



Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

Area Representative Info



An Area Representative is an MCF member who on the basis of their keen interest in serving Jesus Christ, represents MCF in their area.

Who can be a Rep?

The Bible is clear that the character of a person is the most important aspect to one qualifying for such a ministry. We are seeking men and women with the following attributes:

1. a student of God's word who loves to share Christ and to help others grow up in Him.
2. hospitable.
3. having a love and concern for people as God has.
4. having a good reputation with outsiders with respect to personal life and military duties.
5. relating warmly and wisely to the Chaplains and their ministry.
6. willing to serve others.

Such Reps may be in fulltime Service with the military or reservists, they may be Defence contractors or may be APS employees of Defence or may have some other connection with Defence - it's not how you are serving but a willing heart of service that has opportunity before them to build up, encourage and witness to those in and around Defence.

General Responsibilities

MCF-A Reps are expected to:

1. be a point of contact for information and literature for MCF.
2. maintain contact with other MCF members in the area and with the National MCF leadership via the MCF Administrator.
3. support the MCF ministry spiritually, socially and financially as able.
4. encourage others to join MCF and take opportunities to raise the profile of MCF as appropriate.
5. provide a brief report on activities and items of interest at least twice a year.

Other Activities:

MCF-A Reps should attempt to undertake the following as their gifts, abilities and the specific situation allow:

- a. Organise and, possibly lead a regular MCF meeting (may be weekly, monthly, etc) in their workplace. Such meetings may be for Bible study, prayer and/or evangelism, and should attempt to relate our Christian faith to the Defence context of their location.

- b. Assist in liaison and organising visits by the Administrator and others.
- c. When posting elsewhere or finishing up will seek to find someone suitable to pass on the group leadership (providing guidance as needed) so there can be continuity for the MCF group.

Why be a Rep?

MCF is primarily a lay ministry and small groups are a key component in what keeps MCF as a ministry reaching out and connecting with new people.

As Defence Christians respond to the Holy Spirit and the word of God they may be drawn to consider the needs and opportunities to reach Defence for Christ - MCF provides one such avenue for service that a Christian working in Defence might take.

Christians equipped and mobilised in various bases, ships, units and establishments will have a wide reach. Whilst we have a national council and Administrator their impact will be somewhat regionally limited but they do wish to encourage and support members in all areas.

Being a Rep can be a rich and rewarding experience.

How?

By prayer! The area rep should seek local prayer support as well as wider MCF prayer support. Pray then plan is a good model to follow but not forgetting that once planning has happened to pray further. We are always reliant on God (or should be) in all things.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)

MCF Membership

At appropriate occasions it is helpful if Reps will mention that people can sign on as members of MCF. This should not involve pressuring but opportunity from time to time should be given.

MCF Small Groups


Bible studies in local small groups are at the heart of MCF. It is a vital function of the MCF - it together with prayer, holds our whole fellowship together under Christ.

Leadership of the group should preferably be shared so that as people post out of the area and leave the group there will still be leadership within the group to continue the group. More experienced leaders may need to train up younger leaders to aid in this (where possible and within time constraints).

In facilitating a study people should be encouraged and welcomed to share or pray in balance with also allowing them the space to decline. No one person should monopolise the discussion (in some cases the leader may need to privately counsel in a gracious way such a person).

Whilst the MCF website does already have some resources if groups at





times do produce their own materials it would be good to send them in to see if they might be useful to the wider MCF network.

The Rep should seek to advertise widely by word of mouth and publishing materials where permission can be obtained for putting up on bulletin boards or via base wide circulars. The MCF Administrator can help with providing materials for this.

Initiative

MCF Reps should also seek to use their own giftings and initiative in seeking ways to encourage those around them. For example one area that may be considered and would be encouraged is the provision of hospitality (as a group and individually) to show love, friendship and support.

From time to time out of the ordinary events may also be organised that may reach out to a wider region of MCF members. This is open to all sorts of possibilities - from social gatherings, outreach activities, a charity work, getting a guest speaker and so on. Support for such activities may be available so please do ask the MCF Council or Administrator.

MCF Finances and Centurions

Whilst much of MCF is graciously supported through voluntary actions of members there is still much that MCF offers which needs the voluntary financial support of MCF members and friends. It is good that MCF reps are aware of this need and that in a sensitive way encourage other members to consider how they might get involved with and support MCF including consideration of the MCF Centurions program.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

Guidelines

- Keep the Lord at the center of all planning.
- Have a definite goal or objective or for your gathering.
- Seek further prayer support - send points to those in your area as well as ask for some points to be put in the monthly MCF Prayer Calendar.
- Report - let others in MCF know how things went.
- Ask - Need help or guidance? Then ask. The MCF council and staff are there to help and other members can be a great support.

MCF Council and Staff

They are there to help. The MCF Administrator is able to organise to visit your base. Whilst visits will occasionally be organised to some locations you may also wish to request a visit particularly for special events and given availability to travel assistance will be able to given.

Occasionally also MCF Council members may have to travel and may make contact with Reps where they will be and such members should be welcomed if possible.

MCF Reps and Chaplains

Get to know your chaplains.

Help the chaplains understand MCF. Encourage their support, help and guidance.

Actively support chaplains and their programmes.

Coordinate so as to not clash and even arrange for things to be mutually supportive.

Where relationship allows ask about MCF meetings being promoted in chapel bulletins or announcements and ask about displaying some MCF material (if not already displayed).

Other ministries

Just like with chaplains Reps should seek to support and involve those from other ministries.

A covenant has been signed by leaders from the following ministries MCF, Navigators Military Ministry, Solid Rock Ministries, FOCUS Military Ministry, Everyman's Welfare Service, Red Shield Defence Services and ACCTS. It states:

Recognising that all who in Christ are members of the one body, and that our ministries are often co-located, we will make every effort 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

In accordance with the scriptures, to the end that Jesus Christ might be glorified.

To the Glory of God

In the end we want the Representative role to be all to the glory of God - as the Rep serves God in their location and as MCF seeks to provide an avenue to such service and to support the Rep personally. We can always get better at this and seek your feedback on ways we can improve so that we better give God the glory through the work of MCF.

<http://mcf-a.org.au/get-involved/become-area-rep/>

