Holy Spirit or the demonic spirit (the unseen enemy). The Holy Spirit is always encouraging and uplifting. The adversary always oppresses and is the master of lies. We need to seek God’s discernment and use soldier-like discipline to trust and believe only the truth.

• Practice thought-to-thought combat

- Fight against the lies and deceptive thoughts of the enemy by believing and having faith in God’s word. Like Neo in the movie “The Matrix”, faith and belief lead to supernatural success. Believe and don’t doubt and expect God to supernaturally act. ⁽²⁾

• Use the sword of the Spirit like Jesus

- Jesus defeated the enemy by saying “It is written” and quoting the word of God. Use the concept of war – gaming, a red force vs. blue force. Practise individually or as a group. The “Shut Up the Devil” App is an excellent resource. ⁽³⁾

• Speak the word aloud

- The enemy wants to close our mouths. When we speak aloud God’s word, it is analogous with firing our new M777 155 mm howitzers. The word (the ammunition) is meditated in the heart (loaded in the breach) and spoken aloud (fired). Like artillery ammunition, unless the word is spoken (fired) it has no effect. The spoken word not only has the advantage of having no range limitations, it releases the supernatural power of God. That is awesome tab data.

• Execute “artillery barrages” through intercession

- Preparatory, covering, counter - attack and interditory spiritual “firepower” can be achieved through intercession – prior to, during and after significant events through intercession by individuals or “combat” prayer teams. The enemy must flee.

• Meditate on the word

- As we meditate on God’s word day and night God brings us success. ⁽⁴⁾

• Maintain personal weapon readiness

- God has provided us with spiritual armour to have victory in battle. Like the Commandos we must maintain our weapons readiness by continually training with it. ⁽⁵⁾

• Be baptised in the Holy Spirit and pray in the Spirit unceasingly

- Praying in the Spirit builds up the inner man, ushers in the presence of the Spirit, “scrambles” angelic support, heals the body and enables the perfect encrypted prayer. See how to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. ⁽⁶⁾

• Guard your heart

- Visualise God’s promises as a picture in your heart. What you have in your heart you become. Where the mind goes the man follows. Visualise images of life not death.

• Establish a wingman

- A wingman protects the lead pilot from potentially dangerous events. Choose a person who you can be



in covenant with, who is guaranteed to be a confidant and pray for you as required. I have a former F/A-18 fighter pilot as a wingman who always provides me with top cover. I often receive the SMS "Screaming Eagle 11 in hot – got you covered".

- **Resolve and persist to never give up praying and seeking God**
 - Like the ANZACs and the Commandos, "never give up!" God delights in answering prayers for those that persist in asking so as to prove he is God and to build our faith. ⁽⁷⁾
- **When in command, command**
 - God wants us to use the authority he has given us. He has given us the power of attorney to operate in the name of Jesus. He wants us to pray from heaven rather than to it. ⁽⁸⁾
- **Testify to God's power and goodness in our lives**
 - We are the evidence
- **Love others including our enemies**
 - Conduct random acts of kindness

Co-operation

How can we employ the principle of co-operation? We need to stay mission focused against the adversary and not fight amongst ourselves. I recall one of our Major Generals saying "I am a Major General, and I fly at 50,000 feet because it is my job to be mission focused, on the big picture, to ensure we can defeat any adversary coming against our country". We must keep out of the "weeds".

- **Pursue unity until it hurts**
 - One of my army colleagues during a Brigade exercise, experiencing some difficulties, grabbed me by the shoulders and said, "Co operation till it hurts, mate". What a wonderful maxim to work to in the spiritual space.
- **Identify others in the "mountains of influence" and join forces as a spiritual coalition against the unseen enemy**
 - All nations comprise areas or mountains of influence namely – government, family, religious, media, education, business, arts and entertainment. Hitler exploited these mountains to overcome a nation. God has placed his people in these areas of influence. We need to identify each other and work in co-operation to ensure that righteous representatives are present at the highest levels of decision making in all of these "mountains" to change the culture for good. Like our

Defence Coalition, God's people need to work as a coalition if they are to defeat a global threat. ⁽⁹⁾

TAKING ACTION

Getting Started

Some priority suggestions to get on the offensive quickly – be baptised in the Holy Spirit, establish a prayer mountain, identify a wingman and commence training in thought to thought combat.

Field Trip on Prayer Mountain

A Prayer Mountain field trip was conducted in Canberra in late 2015 following the seminar with participants personally experiencing how God speaks to people who seek his face.

Faith Under Fire

"Faith Under Fire" is a DVD training series endorsed by the previous CDF GEN David Hurley, AC, DSC, and designed to facilitate soldiers, sailors, airmen and women to conduct a spiritual check prior to deployment. This excellent series is accessible via your local chaplain.

How to come under the protection of God

If you want to come into God's love and protection and be equipped to defeat the unseen enemy check out Jesus.

He promises that if you seek you will find. ⁽⁷⁾

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Success or failure can depend on a personal faith that can sustain you under fire.

Call life a Question

Socrates once said, "An unexamined life is no life at all". Can I encourage you to call life a question and embark on a journey of discovery? ⁽¹¹⁾

Resources and References

¹ 2 Chronicles 20:20-22 ² Mark 11:22-25 ³ Shut up the Devil App. Download the audio version from within the App entitled "Experience Freedom – A journey into unlocking God's truths" ⁴ Joshua 1:8 ⁵ Ephesians 6:10-18 ⁶ Derek Prince on YouTube – "How to be baptised in the Holy Spirit" ⁷ Luke 11:9-13 – "Ask, Seek, knock"; Gen 32:24-29; Luke 11:5-13 ⁸ John 16:23-24 ⁹ Lance Walnau on YouTube – "The Seven Mountains" ¹⁰ Joseph Prince YouTube - Salvation ¹¹ Os Guinness on YouTube – "The Journey – A thinking Persons Quest for meaning" – The Veritas Forum

Note: MAJ Robertson can be contacted on gdrobbo2@bigpond.com



Gallipoli to Jerusalem – Geo-politics or God’s Sovereignty?

Kelvin Crombie



Like most Australians and New Zealanders, I was nurtured on the ANZAC/Gallipoli narrative, albeit a somewhat parochial ANZAC one. As an ordinary Australian, what else did I really need to hear anyway? After all, Gallipoli was our affair (as too was Beersheba), so why share it with the British or anyone else?

Yet even as a young boy of six to seven, there was a deep-seated desire to understand more, to know why my relatives fought (and died) in the Middle East, and to understand why Australians were even in that region.

Three events added to this boyhood inquisitiveness. Firstly, an Israeli family came to live on a local farm at remote Babakin in Western Australia, leading me then to become familiar with the nation of Israel. Secondly, at about the age of ten I read about Hitler’s final solution to the Jewish problem – and the resulting Holocaust. Thirdly, in June 1967 my father made a comment about the importance of the Six Day War (Dad, who fought with the 2/48th Battalion, rarely commented about war).

Thus by the age of about twelve, that inquisitiveness had grown to the point where I really wanted answers to those aforementioned questions. Then, during my late teen years when it became apparent I would not be a cricket or football star, I began seeking answers for the actual meaning of life as well. Deep down there was a sense that the answers to all these questions would be found in Israel.

