



CROSS FIRE

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The magazine of the Military Christian Fellowship
of Australia

Christian Ethics

What is your mission field?

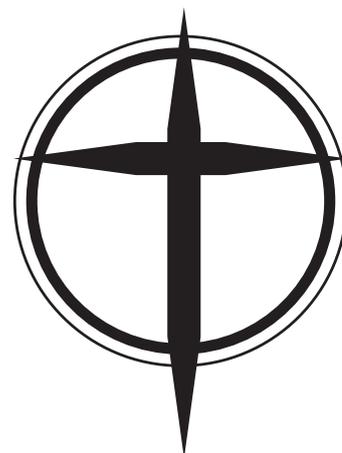
The Power of Prayer





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Got a story to tell?

Send us a short story of your experiences as a Christian in the military. Highlight what God has done for you!

Articles for Cross Fire should be no more than 500 words long, focus on military Christian issues and experiences, avoid denominational commentary, 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. All submissions should be in electronic format. Stories from operational service are especially encouraged.

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Chairman's Report



by Mick Mumford, Chairman

MCF has continued in 2006 to move to become more active in supporting Christians in Defence. Support for MCF is growing, we have been very happy with the number of people who have chosen to become new Centurions (see inside for details to know more), and most importantly of all we have released our prayer calendar for the second quarter of 2006. You will find a copy included in this edition of Crossfire. Please use it in your MCF groups and in your devotion times. Prayer is the fuel through which God will empower MCF to achieve the work we all believe He has for us.

In this edition we start a new series that will run throughout our 2006 editions - Ethics. An intellectual growth industry in international and military study, how much do we really know of ethics? In this issue Bishop Tom Frame, the ADF's Anglican Bishop, starts us on a journey of discovery about military Christian Ethics. I encourage all of our MCF groups to use it for personal and group reflection. As Christians we should be setting the ethical standards, but are we?

If you are like me then your year so far has been a blur of learning a new job, meeting new people, and going to new places; and the rest of the year's calendar doesn't seem any slower! How will we get all the work done? As I was

wallowing in my own mire over this issue recently I realised that Easter was coming and in my mind I tried to put myself in Jesus' shoes as he approached the end of his personal ministry on earth. For me this has been the start of another posting, for Jesus it was the opposite, but I wonder whether he also felt there was too much to do and not enough time. I think it is easy for us to envisage Jesus going calmly and knowingly to his death at Easter, serene in the knowledge that it was all carefully planned and arranged beforehand. Somehow it makes us feel less inadequate if he is a superhuman. I bet he wasn't serene though. I bet he felt just like us about the pressures of work and ministry. I bet he wished for extra time and a lesser load. He died horribly and suffered undeserved punishment to save us from our own sin. That is the stark truth of Easter; if we feel convicted by that, then so we should.

March hard for the lord.



Who pays for MCF Australia?

MCF is funded by free-will donations from its members and members of the public.

Donations can be sent to the MCF office: MCF-A Department of Defence Campbell Park Offices, CP43-046 Canberra, ACT, 2600 Australia ADF members can

make allotments to MCF (allottee number 122), or funds can be transferred directly from your bank account to the MCF account with DEFCREDIT (BSB 803205, Member 66126). **Your contribution will help support the work of MCF within the Australian Defence Force.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following MCF members:

Awards:

Principal Chaplain Eric BURTON

Royal Australian Navy

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

Citation: For outstanding achievement in the performance of duty as Director General Chaplaincy - Navy.

The Reverend David John GRIFFITHS, OAM, RFD

Member to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Citation: For service to the Baptist Union of Australia and to the Australian Defence Force as an Army Chaplain.

Envoy Mick GILBERT

The Salvation Army

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Citation: For service to the community through the Salvation Army's Emergency Services and Red Shield Defence Services programs

Warrant Officer Class One Stephen Michal HLADIO

Royal Australian Army

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Citation: For meritorious service as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Defence Force School of Music and Australian Army Band Corps.

Dob in a do-gooder! Email the office if you know a member who needs congratulating for either promotion, a family increase, awards, or special appointments.



Chaplain's Corner



by MCF Chaplains' Representative,
PCHAP Eric Burton, RAN

I'd like to briefly address two questions.

Did Easter Happen?

What difference does it make to us today?

On an Easter leaflet entitled "New Life" there is a picture of an old and gnarled trunk of a tree and within the trunk a new shoot has sprung. The message is clear - amongst the debris and decay in this forest there springs new life in the form of a new, young plant. In our lives too we are conscious of death and decay all around. All of us have been touched by the death of a loved one - perhaps a grandparent - or more tragically a younger person or friend. For some the image of death is the only picture they have - there is no 'new plant', no real hope for the future only the prospect of old age, retirement and then oblivion. Death brings no consolation.

How different for those whose faith is in Jesus and his resurrection. Peter the fisherman, and one of the closest of Jesus disciples, speaking in Jerusalem to a crowd in Jerusalem a matter of weeks after the death of Jesus says this:

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs....with

the help of wicked men (he was put to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him". Acts 2: 21f

Over the years people have said to me in so many words "Dead people don't rise and so I cannot believe", and yet a good hard look at Peter reveals some interesting details. Peter was the one who denied he knew Jesus only a few weeks before in front of a hostile crowd- because he was afraid of being arrested and crucified too. He had run away and was hiding, afraid and demoralised because the one who he had faithfully followed for three years had died. And yet now he was boldly proclaiming that he had seen Jesus alive after his death.

