



eNews February 2023

Thoughts for the New Year – MCF Chair, Steve Neuhaus

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do you to everyone. Galatians 6:9-10a

Paul here is both admonishing and encouraging the Christians in Galatia. It is easy to become discouraged when the workload seems overwhelming. As we start 2023 and we look longing back on the Christmas break, let us look now forward to preparing the fields for sowing and the casting out of the seeds of the Word of God. In due time the harvest will come. All members of the MCF are able to do this not only with welcome events, but also through our behaviours and prayer. At this time also we need to remember that we are not in competition with other Christian ministries within the ADF but actually working with them, some of the seeds they sow we will harvest and vice versa, as we are all sowing and harvesting for the Kingdom of God and not for ourselves. A big thanks to those who have already run events and please pray for those who are about to run events.

Finally, can I also encourage you that when feeling weary due to work, family, and other life commitments to not give up but instead remember Jesus' word – *Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11:26

May Christ's blessing be on you this year as you labour in this world for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Steve

MCF-A 2022 AGM minutes available

You can find the 2022 MCF-A AGM minutes at: [About Us - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](https://mcf-a.org.au) (about 1/3 of the way down the page)

Welcome Events

Thank you to the MCF-A Reps and Chaplains who are/have hosted MCF material at the Defence Welcome events. You can see and register for an event by searching Eventbrite – ADF family event.

If you're going to an event look out for the MCF table and come and say hi!



We cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed.



Puckapunyal Welcome Event



Canberra region are hosting a special MCF-A welcome/family free sausage sizzle at St John's Anglican Church Reid, **Sat 4th March, 10.30am – 2pm**. A great way to meet Defence Christians in the area and catch up with old friends. Plenty of free parking, room for the kids to run around, wet weather options and the Sallyman truck. Check out over 180 years of history with connections to Duntroon by looking through the Church and Old School House Museum – free! Everyone is most welcome – you don't need to be a Christian to attend so invite your work mates and bring your family!

Who is Solid Rock Ministry?



Solid Rock is a non-denominational Christian Ministry that aims to encourage female military partners and female veterans to live Christian lives, whilst recognising the unique stressors and hardships that are placed upon military families, particularly during posting cycles and deployment/separation.



We have groups that meet in Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane and Townsville and we hope to get something going in Puckapunyal this year.

Two ways in which we connect with women is through our Welcome Bags and our Hug in a Box. Our welcome bags are handed out during January to new families to the area and contain information about Solid Rock, some necessary items for move in day (toilet paper, garbage bag, coffee, etc) and some information on the local area. Our Hug in a Box is a pamper pack that anyone can order through our website and have sent to someone who needs a hug.

www.solidrockministry.org.au



Solid Rock is part of the Forum of Christian Military Ministries, to whom MCF also belong.

MCF-A 'MATES' program

In case you missed it in the Dec/Jan eNews.....



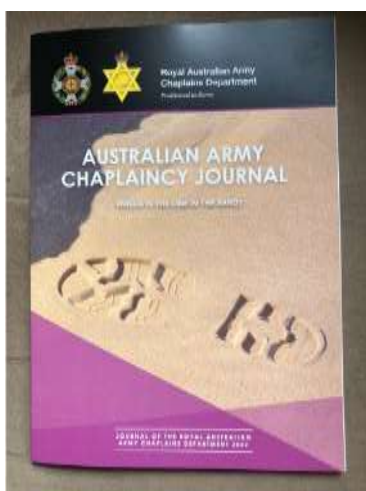
Member Assistance Team and Emergency Support (MATES) - In November a team of MCF-A Members headed to Rochester to help out an MCF Member on the journey to recovery after the floods.

The MATES Team assisted with cleaning outside the Salvation Army facility and helping a veteran and his wife strip out parts of their house in preparation for re-plastering. The MATES Team was *fully self-contained*, so not to burden those being assisted.

It is hoped that this will be an idea that takes off and grows within the MCF-A as we reach out to MCF members and their families who need assistance *at any time*. **Natural disasters, sickness, birth of a baby, deployment, posting -anytime someone may need an extra hand.**

For more info or to register your assistance or need for help contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au any time.

You don't need to register to give assistance but we love to know how you're supporting and encouraging each other to give others ideas of how they can do similar. Stories and photos are very welcome, just get permission from those in the photos for use by MCF-A.



Australian Army Chaplaincy Journal

The latest (2022) edition of the Army Chaplaincy Journal is now available on the DRN via: <https://drnet.defence.gov.au/Army/DGCHAPA/Pages/home.aspx>

There are various articles and book reviews from Chaplains and others along the theme – Where is the line in the sand?

The MCF office has limited hard copies. If you would like one please email the office your name and best postal address.

Helping Hands

a new TV program on Channel 9, GEM and 9NOW



Helping Hands is an exciting new TV show that started on Sunday 8 January 2023 and will air weekly year-around on Channel 9 (5:30am), GEM (10:00am) and is available anytime on 9NOW.

Each half-hour program has two main segments; a 10-minute documentary to showcase the people and organisations who make the world a better place, and a panel discussion to bring new perspective to a current topic. From start to finish, the show maintains a positive, uplifting and informative approach, to make the world a better place.

The show is a fantastic opportunity to bring faith-based stories to a mainstream audience, into schools and to facilitate conversations and education about important topics like social justice and family relationships.

Helping Hands is always looking for great stories to share. Visit the Helping Hands [website](#) (not accessible on DRN) to find the latest episodes and to let us know about a Helping Hand in your life.

Helping Hands is filmed and produced by one of the leads of Did You Know Education, a supportive partner of MCF-A.

Congratulations to MCF India/Nepal Rep



Congratulations to Arjun Rai (and his wife Purnima) on the birth of their first child, a healthy baby girl – Arpita, born around Australia Day. Arjun has been a long time member of MCF-A and you may have seen him on various Zoom Prayer meetings over the years. He has used many resources, like the National Day of Prayer for Defence program, to run programs and reach out to Defence personnel where he is at the time.

Arjun and Purnima are now commissioned missionaries working sometimes in India and but now mostly in Nepal. They minister to troops and help out on Defence Bases when possible and also help teach children who can't afford to go to school, amongst many other mission fields. Many people are coming to Christ through these programs. If you would like to know more about what they do, or to give prayer or financial support to continue these vital ministries in mostly unchristian parts of the world, please email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Other items

Have you posted or moved house? Are you deploying or away from home for a long time?

Posted or moved, please update your details [HERE](#)

Deploying or on a long exercise? MCF-A would love to support and pray for you while you're away. Let us know at: mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Membership

[Membership](#) is free and **open to every Christian**. If you've not had an association with Defence or you don't identify as Christian you can be an associate member via the same link.

Donations

MCF is supported almost entirely through freewill donations by members and supporters. Please look at Supporting MCF in prayer, with your time and through [financial support](#). (Direct debit preferred – details at right side of the webpage link)

Note that donations (over \$2) to MCF-A are tax deductible.

Prayer requests

To put forward prayer points for inclusion in the Prayer Calendar please email the MCF Prayer Coordinator Dr Brendan Pell: brendan.pell@defence.gov.au

You can also send through **urgent prayer points** that are sent on confidentially to the MCF Prayer Warriors, or enquire about becoming an MCF Prayer Warrior, by contacting Brendan.

Contacting the MCF Office

PHONE: 02 6132 7845

EMAIL: mcf.office@defence.gov.au You can also find us on Facebook, ForceNet and Twitter.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact: mcf.office@defence.gov.au