This quest saw me depart Australia for Europe as a twenty-one year old in 1978, with the ultimate aim of going to Israel. Answers began coming following my arrival in Israel in 1979. As an Australian, I was afforded warm treatment on the kibbutz (collective farm) due to the fond memories many Jewish people had of the ANZAC soldiers during the years 1940-1943.

My fondness of Israel and Israelis resulted in me contemplating becoming an Israeli and serving in the Israeli Army. To achieve this I would need to convert to Judaism, a matter which I initially considered, until realising it had quite a bit to do with religion - causing a hasty retreat from the idea!

It was at this point that I heard for the first time about Jesus being a Jew - a revelation which resulted in me finally confessing faith and becoming one in covenant with Jesus in July 1981, while briefly in the UK.

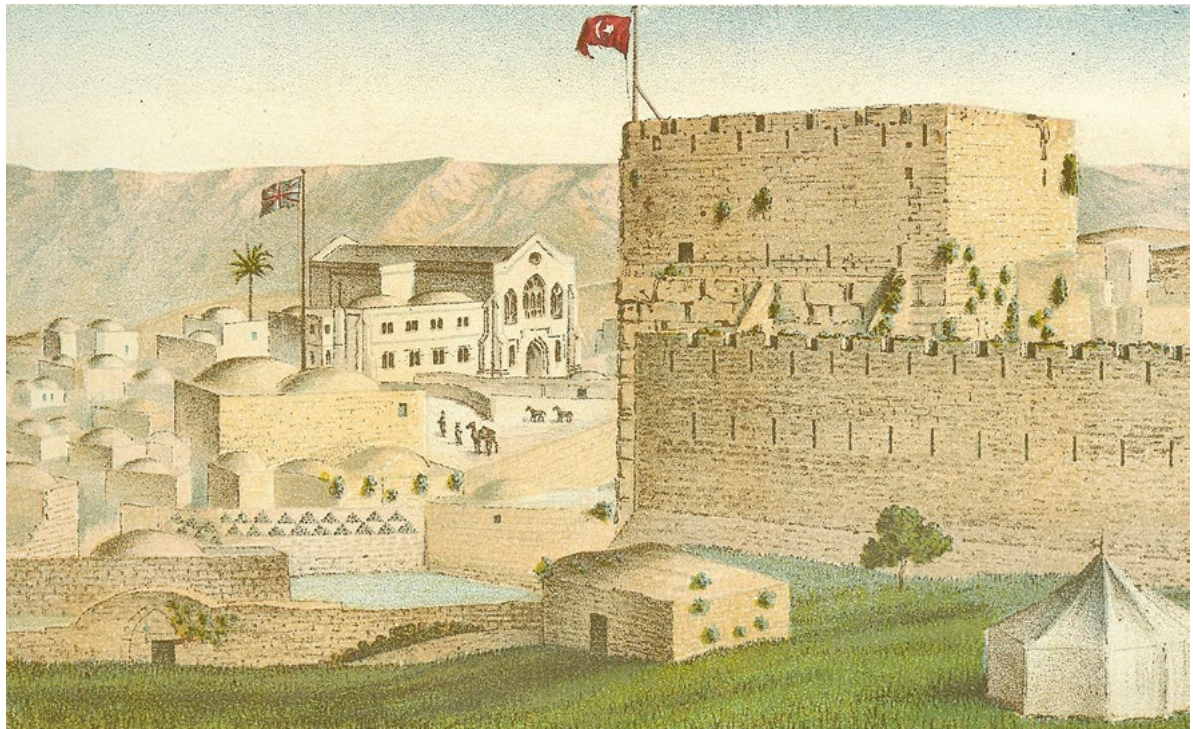
Thereafter I lived in Jerusalem, involved in various forms of work, especially as an orderly in hospitals and assisting both Jewish and Arab patients. Life changed quite dramatically following my marriage in 1984, when we began attending Christ Church, an evangelical Anglican church inside the Old City of Jerusalem. Little did I know it at the time, but this location held the ‘secret’ to those remaining childhood questions I had.

This location was the actual beginning point of Protestant, British and western activities in Jerusalem and in the land of Israel. My interest was piqued, and by 1986 I was asked to become the guide and historian at this strategic location just inside Jaffa Gate.

During that period hundreds of people would visit daily, many of whom were Israeli academic groups. The Israelis well understood the historical importance of the place and it was imperative that I quickly came to understand this significance so as to communicate this information to such visiting groups.

This necessity resulted in countless hours of research and study, majoring upon the period 1798-1948; research and study which in turn permitted me to better understand the much bigger ‘geo-political’ picture. This research and study





Christ Church and Citadel

also enabled me to develop the *In Step with Allenby and the Light Horse* tours in 1988, an initiative which had much to do with the re-enactment of the Charge at Beersheba events held in Beersheba in 2007 and 2012.

Geo-political background

The beginning point of Britain's modern day interest in the region of Israel and Egypt began in 1798. In that year Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Egypt in an effort to cut Britain off from India, which then was the pearl of Britain's empire. The British quickly responded by dispatching Admiral Nelson to crush this French initiative.

Thereafter Britain viewed each and every event in the Eastern Mediterranean with interest and concern, especially as its eastern empire continued to expand, an expansion which included Australia and New Zealand. Britain's obsession with the Eastern Mediterranean led her to take control over the Suez Canal in 1875 – the Canal having been constructed by the French in 1869.

Also during the nineteenth century many Christians, participants in the evangelical awakening of that period, began to proclaim that according to their understanding of the Bible, national Israel would one day be restored to its ancient homeland, a belief system based on the promises given to the patriarchs by a covenant oath.



Kelvin Crombie with Ambassador James Larsen

Then towards the latter part of the century Jewish people began fleeing from nationalist inspired persecution in Czarist Russia. Some came to the land of Israel believing they were laying the foundations for a future Jewish national entity in the land of their forefathers. Such a realisation, however, would depend upon the defeat of the Islamic Turkish Empire and the conquest of the land of Israel by a power sympathetic to these Jewish aspirations.

Such a scenario was quite unrealistic until August 1914. The nation best positioned to do this was Britain, but Britain had, through most of the period after 1798, been allied with Turkey.

Continued on page 19



Military Christian Fellowship Seminar Dinner

Fri 20 May 2016 - 7:00pm

Brigadier Dan Fortune MCF Patron and Coordinating Chaplain Alan Williams will discuss the current Defence culture, its challenges and needs. There will be an opportunity for attendees to explore how local churches, in coordination with military chaplains can better support their local Defence organisations.

MCF Seminar speakers will also be introduced.

The dinner speakers



Brigadier Dan Fortune, DSC and Bar
MCF Patron



Chaplain Alan Williams
Senior Coordinating Chaplain at
RAAF Base Williamtown

HOPE

... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they
will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Venue: Pacific Dunes Golf Club:
The Greenhouse
Championship Drive, Medowie
Port Stephens, NSW 2318

Cost:
\$45 dinner or
\$80 both dinner and seminar

For further information

Ph: 02 6266 4950
E: mcf.office@defence.gov.au
Website: www.mcf-a.org.au
Booking Site:
www.trybooking.com/178297



Military Christian Fellowship Seminar

Sat 21 May 2016 - 0900-1600

The MCF Seminar 2016 is open to anyone who would like to explore how our hope in God is important for our physical, mental and spiritual resilience and wellbeing. This will incorporate a focus on mental health.

Hosted by the RAAF Williamtown MCF group.