The question is what had changed Peter from being afraid and lacking courage to boldly proclaiming in public the resurrection just a few weeks later? Can you see that he had seen something or someone that had completely turned him around? The religious leaders of the time were not happy - they had Peter flogged and told him not to speak about the resurrection. Peter continued, was jailed and was caught up in the early persecution of Christians - and died probably in Rome. In fact apart from Judas Iscariot and John all the remaining disciples were martyred for insisting that they had seen Jesus alive. The point I am simply making is that these men were so convinced of Jesus' resurrection that they all paid the ultimate price of death for that belief.

I would encourage all readers to find a quiet corner and read carefully John's carefully worded account of the resurrection (John 20:1-8)

I say all this because the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. Without having some certainty of the resurrection then the basis our our faith and hope crumbles - as St Paul the Apostle says:

"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has

not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

Isn't it good that our faith is reasonable faith not blind faith. The events of that first Easter have been carefully documented and the record of those events give us today great a real basis for belief. And now to the question - so what? how can this affect us today?

Firstly the resurrection of Jesus shows us that God has the power to raise the dead. Jesus is called the first fruits of all those who will be raised one day. Our hope of life with God forever is based on the resurrection. No matter what life gives us - good or bad - nothing can separate us from the love of God and that ought to be a hallmark of our daily lives. Really every day of the year should be 'Easter' knowing that no matter what confronts us our loving Heavenly Father has it covered by his power - even power to raise dead people.

Secondly, the resurrection demonstrates that we are not alone in a friendless universe. Just as those disciples were enabled to overcome their fear when confronted with a living Jesus, so we today are in a relationship with a living lord not a dead figure of history. Christians have always said He lives rather than He lived.

Easter is a great season - it celebrates new life and new hope. In my church (Anglican) we begin the Easter service by the minister saying:

"Christ is risen" - the congregation respond "He is risen indeed". May this Easter be a time when you can confidently say these words knowing that whatever you face in service life you have a risen Lord who walks with you.





“What do we mean by ‘Christian Ethics’?”



by Dr Tom Frame,
Anglican Bishop to the ADF

Most ADF members regard themselves as ethical people. But if asked to define what ‘ethics’ involves or to give an account of what being ethical entails, we soon find that consensus is rather elusive. From my observation, the word ‘ethics’ is much misunderstood. According to the Macquarie Dictionary it is ‘a system of moral principles by which human actions and proposals may be judged good or bad or right or wrong’. This is a helpful start.

Ethics is not just concerned with avoiding behaviour which the law generally ignores, such as lying and gossiping, and behaviour which the law usually forbids, such as fraud and stealing. It is also concerned with prescribing and promoting what we might call good behaviour, such as showing tolerance and generosity, and the practice of altruism in the form of charity and compassion. In order for ethical principles to be coherent and applied consistently, they have evolved into discrete approaches. Each has strengths and weaknesses.

Deontological ethics stresses rules that are based on rights and duties that obligate individuals to do what is right. Consequentialist ethics ascribe primacy to the calculation of effects and outcomes with a commitment to achieving the greatest good for the greatest

number. Contract ethics are based on a formal agreement between the members of a society to act in certain ways in specified situations. Virtue-based ethics concentrate on the inculcation of esteemed virtues believing that virtuous people will behave virtuously. While the first two are the most pervasive, they all suffer from various practical and philosophical objections.

But is there a distinctly Christian approach to ethics? The answer is yes. However, the content and application of Christian ethics require some careful discernment. They need to be distilled from the pages of the Bible which was never meant to be a textbook on ethics. Not surprisingly, Christian ethics have their origins and objectives in God. This is expressed in three ways. First, God has ordered this world to reflect his purposes. God is entitled to declare how those fashioned in his image will live in his world. God’s laws and commandments, which have been disclosed by God as part of his self-revelation, are to be obeyed because they emanate from God and embody love and concern for all he has made.

Second, God has warned that certain actions lead to certain consequences. Some are beneficial while others are detrimental. They are disclosed in the history of God’s dealing with his people Israel and are self-evident in a close observation of cause and effect. The consequences of some actions are manifest in this life but they are subordinate to God’s eventual judgment on every living thing at the end of time.

The third expression arises from the words and works of Jesus. As Jesus is the foremost revelation of God, everything that he says and does discloses something of God’s character and the divine purpose. Jesus calls his followers to bear witness to his teaching in all their thoughts, words and deeds. Christian ethics, therefore, involves not just the imitation of Christ (Thomas a’ Kempis), conformity to Christ (Martin Luther) or incorporation into Christ (John Calvin), it is the practical expression of a personal

relationship with Christ and membership of his body which has become possible through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus sums up the ethical teaching of the entire Old Testament, including the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai, in just two sentences:

you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it; you shall love your neighbour as yourself.

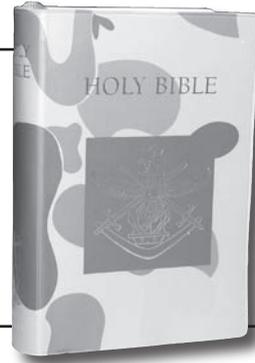
People in right relationships with God will be propelled into right relations with their neighbours. A right relationship with God is founded on faith and is sustained by worship, prayer, meditation on Scripture and service to others. The Pastoral Epistles, especially the two letters attributed to St Peter, provided some very clear guidance on how Christian believers are to live. The writer’s focus is not on solving ethical dilemmas but living in a manner worthy of one’s calling to follow Jesus. Therefore, Christians are not so much ethical guides but Christ’s ambassadors pointing to a new and better way to live.