Speakers and Interviewees Include



BRIG Dan Fortune, DSC and Bar

Patron MCF
Introduction



CHAP Rob Sutherland

Minister, Army Chaplain
Warrior Welcome
Home Ministry



Mr Dave Hodgson

Paladin Group
Kingdom Investors



SQNLDR Paul Simmons

F/A-18 Hornet instructor
LIFT Youth Development
Inc.



**CPL Andrew and Tina
Summers**

RAAF
PTSD Advocacy



CHAP Robyn Kidd

Air Force Chaplain
skype call from ops

HOPE

Venue: Overflow Church, Medowie
6 Waropara Rd, Medowie NSW 2318

Cost:
\$40 Seminar
\$80 Fri dinner and seminar

For further Information

Ph: 02 6266 4950
E: mcf.office@defence.gov.au
Website: www.mcf-a.org.au
Booking Site:
www.trybooking.com/178297



DEFENCE CHRISTIANS' DINNER

Friday 05 August 2016 'RESILIENT LEADERSHIP'

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **Air Commodore Alan Clements** **Commandant ADFA**



Born in Townsville, Alan Clements joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1985. After graduating from pilot training he flew HS748, and instructed on CT-4, Macchi and F/A-18. His many roles and commands span 77 Squadron (F/A-18), Chief of Staff Air Combat Group, Officer Commanding Number 78 Wing (Air Combat Group aircrew and technician training), and Director Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety. Alan assumed the duties of Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy in December 2013.

His operational deployments include Chief of Staff of the National Command Headquarters for Operation SLIPPER, and air operations Battle Director of the Middle East area in the USAF Combined Air Operations Centre (Al Udeid).

A pivotal transition point in Alan's journey of faith was triggered by timely and caring words, and encouragement, from a fellow fighter pilot and friend. Alan is married to Helene and has two daughters, Rebecca and Daniele.

VENUE

Corinna Room 1
Canberra Southern Cross Club
92-96 Corinna Street
PHILLIP ACT 2606

TIME

6:30pm Finger food, buy beverages at bar
7pm – 10pm: Program & Dinner

DRESS

Smarter casual (eg. not jeans)

BOOKING DETAILS

COST PER PERSON:

Early bird (pay by 24 June) – \$60
Standard (pay by 24 July) – \$65
Late (until 01 Aug) – \$75
Group bookings (8 or more, by 01 Aug) – \$60
Bookings close on Monday 01 Aug 16

ENQUIRIES TO:

MCF-A Staff Worker
02 6266 4950
mcf.office@defence.gov.au

PREFERRED BOOKING METHOD: www.trybooking.com/171742

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER:

Bank: Defence Bank
Account Name: Military Christian Fellowship
BSB: 803205
Account No: 20753492
Reference: 'D' + Your name
('D' identifies your payment as designated for the Dinner)

Please provide name/s, contact details and dietary requirements or seating preferences to mcf.office@defence.gov.au.



Application for Membership of MCF-A

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 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 Scriptures; 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 Holy Scripture is inspired by God and is the authority in all matters of faith, teaching, activities and personal conduct concerning MCF.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ (or write 'I agree' if electronic copy)

Date: _____ Employee No: _____

Rank or Title: _____ Preferred First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Defence Site: _____ Building, Floor, Room Number: _____

Street: _____ Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: work () _____ Mobile: _____ Home () _____

Email work: _____ Preferred Email

Email home: _____ Preferred Email

I apply for Ordinary Membership: (tick one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the ADF: Army | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the ADF: Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the ADF: Air Force | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the ADF: APS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am an ex member of the ADF: Army | <input type="checkbox"/> I am an ex member of the ADF: Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am an ex member of the ADF: Air Force | <input type="checkbox"/> I am an ex member of the ADF: APS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am the spouse of a member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS (circle one) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am the spouse of an ex member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS (circle one) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am an accredited representative of a ADF philanthropic organisation: (which one) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a civilian who currently works alongside ADF personnel at: (Location) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a civilian who has previously worked alongside ADF personnel for at least one year at:
(Location) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently residing in Australia and am a member/ex member of the Armed Forces of
(name of country) _____ | |

I am none of the above and apply for Associate Membership; therefore, I cannot vote at the AGM.

Return to: mcf.office@defence.gov.au or:

Dept. of Defence, Military Christian Fellowship-Australia,
Campbell Park Offices CP3-1-160,
Northcott Drive,
CAMPBELL ACT 2612

MCF Centurions make a difference in the ADF

Rank/Title: _____ Name: _____ Employee ID: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Mobile/phone: _____

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.
 - Have made a \$_____ per fortnight allotment via DEFPAY to allottee WG0052.
 - o Have arranged an auto transfer of \$_____ per fortnight to MCF's DEFENCE BANK
Account name: Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (First 3 letters = MIL),
BSB 803205, Account number: 20380708.
 - o Give Via Online credit card: <https://www.givenow.com.au/militarychristianfellowship>
(Please note credit card processing fees apply to this method.)
 - o Find attached my cheque of \$_____ to cover one year's support.
 - o Do/Do not (circle one) please contact me in 12 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 magazine.
- 5) Do/Do not (*circle one*) wish to have my name listed on the MCF website.
- 6) Do/Do not (*circle one*) wish to receive a Centurion Pack of signature items including a Centurion mug, an MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores and a book.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to:

Department of Defence, CANBERRA
Military Christian Fellowship of Australia
CAMPBELL PARK OFFICES: CP3 -1-160
Northcott Drive
CAMPBELL ACT 2612

For further information ring MCF Administrator on 02 6266 4950 or email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Only MCF members can become Centurions. MCF membership forms are available online at www.mcf-a.org.au, from mcf.office@defence.gov.au, 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 in 2019.

Significance of Gallipoli

The scenario changed when Turkey joined with the Central Powers (Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire), against Britain, France and Russia in the First World War. This geo-political and military situation within the Turkish Empire became further complicated in late 1914 when Russia, which was battling desperately against the opposing armies, urgently requested assistance from her allies, Britain and France.

Britain and France then planned a naval assault upon the Dardanelles Peninsula in Turkey in order to get supplies through to their Russian ally, an attack which began in February 1915. While the naval assault was taking place, the Russian Government, in March 1915, informed the British and French governments that once Turkey was defeated, the strategic areas of the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, Bosphorus, Thrace and Constantinople were to be handed over to them and would be incorporated into the Russian Empire.

From a historical and geo-political perspective this was an understandable request. This Russian demand, though, forced Britain to consider its strategic objectives in a defeated and dismembered Turkish empire. As France had always coveted the province of Syria – which included Palestine (the land of Israel) – Britain needed to determine which areas it would need in order to safeguard its imperial interests further east.

At this point Britain realised that if Russia controlled the Dardanelles and if France held Syria, then these two potential future rivals could effectively threaten the Suez Canal – her link to her eastern empire of India, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

Soon afterwards, Britain decided that it could never allow a political situation to develop which could threaten the Suez Canal. The region east of the Suez now became strategically more significant – an area which they could not afford France to control. The problem, though, was that neither France nor indeed any other Allied power would ever permit Protestant Britain control over the 'Holy Land'.

In such an equation, the question facing Britain was: 'How could they ensure some form of control over the land of Israel?'

The ANZAC horsemen, Beersheba and the Balfour Declaration

Ultimately the Gallipoli campaign was a military failure and the Allied troops were brought back to Egypt, most for future deployment to France. Simultaneously some of the Turkish forces from Gallipoli were also dispatched to the Sinai in anticipation of capturing the Suez Canal.

The British high command then sent some of these Allied soldiers - British infantry and cavalry and a large mounted force of Australian Light Horse and New Zealand Mounted Rifles - to defend the Suez Canal on the Sinai side. Following victory over the attacking Turkish force at Romani in August 1916 these men began moving slowly towards Palestine.

Later that year a new government took control in Britain, led by Prime Minister David Lloyd George, which was firmly resolved to defeat the Turks in the entire province of Syria and thereby secure a political future for that region in line with Britain's geo-political interests. By the middle of 1917, they realized there was only one stable political force which could effectively develop the land of Israel under British custodianship and this was the Zionist Organisation.

On 31 October 1917, British infantry and the ANZAC horsemen won a resounding victory at Beersheba, the first victory in the land, aided by a gallant charge of the Australian Light Horse.

At about the same time as the final surge to victory at Beersheba, the members of the British War Cabinet in London agreed to a proposal from the Zionist Organisation to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine. This promise later became known as the Balfour Declaration.

The road which had begun at Gallipoli had now led to Beersheba, and then shortly afterwards led onwards to Jerusalem which was captured on 9 December 1917. Two days later, General Allenby entered through Jaffa Gate for the official surrender ceremony. The famous photographs of that occasion were all taken from the roofs of various buildings belonging to Christ Church – (where I had worked for some twenty years!)

A sympathetic power had conquered the land from the Muslim Turkish Empire; the Jewish people were ready to return; British and ANZAC soldiers had played a part in the military victory; and behind the scenes ordinary Christians all over the world were praying for and working towards such a restoration.

Indeed in many ways, the road which led to Jerusalem began at Gallipoli. This is the hidden significance of Gallipoli. In such a scenario, Gallipoli was not entirely a defeat, but was a very significant step which led ultimately to the granting of a mandate by the League of Nations for the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Such a mandate provided a foundation to which hundreds of thousands of persecuted Jewish people ultimately fled to in the following decades.

Additionally, tens if not hundreds of thousands of innocent people from the minority groups were saved from genocide by the defeat of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. By the end of the War up to 1.8 million Christians (mostly Armenians) had





Official surrender ceremony, Jaffa Gate, 11 December 1917

been systematically killed by the Ottoman regime. The defeat of that regime also permitted, in time, the establishment of the sovereign nations of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia as well as Israel.

Sons of the ANZACs

During the Second World War, ANZAC soldiers again found themselves in the position of saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people. In 1942 the Nazi leadership dispatched a special murder squad to the region named the *Einsatzgruppen Egypt*, whose grizzly task was to annihilate some 70,000 Jewish people in Egypt, 500,000 Jewish people in Palestine as well as over 100,000 Jewish people living in Syria and Iraq.

Thanks to the victory at El Alamein this plan was thwarted.

Thereafter, although the Jewish people themselves had to struggle to make good the promises of the British government, the League of Nations and the United Nations, they were able to ultimately establish a sovereign Jewish state in the land of Israel on 14 May 1948.

Soldiers from Australia and New Zealand played a significant role in helping to bring about this reality. This is a 'hidden' connection which our two nations should be aware of. This perspective should also enable us as Christians to better understand the covenant keeping nature of our God, and of his ultimate sovereignty in history and geography.

© Kelvin Crombie. PO Box 565, Mundaring 6073, WA.
kelvin@heritageresources.com.au

The writer has authored numerous historical books including Anzacs, Empires and Israel's Restoration 1798-1948; Anzacs & Israel – A Significant Connection; Journey to Beersheba; El Alamein: Halting an Impending Holocaust in the Middle East and Gallipoli – The Road to Jerusalem, (which is also the title of a DVD). He pioneered the In Step with Allenby and the Light Horse tours in Israel, guiding Australian government, military and trade delegations and was the guide for the 90th anniversary tour of the charge at Beersheba in 2007 and the 95th anniversary in 2012.



A journey of leadership and discipleship

Jon Hawkins



Those who know me well, know that I'm not a fan of personal publicity so let me explain how this has happened. The Rev Dave McLennan, one of our local parish priests, had been strong-arming me for the past 12 months to do this. I resisted, but Dave had higher connections than I have and Dave knew he'd eventually win. Also, he was not entirely without proof; as I occasionally feel the urge to put myself 'out there', as I did for the ADF video, "Faith Under Fire", and publicly declare my faith in the hope that it might encourage others. So, this is a story of my journey with God and the rocky road it has been.

Both my maternal and paternal grandparents were strong Presbyterian Christians who lived in Ireland. They had significant influence on me, and to a large degree, shaped my approach to life, including how I behaved as a Christian. I was brought up in Ireland and Southern Africa attending church every Sunday and activities centred around the faith community, such as; Boys Brigade, Sunday school, school prayers, and as already mentioned, my grandparents were also heavily involved in the local church. My mother did attend church too and took us when we were young, but my father attended very little.

For those of you with a leadership role, you'll know that it is often critical to 'walk beside', or 'walk the talk' rather than just advocating a particular philosophy. So, when my parents stopped going to church in Africa, and of course my grandparents were back in Ireland, I started to question why I was going. I was about 15 when I stopped going to church. About the same time, I started to seriously examine soldiering as a career. I always knew I wanted to be a soldier, every since I was able to have conscious memories – but all of a sudden it appeared possible. I had been in cadets in Africa and Ireland, and thoroughly enjoyed it, and all of a sudden I was three years away from finishing school and a military career seemed suddenly feasible.

I was 18 years old when I migrated to Australia with the rest of my family and I headed straight to the recruitment office in St Georges Terrace, Perth. The Warrant Officer at the front desk told me to come back in a year, as he couldn't understand a word I said due to my thick Irish accent. So I went to university instead and started a degree in engineering. 12 months later I was back in front of that Warrant Officer and joined the Army shortly after. I spent my first seven years in RAEME with postings to Puckapunyal, Darwin, Broome and then, much to my surprise, I was successful on the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) selection course in 1996 – some 12 years post my separation from God.



Armoured Recovery Vehicle and Leopard Tanks, Puckapunyal





Children queuing for food, Timor Leste

In 1999, as a SAS troop commander, I started back at church again a few times but not very often. I recall taking my eldest daughter to church at the Anglican parish in Swanbourne. Life was too busy and between training and operational deployments, career steps, moves and kids, it all became almost a bit of an inconvenient existence trying to be Christian. However, it is in times of higher risk, either real or perceived, that we are closer to God. I have always found that deployments bring me markedly closer than at any other time. I recall several occasions as a SAS troop commander, where through prayer and reflecting on the moral and ethical context of potential decisions, I was able to maintain operational momentum. I continued my occasional Christian contact throughout the next few years, with church while at home and when deployed, such as to the Solomon Islands and attending RAN church services on board a RAN major fleet unit.

During this time a seminal moment came for me; my mother-in-law passed away. She was one of this world's quality folk. She was a strong believer and, although brought up Anglican, she had become Brethren later in life. Her funeral was in May 2001 and the man who delivered her eulogy was from South Africa. He approached me during the wake and said, 'you can't leave this too late – you have to get involved now'. I was stunned, but knew exactly what he was talking about – he had touched on a nerve that I was aware of but had been ignoring for years. My time to become more involved had arrived and living the way I was and engaging with God when it suited me, or when it was convenient, was not being sincere to myself.