But the focus of Christian ethics is not exclusively individual. The community founded by Jesus—the Church—is given specific ethical responsibilities which are set out succinctly in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ preached by Jesus and recorded in chapters 5-7 of St Matthew’s Gospel. In my reading of the text, the most well-known part of the Sermon—the ‘Beatitudes’ recorded in chapter 5:1-12—the first audience was not, in fact, the crowd who came out to hear Jesus but the disciples gathered intimately around him. Jesus explains to them that those who are hungry and thirsty, poor and grieving, and mostly pitied in the world but, are among those counted as blessed within the Church. Why? The Church was to be a counter-cultural community and a forerunner of the coming kingdom of God.

Continued on Page #11



**If you would like a
copy of
the ADF Bible?
See your local Chaplain**



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I am _____

a serving member of the ADF (Service: _____)

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 (Date: ____/____/____)

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a Government employee/contractor associated with the ADF

a serving member of a foreign armed force, living in Australia
 (Date: ____/____/____)

Sign here

 Signature

 Date





What is Your Mission Field



by Mr Mark Hodgekiss

Two ancient sailors head back to sea, but this deployment was on God's ship the MV Doulos.

Hi, I'm Mark Hodgekiss, ex-RAN Chief Petty Officer Electrical Technical (CPOET). Sandie my wife, daughter Tara, son Chris and ex CPO Underwater Control (CPOUC) Terry Rochford and his wife Kerrie, decided to go on a short term mission to God's cruise liner the MV Doulos whilst she was in Sri Lanka Dec 05 / Jan 06.

She is operated as part of Operation Mobilisation (OM) and continually travels the world (her sister ship Logos 2 in another part of the world), visiting ports with her floating bookshop (the worlds largest) selling educational and Christian books, conducting outreach and relief work.

After some 20 years in the Navy the skills that I had learned only partially are used in civilian employment so for some time now I have been wondering where could I use these skills and work for God? God led us to OM and the Doulos, a ship now 91 years old and commissioned two years after the Titanic. She has a crew of 300 - 350 people from some 46 different nationalities; and I thought living in the after mess of a DDG was a challenge.

Pictures by Mark Hodgekiss, showing his mate Terry Rochford on Doulos duty: managing the waiting line (above), and maintaining the garbage system (right).

The crew includes several sections

1. Operation and maintenance such as stokers [engineers], dibbies [deck hands], greenies [electrical], and bridge [navigation] staff.
2. Supports staff; cooks, cleaners, IT, laundry hands.
3. Admin personnel; school teachers, audio/ visual operators, creative arts, print shop, evangelistic teams departments just to mention a few.

Yes you did read correctly they have school teachers so the kids' schooling can be catered for; there goes that excuse. So if you've had enough of going on deployment and leaving the family at home, they can come along and get some sea time in with you so consider a posting to God's Navy.



A working week is: out of seven days one is off, one evangelistic day (when alongside) and five days in your section; so you have to be committed. But what a blessing it is to get up in the morning have breakfast (0730), go to a bible study or attend your home group then at 0900hrs start work in your section. I worked with the greenies (electricians), the daily routine started with the handing out of job requests and then we would pray over the jobs as a group this was a new and blessed experience. Terry worked with the deckies, Kerrie and Sandie the book exhibit, Chris in the engine room and Tara in the pantry. For our E [vangelistic] days the team was involved with Tsunami relief camps, prisons, orphanages, drug rehabilitation centers and schools in both practical and spiritual ways. For us all this was a time of stretching, going out of our comfort zones and spiritual growth.

Over the ten days the ship stayed in Galle, some 77,000 people visited her with the largest day being around 15,000. Consequently we were called out on several occasions to assist with crowd control; this in itself was challenging. How does one show Gods grace, patience, etc, when there is a large group trying to push to the front of the line?

So whether it's for weeks or years God's Navy needs both skilled and unskilled men and women. Please excuse my navy bias but this is a place where all military and civilian skills can be used. So where do you fit into Gods great commission (go into all the world)? I want to leave you with this challenge, "What mission has God called you into that would stop you from getting involved in this great and necessary work?"

Want to know more then checkout www.om.org.au or www.mvdoulos.org, or feel free to contact the Hodgekiss family on 02 43346100 or email mshodgekiss@tac.com.au, or the Rochford family 02 43422141 or email Kerrie@tac.com.au.





Doulos facts

Doulos was purchased in 1977 by Gute Bücher für Alle e.V. (Good Books for All), a private, non-profit, charitable organisation registered in Germany. Over 18 million visitors have been welcomed on board for tours, programmes and visits to the floating book fair. Almost 3 million have attended Doulos' teaching programmes. With stops in over 515 ports of call, this unique ship has visited more than 100 countries including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and many island nations. It has stowage of 1,037 m³ for its cargo of books of which around 12 million have been sold onboard.

Doulos is recognised in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's oldest active ocean-going passenger ship. Built in 1914 at Newport News, USA, it can carry up to 414 crew members in its 130m x 17m wide x 28m high hull (6,818 tonnes registered).

OM used to have another ship covering the Americas, MV Logos, that was in service from 1971-1988. MV Logos II has filled the gap, and MV Logos Hope is being converted to add further capability.



Mercy Ships

Christians bringing medical assistance by sea

by LCDR Peter Ellis, RAN, MCF Webservant

People who, like me, attended the Pacific 2006 International Maritime Exposition at Darling Harbour in January 2006 could visit the well-positioned booth of Mercy Ships, a global charity which for 25 years has operated a fleet of hospital ships in developing nations since 1978, bringing hope and healing to the world's poor, mobilising people and resources world wide. Mercy Ships have extensive medical and dental facilities, but also offer clinics, community development projects, health and medical training where they visit.