Preparing for an operation, Afghanistan

Then Afghanistan ramped up with 9/11. I was again deployed as a troop commander in the early period and returned to Australia in late 2002. This was a very difficult and dangerous deployment and no padre was deployed due to manning caps. I attended US military services with a couple of SAS types like myself. Deployments, bizarrely, were always opportunities for a more regular relationship with God. Immediately following this tour, I was posted to a staff position at ADFHQ and I was so busy with work and family that I slipped back into the comfort zone where being a regular Christian had again become inconvenient. In 2005 I left for a second tour of Afghanistan, this time as squadron commander. It was during this tour that I formed



an enduring relationship with God again. For the first time in my experience, the force element was provided a padre and this, combined with the difficult mission, was a catalyst for many of the personnel on the deployment to attend regular Christian gatherings. On my return to Australia, I started at St Matthews, Shenton Park and have been a regular church goer ever since.

The 2005 Afghan deployment was quickly followed by one to Timor Leste, again as a squadron commander. There was no padre or organised services on this deployment so I had to keep it to myself. On return to Australia I was again looking at another deployment to Afghanistan, again as a squadron commander. There were a few hairline cracks starting to appear in my life and I didn't want to deploy. Thankfully, with some prayer, someone else appeared and took the trip.

In 2007, the family was very grateful to have a break and the opportunity to go to Canada for a year on a posting. Here, for the first time, we began attending weekly church services as a whole family. We found a great priest and Christian community at St Timothy's in Toronto.

On return to Canberra, we actively looked for a church for the family and found St Johns, Reid through its website. I took my second daughter one morning and she reported back happily to the other kids – 'its ok, it's the same drill as Canada, just a different location!'. We've been going there ever since. My faith has strengthened there and I find encouragement often from unlikely sources. Creating disciples is often about finding the point where you can leverage yourself to help others in their journey with God and a stable relationship with Christ enables that to occur.

On Boxing Day 2011, I began my last deployment as the commanding officer of Special Operations Task Group. This deployment brought me the closest I have been to God. I had a sense of responsibility for the task group members, which included Australian, United States and Afghan personnel. My routine involved going to chapel immediately after I got up and I found this a great way to start the day. On this deployment, for a change, there were three terrific chaplains as part of the tour – Pat Murphy, Dave Jackson and Steve Brooks. Padres are a great litmus test for the health of a unit on deployment, or in barracks, as they have the ability to speak to everyone and provide a non-biased view.

I would strongly advocate for padres on every deployment the ADF undertakes. If your moral and ethical compass is strong, it allows for tough decisions to be made against the back drop of Christian values. It is my experience that personnel will conduct themselves as they perceive their leadership will tolerate – and strong moral and ethical leaders with Christian values are key. Post sizeable combat events it was always interesting to see who attended chapel on Sunday.



Padre Dave Jackson at a baptism

On my last tour I faced not only questions of mortality but also other very life changing decisions. After much prayer and discussion with my wife, I made the decision to leave the military, a career that I loved. It appeared to us that God had other plans and we needed to stop fighting his decisions. It was very difficult at the time but almost a relief when the decision was made. The acceptance that God was in control was clear, no matter how hard I tried or what I thought I had achieved. The take away for me from all this was to spend time on big decisions and ask for help from God – it can take a few days, weeks or even months to sift through issues with prayer and counsel, but a way ahead will always develop.

Indeed, it wasn't long before another pathway unlocked for me, in the form of running a small, now medium, business. It certainly hasn't been easy but it has allowed me to continue to contribute into something that I believe is for the greater good. Furthermore, it has enabled others, like me, who also want to serve the community out of uniform, to continue to use their skills knowledge and experience in a meaningful fashion. The company mainly employs veterans, and emphasises the values of trust, respect, flexibility and humility, and although I don't preach at work, my faith is known (and often tried!). It is hard to resist the slide back to complacency, being too busy, having too many competing agendas in daily life, but I can see clearly now that God has had a path for all of us even when we didn't like it and its up to us to follow him, not the other way around.



The joy of the Lord is your strength

Rev Joe Mullins



Rev Joe Mullins is a WWII veteran who shared a great story at the seminar. It was in his 20s that a particular event changed the passage of his life.

It was 27 July 1945 when I was at a battle at a little place called Letpanthonbyn in Burma (Myanmar), north of Rangoon (Yangon). The Japanese were trying to get out of Burma into Thailand. It was during the monsoon and we were out on a fighting patrol the night before and we were trying to find out where the Japanese were. There were tens of thousands of them seeking to get out of Burma and to escape - mostly along the railway line because that was the only raised bit of ground with the paddy fields all around. While we were out on patrol we didn't find them; they found us. They occupied the village that had been our headquarters.

When we came back the following morning, we were ordered by the Brigadier to retake the village. It was in that battle that I was commanding a company. We were to put in the final assault to drive the Japanese out.

I was commanding B Company. An artillery barrage was put down. Unfortunately, it landed in the lap of A Company, which demoralised them a bit, as you can imagine. We tried to get around the left flank but there was a banana plantation and bananas don't stop bullets, so we came back. Finally, we put a number of assaults down the centre of the

village. There was a Buddhist temple with a mud water tank behind it. The Japanese were dug in around the base of that tank. I was directing the attack from under a tree when a sniper in a tree targeted me. There was so much activity going on as I was directing the attack, I was quite unaware of what was happening to me personally.

One bullet entered the top of my helmet, ran round and came out the back. The path of the bullet can still be seen in the helmet. I was crouching behind this mango tree and the second bullet in the side of my helmet burst open, ran around inside and came out the other side. So it actually came in near one ear and out near the other. The third one ricocheted off.

My second in command was wounded and we had a number of casualties; we couldn't get the Japanese out. Finally, I reckoned if we went around A Company's front we could creep up under the bank of the tank and get around that way. By that time it was getting dark and unknown to me (the communications were not brilliant in those days) COL John Terry, our commander, had ordered all the troops back to the back of the village. There was just myself and three or four others left alone. I sent one of the men back to get some more ammunition. We'd had grenades but we'd run out. He came back and said there was nobody there. So we simply had to lie under the bank of that tank for the rest of the night.

Early morning, I can still remember the dawn creeping up, and the Japanese packing up all their gear and ammunition. Either they were going to come down to where we were or they were going to leave. By God's grace they left.

Then "What to do?" because our men thought we had either been killed or taken prisoner, unknown. We decided to sing army songs like "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile" and walk straight down the centre of the village which we did. I can still remember the wide eyes of John Terry and the others when we united with them. John gave me a hug and said 'We thought you were gone!'

As I began to relax, I suddenly felt my steel helmet weighing a bit heavy. I took it off and felt the top of my head. I was surprised to find a scratch, perhaps an inch long. I looked at my helmet; inside the foam rubber and leather crown were ripped to pieces. I pulled them out, revealing gaping holes and a dent where the Japanese bullets had penetrated the steel. The bullets had struck the helmet and spun around the





inside curve of the steel before exiting the other side. The bullets had all been miraculously deflected from my head. We lost 25 men in that battle, 25 of our friends. As I gazed at the helmet, it seemed that God was talking to me, "Joe, you have no right to be alive. Your only right to live is to give yourself back to me"

I had been a bit of a back slider. You go with the flow so easily in the mess and in the army and it served as a real wake up call for me. Very easily you dismiss it and say it was my luck. I believe it was the providence of God. To ensure I wouldn't forget it, I was in hospital for eight weeks because we'd been sloshing through the paddy fields and leech bites had gone septic on both my legs. Leeches get through the eye holes of your boots. It took 8 weeks to clear up.

God used this incident simply to get me to redirect my life. 'Lord, what do you want me to do?' That's the story. I later went back to the UK, went to university and returned to India as a missionary. Finally, my wife and I with 6 kids, migrated to Australia and we've never regretted that.

The verse which came to me in my Scripture Union reading is from Nehemiah – 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.' (Neh 8:10) There's no retirement from Jesus and from being witnesses to him. I live in a retirement village and my wife's gone to be with the Lord and I miss her a lot, but 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.'



Seeing ourselves from God's Perspective

CHAP (AIRCDRE) Kevin Russell



The Roman Centurion was a Commander of approximately 100 men. Centurions often suffered heavy casualties in battle, generally fighting alongside the legionaries they commanded. They usually led from the front, occupying a position at the front right of the century formation. They led and inspired their men by example. They also sought to display the skill and courage that may have brought them to their rank in the first place. The Centurion was to be vigilant, temperate, active and ready to execute the orders he receives rather than to talk. The Centurion who came to Jesus said, 'For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me.' (Luke 7:8) A Centurion could see himself from his own Commander's perspective.

I can understand why Military Christian Fellowship chose the theme 'Centurions' to model military Christian life. Of prime importance in my mind, is that we see ourselves from our Divine Commander's perspective, that is to say, to see ourselves from God's perspective.

The experience of King David as reflected in Psalm 51 can help us to see ourselves from God's perspective

Psalm 51 speaks to all Christians. The Psalm gives expression to the deep sighs of our souls, and enables us to emerge in

praise and proclamation. The cry/prayer 'Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise' (Ps 51:15) is a way for our life.

My observations from Psalm 51 are that.

- the ability to Praise our God is an important element in experiencing and dealing with guilt.
- to be properly human, we need to view ourselves from God's perspective.
- that apart from Jesus Christ, and his work on the cross, there is no Divine assurance for us, and no basis for praise.

The story behind Psalm 51 is contained in 2 Samuel 11. This is the story of David's affair with Bathsheba, and of David's arranged murder of Uriah, so that the affair would be covered up.

This is not the kind of behaviour that we expect of our political leaders, and we must understand at this point that David is not a private citizen. David is a significant public figure. David is King. David is in that position of King by the means of a Divine appointment, his anointment is such that David is God's representative on earth. There is also an attempt of an institutional cover up of David's affair and this cover up has devastating consequences for other people.

The last sentence of 2 Samuel 11 reveals God's perspective as 'the Lord considered what David had done to be evil.'

David could have justified a number of things had not God sent the prophet Nathan to expose David's act.

David had in effect broken half of the Ten Commandments.

- Do not murder.
- Do not commit adultery.
- Do not steal.
- Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbour.
- Do not covet your neighbour's wife.

When David realises the gravity of what he has done, he is crushed. That crushing emotion is reflected in verse 3 in particular 'For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me.' David understands the nature of his sin



(rebellion against God v1,3), that his sin is an offense to God (v4), that he is culpable (v4), and that by nature he is a sinner (v5).

However, in the midst of this negative introspection David slips into words of praise. He recognises that God has faithful love and abundant compassion (v1). That God is the source of salvation (v14), and that he will declare God's praise.

David has a confidence in God based upon God's mercy – this is implicit praise. In his Psalm, David is able to move from a self-focus, wallowing in his sense of guilt to a proper and realistic God focus. David's sin which in committed in private becomes declared public knowledge as David confesses in an open manner. David can now declare God's salvation. David declares his determination that he is going to be faithful to God. The final verses of his Psalm show that David has shifted from his own welfare, illustrated by his attempted cover-up, to be focussed on the public welfare of the nation.

David chooses to grow his relationship with the living God. The Psalm moves from lament, guilt and confession, to praise.

My first observation is that the ability to praise God is an important element in experiencing and dealing with guilt. We are able to enter into that praise because of God's steadfast love.

My second and main observation is that to be properly human viewing ourselves from God's perspective is beneficial. This Psalm shows David both troubled and comforted. David is not arrogant or cocky. David presents himself as he truly is, with all his faults, but nevertheless a public figure with a strong confidence in God in both his public and private life. David sees himself from God's perspective. David is a great model for all of us, for to see ourselves from God's perspective is to have confidence and assurance in God.

My third observation is that apart from Jesus Christ and his work on the cross, there is no assurance for us, no basis for praise. Hebrews 9:15-16 indicates that Jesus' death took place for the sins of David as much as for our sins. We can look back and see that Christ event. David could not. We know that all our lament, guilt and personal anguish are taken up on the Cross, and therefore we are able to be transformed into praise as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' death and resurrection give us an assurance and the basis for praise.

Prayer life, behaviour and personal demeanour are outward and visible signs of our soul. 'Christian Centurions' are able to see themselves from God's perspective. They are able to see that they are far from perfect, have done some terrible things, but are never the less Christ focused, able to lead because they rest in God's salvation, and able to live his praise.

MCF-A Groups

MCF has an interdenominational vision that acknowledges that we are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). Groups are of various sizes and styles and vary with the unique people that make up the group. Due to the diverse mix of people in MCF groups a Small Group Code of Conduct was formulated to give guidance to working together in unity.

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.

(See the inside the back cover for current MCF contacts who can link you with other Christians in your area)



Principles of Military and Spiritual Warfare

LTGEN (Ret'd) Ajai Barnabas Masih



Those of us who have been on active military service know the vital importance of following principles of warfare; principles that have stood the test of time.

I served in the Indian Army for four decades and experienced five full-scale wars with Pakistan and China, counter terrorism and insurgency operations against the Taliban and a peace keeping mission in Sri Lanka. In my retired life as I focused more on 'The Word', I realized that principles of military warfare ran in tandem to the principles of spiritual warfare. The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Ephesus made it quite clear that our spiritual battles are not against any one personality or enemy but against a coalition of powers of darkness and evil: the likes of which we can scarcely comprehend. In order to wage a full scale war against these



principalities and powers 'Soldiers of Christ' have to don 'The armour of God' – A spiritual battle dress which he illustrated by using the battle attire of a Roman soldier of the day. This is fascinating and I would like to share with you just eight principles: there are in fact eighteen of them.

For a start, in the context of military war, according to Mao ze Dong 'power flows through the barrel of a gun': however, in spiritual war it is 'Not by power or by might but by *my Spirit* says the Lord' (Zechariah 4:6).

1. *Recognizing the Commander*: The outcome of military battles, to a large extent, revolves around the personality of the Commander. In the book of Exodus we find that Moses was in the thick of battles: military and spiritual at the same time. In (Exo 17:15) Moses identified 'YAHWEH' as the Commander when he proclaimed: "Jehovah Nissi": 'The Lord is My Banner'
2. *The Commander leads in battle*: Military history is replete with examples where victories were won by the personal example, influence and inspiration of commanders. In spiritual warfare too 'YAHWEH', the Father and military Commander of Israel, was always in the forefront of battle (Josh 3:14-15).
3. *Selection and maintenance of mission*: This has been one of the cardinal principles for success on the battlefield. Capitulation of the Ottoman Empire, restoration of Jerusalem from the Turkish in Palestine in 1917, defeat of Nazi Germany and the surrender of Japan in the Pacific are examples of success. On the other hand, Vietnam in the 1950's and closer to time, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria are demonstrative of unclear directives and changing





strategies: messy wars in all cases. In the spiritual context, Jesus' mission from the beginning to the end of his earthly ministry remained unchanged. "The Kingdom of God". Everything revolved around this mission.