Mercy Ships operates through a scheme of volunteer Christian service similar to OM (see main story.) Crew raise their own financial support and traveling expenses thus assisting Mercy Ships to provide free medical care. Openings are available in a wide variety of positions, both skilled and unskilled. You do not have to be ex-Navy, or a medical professional! Serve from as little as two weeks to full-time as a long-term crew member, or as a support person to the offices around the world.

The 522-foot flagship, the Anastasis, is currently the worlds largest non-governmental hospital ship, with three fully equipped operating rooms, a dental clinic, a laboratory, an X-ray unit, and a 1,500 ton cargo capacity. Acquired in 1994, the 265-foot Caribbean Mercy, with its new eye surgery unit, focuses on the Caribbean basin and Central America. The 499-foot Africa Mercy joined the fleet in March 1999. She is currently being converted in the UK from a rail ferry into a hospital ship, complete with six operating rooms and an 80-bed ward.

Aussie Alan Budd and his wife were at the booth in Sydney. Alan told me the story of how he - and God - had been instrumental in converting and fitting out Caribbean Mercy on a budget that seemed impossible, except with God on your side!



Picture Source:
<http://www.mercyships.org.au/images>





For the Wives of MCF ...



by Janet Mumford

Well, my sisters-in-Christ, for those who moved recently, how did it go? No doubt it was like ours, there were many ups and downs as you pulled up roots, spent time not connected to anywhere, grieved and then began to plant again. It all takes time...for those who did move I hope that you are beginning to feel a part of your local community.

In the past couple of months I have been studying the life of David. In so many ways our lives are similar to his. I am struck first by the fact that he was out on his own tending the sheep...just him and God. Isn't this similar to us? So often we are on our own...extended family may be a long, long way away, our husbands may also be far away and if we have children then we are busy tending our sheep pretty much on our own. However, just like David, if we choose to invite Him into our lives, God can be very close and always with us. As we read through 1 Samuel, and on to 2 Samuel, we see that the training that David received whilst out on his own was vital to the role that God had for him. When David

offered to fight Goliath he says to Saul "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it." (1 Sam 17:35 -36). When the time came to help the Israelite Army God had already trained and prepared him. Ladies, this time spent "alone" in the "wilderness" is awesome training for what God has ahead for you! God can build so much into your lives...not just in the mind but in the heart. We had a season living on Thursday Island and while it was a hard time personally the lessons that I learnt there have held me in good stead as we have moved on. My children also had many values built into them that only an experience like that could give.

David was obviously not thought of very highly by his family. When Samuel came to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king, Jesse did not even bother to bring David in from tending the sheep. Do you sometimes feel like that? You continue to relocate with your husband, re-establish your home

and maintain it whilst he is away serving his country...does anyone really notice or care, do you feel left behind? I encourage you with the words God spoke to Samuel: "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b. God sees what you are doing! Use the time you have to study and seek God. The last couple of months have been quiet ones for me...no friends in my neighbourhood...no church home etc but I have taken some of my own advice (always easier to give out than to actually do!) and spent time studying and praying; it has been awesome.

We need to rely on God completely, hand over our problems, and watch Him provide and care for us. This would be harder if we remained in our comfort zones. Each posting is different and gives God opportunities to teach us new lessons. Ask God to show you how He is growing you; ask Him to encourage you! It is my prayer that you would all grow stronger in the Lord as you take this special journey as a military wife.

Blessings, Janet





The Power Of Prayer



by R. G. Goodman

In November 1984, a squadron of Skyhawks from the New Zealand Airforce was attached to RAAF Base Townsville to carry out bombing practice at High Range.

I was sitting at my desk in the Chaplain's office looking out over the airstrip at Townsville Base. A squadron from the New Zealand Airforce had arrived to conduct bombing trials on our range. There was constant traffic as planes landed, re-armed, and took off.

As each plane landed, I found myself praying that God would protect the pilot.

As the morning wore on, I had the feeling that this repeated prayer was becoming like one of those songs that you hear and can't get out of your head. So I prayed to the Lord and asked whether I was being silly with this continued praying.

Mordecai's advice to Esther popped into my mind. "Who knows but that you have come to this position for such a time as

this?" So, I settled down, and continued to pray each time a plane came in to land.

A plane came in to land, flipped over on its back, and roared along the strip upside down, with the pilot's face about an inch from the tarmac. He didn't get a scratch.

I was quite overwhelmed to think that God had been involving me when He was protecting that pilot.



Christian Ethics

Continued from Page #3

Members of the Church, especially those in dire need, are to be the subject of care and compassion simply because they are fellow members of the body of Christ and children of the one heavenly Father.

There are, then, three layers of Christian ethical deliberation. First, there are fundamental principles of love and justice which must be upheld always and everywhere. They reflect the character and purpose of God and undergird all moral considerations. Second, there are general ethical rules contained in Scripture applying more or less directly to certain given situations. They are to be applied consistently and conscientiously. Third, in situations which resist or prevent the direct application of either principles or rules, or when they seem to be in conflict, some clear empirical analysis is required.

The most pressing challenge, however, is to avoid the distinctly Christian elements of any ethical response being filtered out in the passage from discernment of principles to empirical analysis or from religious reflection to practical choices. The danger is shedding Christian ideals and being left with practical considerations which will tend towards convenience or personal convictions determined largely by some undisclosed ideological preference.

One helpful test is to ask whether the position you have adopted or the decision you have made requires the words and works of Jesus to make the position or decision coherent or compelling. If your approach to a particular question or response to a certain dilemma could be readily embraced by someone without any commitment to Jesus, it might still be an ethical position but it is not entitled to be called Christian. Some sound advice is contained in a well-known hymn by Katie Wilkinson (1859-1928):

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day
By his love and power controlling
All I do and say.





MCF CENTURIONS

"I tell you the truth; I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." These were the words that Jesus used to describe the Centurion in Capernaum. Imagine that; a military Christian getting such a rap from the Son of God. The bible tells us only a little about this man in Luke's gospel, Chapter 7. We do know he cared for his men, loved and served his nation, was generous in supporting his local ministry, was humble, was decisive, and had a very simple but rock-steady faith.

Why aren't we all like this Christian?

Why is he so rare?

The ADF needs Christians like this Centurion. MCF needs members like this Centurion, members who are willing to support with prayer, finances, and faith. We need members who are willing to go beyond just reading about military Christianity in Cross Fire. We need members who want to see MCF impact the ADF for Christ. We need members who are so led by the Lord to achieve our mission and objectives that they will partner with Council in providing prayer, encouragement, regular financial support, and rock-like faith.

So, MCF announces the launch of the MCF Centurion program. This program aims at finding 100 MCF members who will become Centurions.

An MCF Centurion:

- 1) Commits to pray using MCF's weekly prayer calendar; rain, hail, shine, or deployment!
- 2) Receives a Centurion Pack of signature items to personally recognise their commitment. This will include a Centurion coffee mug, limited edition MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores, and Korean War veteran Jim Wilson's handbook on strategic evangelism, Principles of War!
- 3) Commits to give at least \$5 each fortnight, either through allotments or annual lump sum, to MCF!
- 4) Receives regular updates about MCF including emails from the Chairman about the achievements of MCF as they happen, Treasurer reports so they can see where the money is going, and sneak previews of Cross Fire and MCF products!
- 5) Agrees to promote MCF by displaying MCF advertising in their local area and church!

Want to be one of our Hundred?
Fill in the application form and send it to the MCF Office.

MCF Date Claimers 2006

- Canberra Christians' Dinner, 1 Sep 06
- MCF Retreat 2006 - 20 to 22 Oct 06
- MCF AGM 2006 - Nov 06, TBA
- Forum of Christian Military Ministries - Nov 06, TBA

Need to claim a date?
Email the office.



May God bless those who have committed to make a difference in the ADF through prayer and support for MCF:

Jonathon Finch
Bob Stephens
Troy Urlichs
Shaun Webb
Glen Chalker

Douglas Randell
Nathan Runham
Mick Mumford
Janet Mumford
Greg Brown

Blessings also to those that choose not to be named
Honorary Centurions
Russell and Helen Bielenberg, for long service for the Lord in MCF

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

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Canberra, ACT, 2600

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I would like to make a difference in the ADF by becoming an MCF Centurion

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

Mailing Address (only if your mailing address needs updating): _____

Town/Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____ Email: _____

As an MCF Centurion I:

- 1) Commit to pray weekly using MCF's prayer calendar.
- 2) Commit to financial support of at least \$5/fortnight as follows (select one):
 - I have made a \$_____ per fortnight allotment via DEFPAY to allottee #122.
 - I have arranged an auto transfer of \$_____ per fortnight to MCF's DEFCREDIT account (BSB 803205, Member 66126).
 - Find attached my cheque of \$_____ to cover one year's support.
Please contact me in twelve month's time to renew my pledge.
- 3) Agree to promote MCF by displaying MCF advertising provided to me in my local area and church.
- 4) Do/Do not (circle one) wish my name to be listed in Cross Fire as an MCF Centurion.
- 5) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive quarterly updates about MCF including an email from the Chairman about the recent happenings in MCF, Treasurer reports so I can see my gift working, and sneak previews of Cross Fire and MCF products.
- 6) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive a Centurion Pack of signature items including a Centurion coffee mug, MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores, and Principles of War.

Signature: _____

Appointment Approved: _____

Date: _____

Chairman

Return to:

MCF-A

CP4-3-046

Department of Defence, CANBERRA ACT 2600

OR fax 02 6266 2530

Only MCF members can become Centurions.

MCF membership forms are available from the MCF website, National Office, or in Cross Fire.

Centurions appointed before March 2006 will be listed as Inaugural Centurions.





MCF Prayer Calendar

April-June 2006

Bless you and thank you for praying for MCF! We ask that you pray the points on this calendar once a week, on the week commencing the date listed. Each week has three points, the first relating to all those in Defence, the second relating more specifically to members of MCF, and the third relating to other Christian organisations who also minister and witness to Defence personnel. Our unity with these other organisations is very important. We are all part of Christ's body and each serve a different function to His glory. It is wonderful to be able to bless these organisations with prayer and practical support.

3 April

- ACM "Angus" Houston, CDF. For wisdom, strength and good counsel.
- Chairman of MCF LTCOL Mick Mumford. To have the mind of Christ as he chairs the Council, for wisdom in sharing out his time between work, family and MCF.
- Michael Hanlon, Fighting Words Ministry. To have the mind of Christ as he leads this ministry. For doors to open and many more souls to receive salvation through the various groups that meet.

10 April

- The Minister for Defence, Brendan Nelson. For Godly insight into all decisions being made concerning the future of the ADF and its personnel and for moral courage to follow through on this insight.
- Leaders of MCF groups around Australia (pray for the one or more that you know personally). For wisdom as they lead their groups, for discernment in areas of unity, and for understanding the needs of their group.
- Everyman's Welfare Service. For the Board of Everyman's, for health, strength, and vision.