4. *Alertness and Surprise:* Bombing of London and Pearl Harbour followed by the 'Yom Kippur' war waged by Egypt against Israel in 1973 and in 2011 'Operation Geronimo' leading to the killing of Osama Bin Laden are perfect examples of the application of this principle. In spiritual warfare, 1 Peter 5:8 is a doctrine of remaining 'Alert' against the wiles of the devil. In this same context please see: Matt 25:13; Neh 4:16-18; 1 Sam 24:4-5 and 1 Sam 26:9-12.
5. *Deception:* The famous MGM movie 'I was Monty's Double' is based on this principle. Spiritually, man's fall from God's grace can be attributed to satanic deception. Jesus himself said 'Satan is a liar' (John 8:44): his mission is to 'steal, kill and destroy' (John 10:10): the scriptures further reinforce this (2 Cor 1:14; 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:11-15).
6. *Seeking permission for battle:* Can a soldier go to war without the explicit sanction or directions from the Supreme Commander? He may not agree with the tactics or strategy but a subordinate commander cannot go to war on his own. David, one of the finest military warriors of the scriptures never went into battle without seeking the permission of YAHWEH (Jud 20:18; 2 Sam 2:1; 5:19).
7. *Unconditional obedience:* In the armed forces of any country, this is one principle which is followed to the hilt; and for good reasons. While in some military systems 'obedience' gets translated to mean 'subservience', spiritually it is because of the highest commitment and love for God. We witness in 1 Sam 13:14, king Saul's disobedience and the consequences during the battle of Gilgal against the Phillistines. Obedience is one principle which has been repeatedly applied throughout the scriptures.
8. *Discipline.* This is another principle which can never be compromised either in military or spiritual battles. I will not labour on the former since a soldier knows all about it. Spiritually, Paul advocated this firmly to his protégé Timothy in 2 Tim 2:3-4. Armed forces of modern democracies, without exception, remain apolitical and contribute to decision making only when called to do so. On the other hand we have witnessed the involvement of the military in countries like Iran, China, Pakistan and North Korea. Paul's thrust to Timothy was 'do not get distracted by non-spiritual matters'; remain disciplined.

Dear readers, we as soldiers and believers should not overlook these principles. In our personal and Christian experiences we must never forget: "The battle is the Lord's" (2 Chron 20:15; Deut 20:4; Prov 21:30, 31).



Administrator's report

Michael Nott



I've been in my role with MCF for a little over a year now. During this time I have been able to gain an appreciation for the type of group MCF is. As I connect with various people through MCF I hear a variety of experiences. I hear of groups that are thriving and connecting well with a number of people, encouraging each other in their faith. In other areas MCF might not be so strong, but there is other strong and encouraging fellowship available. I also hear of those who are feeling isolated and far from any strong connection with MCF or an alternative. While MCF is not a church and can't take the place of church, it can, however, be an encouragement and support within Defence. We should continue to look further at how we connect to one another, particularly how we support those who are feeling isolated.

Membership

In terms of the membership, MCF Australia is currently sitting at over 660 members. Whilst we do continue to gain new members, we also lose a good number each year for various reasons, many simply because contact details have changed and not been updated. There are also many who are connected to our groups who are not members.

What are we offering members that is of value and will get people signing up and keep them engaged?

Representatives and Contacts

Important roles for connecting people with MCF are the roles of MCF Representative and Contact. These people generously volunteer their time to be a local MCF connection point for enquiries and many also run a small group. See the inside back page for the current list of Reps and Contacts. This contact list is frequently changing with movements from postings and deployments and as such, we always have need of more people to put up their hand and be willing to connect with others in their location to provide encouragement.

Events

Throughout the year we encourage people to get involved in events like the National Day of Prayer for Defence, the MCF Seminar and the Defence Christians' Dinner where they can. Whilst we have such key events that we try to bring people together for, there are also local groups that run various other events. These are important because not everyone can make it to the major events and traditionally many of these events have been Canberra centric (this is something that is changing). So, if you do have a local event or have any ideas for local events that you would like support for, please let us know.

Centurions

Another area of MCF is the Centurion program. Centurions commit to supporting MCF both prayerfully and financially. A big 'thank you' to our generous centurions and donors who continue to make this ministry possible. If you are unsure of whether to support MCF I would love to find out what would you see as providing value to your donations that is not already being done in MCF. Such feedback is helpful as the use of our resources is considered.



Reflection

I would like to finish with some thoughts on a passage of Scripture.

Ephesians 4:11-13, 16 (NIV)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ...

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Here it is Christ Jesus who gifts people to his church; in the form of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Now we may not be in such a prominent role but we can all be a gift for the equipping and building up of others. In MCF there are soldiers, sailors, airmen, officers, chaplains, public servants, contractors and retirees. Each of you is valuable to God and each of you can be a gift to your local church and community, to your friends and family, to those who you work with and to MCF.

As those serving the risen Lord Jesus, how are we taking on this role of encouraging and equipping the people of God? MCF is made up of people with diverse backgrounds, denominations, gifts and abilities. Together we need to be equipping one another to be able to serve effectively in the defence environment. It is good for those in MCF to be connecting to one another. Despite the distances and despite the challenges we have a common faith and Lord. It is as we build each other up in the love of Christ that we grow.

In my role as the administrator in the MCF office I find myself as a connection point in a larger network. Mostly this is via email and phone. Occasionally it is face-to-face. It is good to hear from you when I do and I hope to be an encouragement in your walk with Christ. There are definitely challenges given the nature of our membership – many of you are very busy people who live in varied parts of Australia. It can be hard to connect. But if it works it can work well. Bringing people together united by faith in Christ encouraging each other in the mission of God in particular within the ADF. I truly hope this passion and desire to reach those in the ADF continues and grows and that MCF can be a highly productive network to build the Kingdom of God in the ADF.

MCF-A Centurions

Thank you to our generous supporters, both Centurions and Donors. We have not reached our goal of one hundred Centurions yet and in fact we have lost a small number with the move away from military allotments. Currently there are 36 Centurions: 31 listed below, with 5 not published to remain anonymous. MCF also has 19 Donors. If you would like to become a Centurion, please fill in the Centurion form provided on page 18.

LTCOL (Ret'd)	Russell	Bielenberg
Mrs	Helen	Bielenberg
WGCDR	James	Blagg
CAPT - Army	Jacob	Choi
REV	Ken	Delamore
AB	Luke	Eglinton
Mrs	Rhonda	Farag
WO2	Martin	Fisher
CPL	Timothy	Flitton
BRIG	Dan	Fortune
Ms	Susan	Hannigan
Mr	Sam	Hays
SQNLDR	John	Herrmann
LTCOL (Ret'd)	Alan	Howes
CHAP	Bruce	Johnson
Mr	Jon	Laird
CAPT - Army	Peter	Liston
CFN	Cam	Lovering
MAJ	John	McGrogan
Mr	Warren	McGuire
LCDR	Anne	Mena
MAJ	Marcaus	Muller
SQNLDR	Adam	Paull
Mrs	Jan	Plumb
RADM	Trevor	Ruting
LT (Ret'd)	Max	Schibrowski
CHAP	Gary	Stone
WO2	Darren	Thomas
LCDR	Bruce	Vandeppeer
LTCOL	Jamie	Van Heel
LTCOL	Scott	Watkins





Forum of Christian Military Ministries

LTCOL Jamie van Heel

The 2015 Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) was conducted at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in November 2015, facilitated by Chaplain Kevin Russell. The Forum meets annually to discuss and pray for Christian ministries within the ADF.