17 April

- Chaplains in the ADF. For the chaplains in your area or that are personally known by you, for opportunities for them to share the gospel and for hearts and minds to be open as they do, and for Christ to speak through them as they meet with and counsel members of the ADF and their families.
- MCF members. For yourself and those known to you, that these members will have willing hearts to participate actively in this ministry, that all will feel connected to at least one other member, for unity between members.
- Bob Stephens from the Salvation Army. Pray for strength and wisdom and a continuing vision as he leads this vital organisation.

24 April

- Those from our military deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pray Psalm 23 over them.
- Operation Fruitful Tree. For God to build up Council and give them wisdom and direction in the planned deployment ministry.
- Navigators. Give thanks for their unique ministry particularly on our training bases. For divine connections with those who will benefit from the mentoring that navigators offers.

1 May

- Those from our Navy who are currently at sea. Pray for safety for all, for many salvations on our ships.
- MCF staff worker Jon Belmonte and his wife Leah. Give thanks for all their hard work, their positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile. Pray for more opportunities for Jon to encourage MCF members and to reach out to other Christians in the ADF.
- Association of Christian Conferences, Training, and Service (ACCTS). For Russell and Helen Bielenberg and their ministry in this region of the world.

8 May

- Pray for the salvation of many in the RAAF and for the base closest to you.
- MCF Retreat Oct 06. For someone to step forward to organise this and for a speaker.
- Association of International MCFs (AMCF). For CHAP Allen Neil, the Vice President for this region.

15 May

- Pray for the salvation of many in our Navy and for the base closest to you.
- MCF members' marriages. For spouses of MCF military members that they would have a deep revelation of their important calling, that these marriages be protected, strengthened and blessed.
- Fighting Words Ministry. For the work at ADFA, that many cadets will come to know Christ as a result of this vibrant group.



22 May

- Pray for the salvation of many in our Army and for the base closest to you.
- Deployed Christians from our ADF. Pray Psalm 34:7 and Psalm 91 over them.
- Everyman's ministry. For those on the base nearest to you that every financial and material need be met, for many to be drawn to the centres, and for those ministering to have discernment as they show God's love to each person.

29 May

- Officer Cadets/Midshipman and Recruits/Sailors in training. Pray that in this tumultuous stage of their lives they will turn to the only thing that remains stable...God.
- Retired MCF members. That they will see the great value that their participation can have within MCF.
- The Salvation Army at our training institutions. For many this may be the first time they experience the Salvo's. Pray for a positive impact, for these leaders to have a good rapport with those they are ministering to.

5 June

- For strong partnerships and anointing on the relationships between chaplains, local churches and military Christians.

- For those chaplains who are MCF members, that they would be supported and encouraged by members of the MCF..
- Navigators. For the National Director, Mike Johnson, for health, strength, and vision in leading the Navigators.

12 June

- Give thanks for the welfare systems that we have available to the ADF. For Defence Families Australia to have God inspired ideas to help those in the ADF.
- That the Lord would raise more MCF leaders and groups around our nation.
- AMCF. For the President of AMCF General Lee from South Korea, for health, strength, and vision in leading AMCF and for safety in his world-wide travel.

19 June

- Defence marriages. For solid, strong marriages.
- Families of MCF members. For godly friendships, a church home & opportunities to use their spiritual gifts.
- ACCTS. Pray for the training of military Christian leaders in countries without an MCF.

26 June

Choose three points from this calendar and pray over them again.

Not been to church in a while, but got this far and want to know more about being a Christian?

It may surprise you to know that it is not about being religious. "Religious" just means doing something regularly. You can religiously go to happy hours in the Mess for instance. Some people even think being a Christian is a "racial" thing like being of European or Asian heritage. Rather Christianity is about a personal relationship with the maker of our Universe through His son Jesus. It is about admitting we are not good enough to live in this world let alone the next and seeking God's mercy so that we can. The bible tells us that we need only knock on the door of the Lord and He will open it. How do you do this? Go and see a Chaplain. Walk up to him or her and say, "Hey Padre, I was reading the MCF magazine yesterday and was hoping you could tell me a bit about this Christian thing." Or go and see someone you know who practises their Christian faith, perhaps the person you borrowed this magazine from. If all else fails call the MCF Staff Worker! But whatever you do don't wait until it is too late. In the movie "Gladiator" Russell Crowe says, "What we do in life echoes in eternity." Christians would say "Who you know in life (Jesus) determines your eternity."





Staff Worker SITREP

by John Belmonte

It has been a busy start to the year. Some of our friends have received new postings; some close and some far away; some are on operational deployment.

We now have an Area Rep in Afghanistan, MAJ Doug (ARA), and we have SGT Greg (RAAF) in Baghdad. CHAP Chris (RAN) is also serving in the Gulf.

Please continue to pray for the safety and protection of our troops on deployment; and uplift their families in prayer also.

Staff Worker visits. February saw a visit to the Sydney area; Moorebank, Holsworthy, Victoria Barracks, Fleet base East/Garden Island and Endeavour house.

We have an MCF group meeting in the Chaplaincy at Holsworthy, during lunch hours and it was great to see 9 people in attendance with apologies from another five.

SME and DNSDC are a very real possibility in the next few months, please continue to pray that God will continue to grow people and that a suitable venue and time is chosen.

Victoria Barracks, will soon have MCF going again, pray for the identification of a suitable Area Rep for Vic Barracks.

FBE / Garden Island; a great meeting with the Chaplaincy staff; with the support of the Chaplaincy we will soon have an MCF groups meeting together for bible study, prayer and fellowship. Please pray for the Chaplains as they identify a suitable leader to be the Area Rep.