At this year's Forum, each ministry was provided an opportunity to share what they had accomplished through 2015 and what is planned for 2016. Prayer was offered for each of the ministries at the conclusion the presentations. Discussion was held regarding how we could co-ordinate our activities through a shared calendar for activities such as the National Day of Prayer for Defence, MCF Seminar and Defence Christians Dinner. Consideration is also being given to having current ministry leaders sign the FCMM covenant in August 2016 as a recommitment to the covenant between the ministries.

In the evening the dinner guest speaker was Rev Peter Rose, the Chaplain to the Australian Parliament. He shared with us some of his experiences that he has had in his ministry life. It was both entertaining and challenging.

Forum of Christian Military Ministries Contact Information

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

Equipping, encouraging and supporting Military Christians to build the Kingdom of God in the ADF.
02 6266 4950 | mcf.office@defence.gov.au | www.mcf-a.org.au

FOCUS Military Ministry

Building the Kingdom of God through people in the Military.
02 6112 8053 | network@focusmilitary.org.au | www.focusmilitary.org.au

The Australian Navigators

Lead On.
02 8814 5006 | nav_office@navigator.org.au | www.navigator.org.au

Solid Rock Ministries

Christian support groups for military wives/female partners.
0412 720 069 | solidrockdefence@gmail.com | www.solidrockministries.com.au

Red Shield Defence Services

Welfare & Morale support with a listening ear.
Practical and spiritual support through God's love.
0407 830 488 | www.salvos.org.au

Everyman's Welfare Services

Living and Proclaiming the Message of Christ to Defence
02 6055 2988 | admin@everymans.org.au | www.everymans.org.au

Army Chaplains

Provide religious ministry and pastoral care to service members and their families.
www.army.gov.au/Army-life/Health-and-welfare/Chaplaincy-support

Air Force Chaplains

Provide religious ministry and pastoral care to service members and their families. <http://airforce.gov.au/chaplains>

Navy Chaplains

Provide religious ministry and pastoral care to service members and their families.
www.navy.gov.au/about/our-people/counselling-religion

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!

The ministries included:

- Chaplains,
- Military Christian Fellowship,
- Association of Military Christian Fellowships,
- FOCUS Military Ministries,
- Navigators,
- Everyman's Welfare Service,
- Red Shield Defence Services, and
- Solid Rock ministries.

The next FCMM is planned to be conducted in Canberra in August 2016 and will be led by the Navigators.



MCF-A Representatives and Contacts

MCF Representatives promote MCF-A, while MCF Contacts receive and reply to enquiries. The level of your participation is up to you. Representatives, Contacts, Members and participants who are not members can lead the study at the MCF-A group.

Members at each Defence installation are put in touch with each other. Some MCF-A groups remain in touch via emails, others meet regularly.

To begin a group, please contact the MCF office at mcf.office@defence.gov.au and it will be listed on our website www.mcf.org.au

As Defence is a very 'moving' employer (as in postings), the names below often change – so please be willing to step-up and fill a vacancy. The leader of the group ensures that all members and those on their email distribution list are aware of the activities of their group and receive encouragement through their email contact.

Current vacancies exist at every Defence Base, Installation, Ship, etc that is not listed below! Please be in touch.

ACT

Brindabella Business Park

Ms Millie Milliken
colleen.milliken@defence.gov.au

Campbell Park Offices

Mr David Coleman
david.coleman1@defence.gov.au

Fairbairn

SQNLDR Adam Paull
adam.paull@defence.gov.au

Russell Offices

Mr Don Berman
donald.berman@defence.gov.au

NSW

DSTO Sydney - Eveleigh

Mr Timothy Dell
timothy.dell@dsto.defence.gov.au

Holswothy Barracks

CHAP Ricky Su
ricky.su@defence.gov.au

HQJOC – Bungendore

LTCOL Pinghan Chua
pinghan.chua@defence.gov.au

Orchard Hills

Mr Peter Toland
peter.toland@defence.gov.au

Penrith

Ms Luanne Mills
luanne.mills@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Glenbrook

Mr Brett Gash
brett.gash@defence.gov.au

SQNLDR Norman Siggee

norman.siggee@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Richmond

SGT Steven Cutts
steven.cutts@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Williamtown

Mr Sam Hays
samuel.hays@defence.gov.au

Randwick Barracks

WO Martin Fisher
martin.fisher1@defence.gov.au

Victoria Barracks Sydney

LTCOL Scott Watkins
scott.watkins@defence.gov.au

NT

Robertson Barracks

CHAP Cam West
cameron.west@defence.gov.au

QLD

Gallipoli Barracks

MUSN Alexander Long
alexander.long@defence.gov.au

HMAS Cairns

CHAP Ian Lindsay
ian.lindsay@defence.gov.au

Oakey 1AVN

CHAP Roger Marsh
roger.marsh@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Amberley

SQNLDR Garry Purcival
garry.purcival@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Townsville

SGT Peter Eiteneuer
peter.eiteneuer2@defence.gov.au

SA

DSTO Edinburgh

Hampstead Barracks

Keswick Barracks

MAJ – Res Geoff Robertson
geoffrey.robertson@dsto.defence.gov.au

RAAF Edinburgh

CHAP-Res Patrick Garton
patrick.garton@defence.gov.au

TAS

Anglesea Barracks

Derwent Barracks

NHQ Tasmania

Warrane Barracks

CHAP Scott Sargent
scott.sargent@defence.gov.au

Kokoda Barracks

Patterson Barracks

Youngtown Barracks

Padre – Res Steve Cloudsdale
steve.cloudsdale@gmail.com

VIC

Bandiana

Chief Commissioner Ken Matthews
kenneth.matthews@defence.gov.au

Defence Plaza Melbourne

Mr Michael McNamara
michael.mcnamara@defence.gov.au

DSTO Fishermans Bend

Mr Graeme Simpkin
graeme.simpkin@defence.gov.au

Maygar Barracks

Oakleigh Barracks

Simpsons Barracks

WO2 Darren Thomas
darren.thomas3@defence.gov.au

Puckapunyal

CHAP Stephen Maggs
stephen.maggs@defence.gov.au

RAAF Base Williams

LAC Brendon Lukin
brendon.lukin@defence.gov.au

Victoria Barracks Melbourne

Pamela Smith
pam.smith@defence.gov.au

WA

HMAS Stirling

AB Luke Eglinton
luke.eglington@defence.gov.au

Leeuwin Barracks

Irwin Barracks

Campbell Barracks

SGT Jim Skett
james.skett@defence.gov.au

If your area is not listed and you are interested in starting a group, please contact the MCF Office at:
mcf.office@defence.gov.au
CP3-1-160
Dept of Defence
Canberra ACT 2600
02 6266 4950

Back cover image: Coalition troops, including ADF personnel, stage an ANZAC Day dawn service on Mt Charandaz, Afghanistan.





Lest we forget

Deuteronomy 6:12