Endeavour House at South Coogee, home of our single male junior sailors. Some 500 or so are housed in the Endeavour House complex. Everyman's have established an invaluable resource and retreat area for the guys. Senior Representative Glenn LOUGHREY of the Everyman's has already had enquiries from junior sailors about bible studies & prayer groups. Please pray for continued acceptance and that more in-roads will be made.

Please remember to use the MCF prayer Calendar, please refer to previous page if needed.

Also Pray for:

- ADF chaplains as they minister to all in the ADF.
- The Everyman's Welfare Service. Especially SNREPS Glenn and Gaye LOUGHREY at Endeavour House.
- The Red Shied Defence Services, especially SNREPS David and Vale PRIGG, SNREPS Trevor & Debbie FRIEND.

Next SITREP, find out what is happening in the Wagga and Nowra areas.



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Heavenly Father, We thank you that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Bless the service men and women of all nations and grant that we who know the joy of being all one in Christ Jesus may be filled with your love and pass it on to others until his coming again. Amen



Bible Battlefield Commanders

by Mick Mumford

A Tour of Bible Battlefield Commanders - Part One

Ever read the Old Testament and wanted to be there during some of the great military victories of God's people? Ever wanted to see God's power wash over armies and battles? Well, here is a quick guide to some of the Lord's greatest battlefield commanders. It is suggested you use it for group bible study.

Abraham – Elder Statesman

First point of call is God's first great warrior, Abraham. Read Genesis Chapter 14.

- Why does he go to war?
- What does this say of Abraham?
- How big and Army does Abraham take to war?
- How would this have compared to the defeated four king's Armies?
- After he defeats the invaders, what is the response of those around him?
- How would this have brought glory to God?

Moses – Reluctant General

Now turn to Exodus 14 and we examine Moses' flight from the Egyptians.

- Who was really calling the shots here?
- What was God's plan (see vs 4)
- How brave were the Israelites?
- What does this say of their trust in Moses?
- How brave were the Egyptians?

Some apologists say this event could have been caused by a tsunami or other geological event. Read the description of the parting of the sea, how much like a geological event does that seem to be?

- What was the end result for the reputation of Moses and the people's belief in God?

Joshua – Veteran General Readies his Troops

There can be no doubt of Joshua's faith and bravery. One of only two men with enough faith to want to go into the promised land, despite the apparent odds, let us check out this archetypal military leader. Read Joshua Chap 5.

- In order to get ready for war what was Joshua's first act for the Israelites (see vs 2)?
- Would this have been welcomed initially as an act that would increase their ability to fight?
- What was this saying to both the Israelites and to God?
- What was the outcome (see vs 9) and why was this necessary?

Deborah -Warrior Prophetess

Always thought that God fought his battles though men only. Think again and read Judges 4.

- What would Barak have thought about the instructions he received in vs 6 and how did he react?
- Would we react any differently?
- What was the price for Barak's uncertainty?
- With nine hundred chariots to fight against who was the favourite to win?
- What was the purpose of the battle in God's eyes?

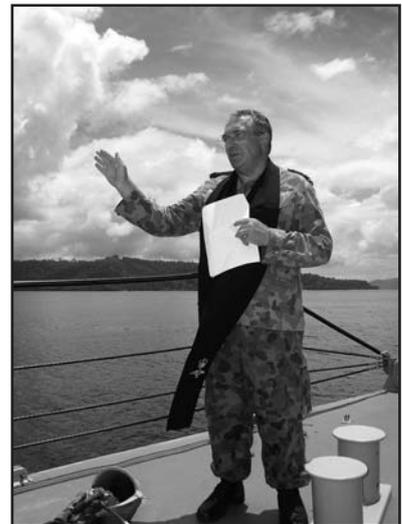
Gideon – Father of Special Operations

Do you imagine ancient warfare to be hordes of infantry shoulder to shoulder? Let's have a look at someone with a more unconventional approach to war. Read Judges 7.

- How confident was Gideon with 32,000 men?
- How would he have felt about God's plan to get rid of 75% of his force?
- How would we?

- What was God's reason to reduce the number of men to a mere 300?
- What vision did God send to fortify Gideon's resolve?
- What was Gideon's plan, how did it work, and what was the result?

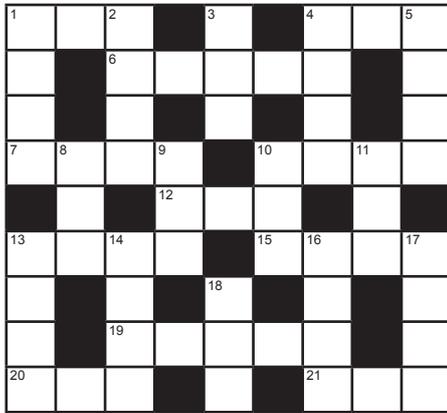
As God's people of the New Testament He does not expect us to fight other nations to claim our inheritance; but He does expect us to have the same courage, determination and faith as the Israelites. Next Crossfire we will study more of God's warriors - Sampson, Saul, and David.





MCF word

For those self proclaimed bible scholars, try this without the verse Hint!



Across

1. The Alpha and the Omega; who is, who was, and who is to come; the Almighty (Revelation 1:8)
4. The number of each "unclean" animal afloat (Genesis 7:2)
6. God made woman so man would not be this (Genesis 2:18)
7. God made man from this ingredient (Genesis 2:7)
10. God is the potter while we are the (Isaiah 64:8)
12. Severed by a disciple's sword but healed by Jesus' hand (Luke 22:50-51)
13. Under Jesus' rule this carnivore will eat straw (Isaiah 11:7)
15. Jesus' burden is light and his is easy (Matthew 11:30)
19. Moses led the Israelites out of this country (Exodus 12:42)
20. The holy temple had become a ... of robbers (Mark 11:17)
21. The church of Laodicea is condemned for being neither cold nor (Revelation 3:15)

Down

1. A compliment for many, but true only of God (Luke 18:19)
2. All was made in six of these (Genesis 1:5-31)
3. Jesus was God's one and only (John 3:16)
4. Jesus warned his disciples not to others that he was the Christ (Matthew 16:20)
5. The winds and waves Jesus (Matthew 8:27)
8. He was a son of Hur (1 Chronicles 2:20)
9. The number of original commandments (Exodus 34:28)
10. "Out of the depths I ...to you, O Lord" (Psalm 130:1)
11. Noah's vessel (Genesis 6:14)
13. God's status over us and the title of a famous prayer (Exodus 20:2 and Luke 11:2-4)
14. A poor excuse for not accepting hospitality was to test five yolks of new(Luke 14:19)
16. A sworn and solemn promise (Psalm 132:11)
17. Direction of Nod from Eden (Genesis 4:16)
18. Rough justice - an ... for an ...(Matthew 5:38)

Last edition's Solution:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | E | | E | | K | E | Y |
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In the next edition of Cross Fire:

- Ethics and the Military Christian (Continued)
- Bible Battlefield Commanders Part - 2
- Operation Fruitful Tree Update

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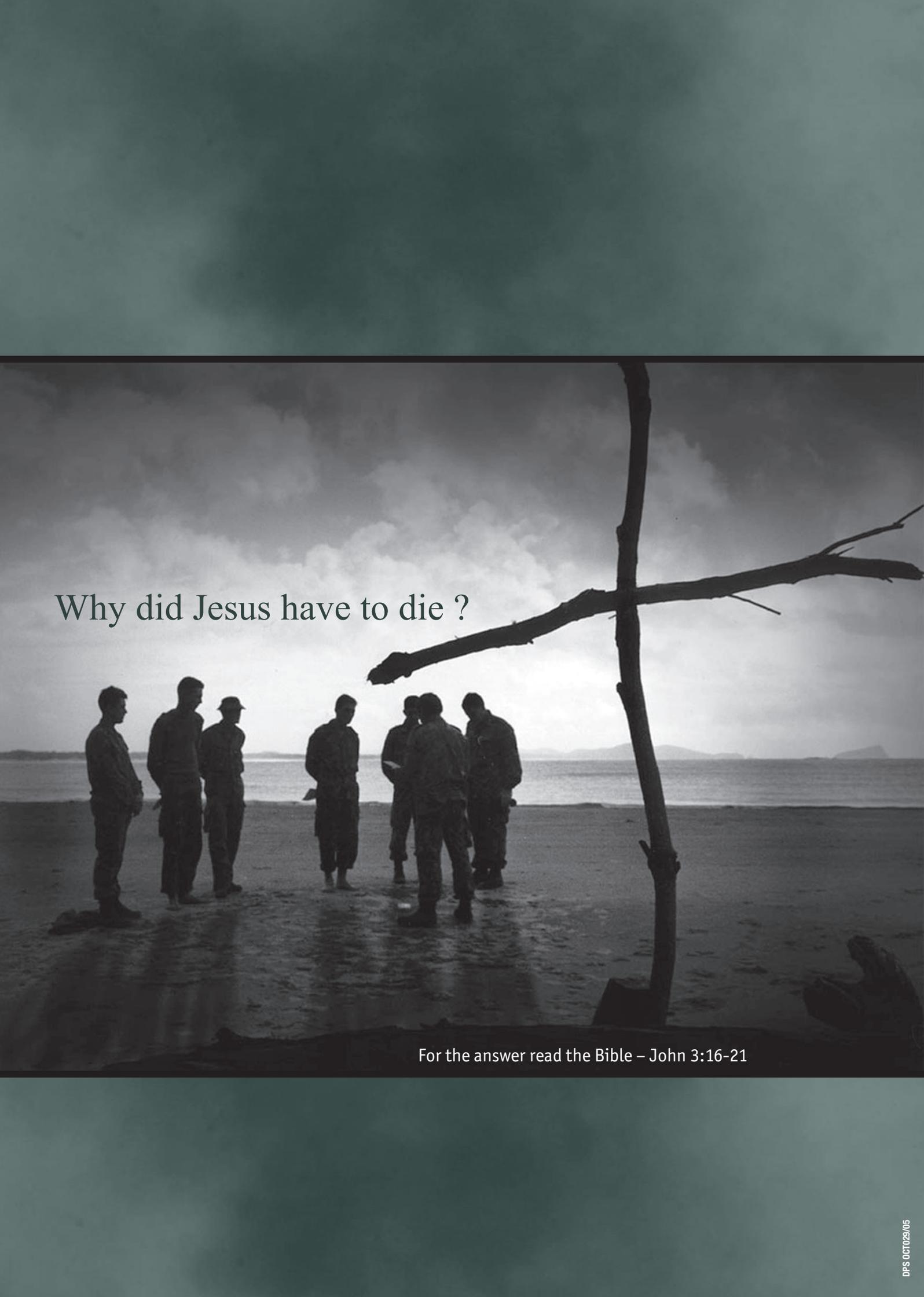
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Why did Jesus have to die ?

For the answer read the Bible – John 3:16-21