

CROSSFIRE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA † NUMBER 20 † JULY 2010



The Grief Journey | Battlesmart Seminar | Lest We Forget



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Crossfire has a new Editor

Mr David Coleman

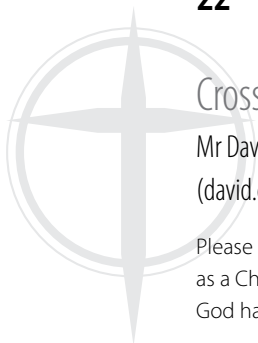
(david.coleman1@defence.gov.au)

Please send us 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.



Chairman's Report

by James van Heel



The theme for this Crossfire magazine is how to deal with grief. I know that there are many Defence members and those associated with MCF dealing with grief right now. Some are struggling to have a family, some have lost their children before their time, others are dealing with issues both on deployment and having returned from deployment. Grief is inevitable for all of us. How we choose to deal with grief and whether we are open to others being part of the healing process is our choice. Jesus grieved in the Garden of Gethsemane as he knew what was to become of him in the following days and hours. We can draw strength from Jesus, seek guidance from other Biblical characters, those close to us and professional counsellors to assist us through painful situations that can appear terribly dark at times. Having gone through a tough time with grief yourself, you can, if you choose, be there for others as you can appreciate the pain that they are going through.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of those soldiers who have lost their lives and been injured in recent operational activities in Afghanistan. We honor those who continue to serve in Afghanistan and grieve the loss of their mates. The names of the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Jun 10 are: Sappers Darren Smith and Jacob Moerland, and Privates Tim Aplin, Ben Chuck, and Scott Palmer.

The Defence Christians Dinner is scheduled for Fri 3 Sep 10. The guest speaker is Andrew Fisher www.jesusracing.com.au.

Following the dinner MCF will be hosting the inaugural Battlesmart Seminar on Sat 4 Sep 10 in Canberra. Battlesmart will encourage and equip Christians in Defence to prepare for and succeed in spiritual battles. Biblical perspectives and practical ways of 'taking up the armour of God' in the workplace will be shared by inspirational and thought provoking speakers. VCDF LTGEN Hurley will be opening the seminar. Additionally we will be hearing from BRIG (Retd) Jim Wallace, former Chairman and Patron of MCF and now Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby and MCF members who have recently returned from deployment.

LTCOL James Van Heel

Farewell

COL The Reverend Peter Rose after more than 45 years of service to the Australian Army and Defence Force. During that time Peter was Chairman of Military Christian Fellowship for 4 years.

Promotions

CAPT Adrian Bielenberg to MAJ.

Births

MAJ Marcaus and Kelli Muller welcomed twins born on 6th April in Germany. MAJ Adrian Bielenberg and Dr. Carolyn Deans welcomed their daughter, Clara Roselyn Bielenberg born 12 March 2010.



Birthdays

Bradley and Thomas Rose celebrated their 18th birthday on the 7th May with family and friends at HMAS Harman. Bradley and Thomas are the sons of CMDR David (former Crossfire Editor) and Mrs. Helen Rose (former Staff Worker).



Vales

CHAP Joe Bove, 17 March 2010 in Mackay, Queensland. CHAP Bove was a former MCF Area Contact for RAAF Townsville.

CHAP (FLTLT) Russel Avery 2 February 2010. CHAP Avery served as a specialist reserve chaplain in the RAAF, mainly at RAAF Base Richmond NSW. In 2009 he was appointed to the NSW Police Force as a Senior Chaplain.

The Defence Anglicans website has further information on the lives of both CHAP Bove and CHAP Avery:

<http://www.defenceanglicans.org.au/index.php?q=ministry>.





From the AMCF Vice President for South West Pacific –
Principal Chaplain Eric Burton RANR

What is AMCF?

2 years ago I was asked if I would stand for the position of the Vice President (VP) of the Associated Military Christian Fellowship (AMCF) for the South West Pacific – I guess in part because of my long association with MCF of Australia. I am very grateful to RAAF Chaplain Allen Neil for sponsoring me.

It is a grand sounding title with no pay, but I thought 'why not?'; particularly as I knew I was leaving the Navy as a full time chaplain. So in September 2009 I duly boarded a plane and headed for the Kwang Lim Seminar House in Seoul Republic of Korea where the meeting of all the world VP's and supporting organisations – about 85 folk were meeting including our own Helen Bielenberg from Australia.

What happened that week was one of the most supportive and uplifting weeks of my life. If you know the story of Narnia by CS Lewis where the children discover the world of Narnia after entering a cupboard – that's about how I felt; a completely new world of which I was not aware – it was like a slice of heaven; great worship, wonderful fellowship.

It was so moving to hear the stories of faith from around the world from Africa and the Middle East, from Europe and South America – in fact there are 14 VP's in the world AMCF organisation – mostly retired officers along with various organisations that support the VP's. The head of the AMCF is a Korean retired General Lee Pil Sup, a very gracious and wise Christian man.

For instance, in Korea there are about 25 or so retired military personnel who work in an organisation called the Military Support Organisation (MSO), pretty well full time, to

minister in the military of Korea. In addition they send radio broadcasts and pamphlet filled balloons into North Korea to take the Gospel to their northern neighbours.

The aims of the AMCF are quite simple:

- 1) To Establish MCF's in countries where there are none – currently 118 countries have MCF's and 78 countries do not have MCF's
- 2) To strengthen MCF's in countries that do have them

The ACCTS SW Pacific area is made up of the following countries:

Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Palau, Kiribati, Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Marshall Island and PNG – in short a huge area.

Already I've been busy endorsing 2 people from each country to observe the annual military outreach observation program in Korea.

How is this relevant for me – can I get involved?

Conferences

- Since the AMCF was founded there have been these world conferences

- 1961 Berchtesgaden – Germany 1961
- 1976 Virginia USA (600 delegates 21 countries)
- 1984 Seoul ROK (500 delegates)
- 1994 Virginia USA 1047 delegates and 94 countries
- 2004 Seoul – over 1000 delegates

- The next world conference will be in 2014 in either South Africa or the UK – more details later but put it in your mind now that you would like to attend.
- Our own regional conference in Brisbane in 2012 – this is a great event with many countries attending – would you like to be involved? Talk to me.
- Our own organisation for supporting AMCF MMI– Military Ministries Australia - will be reformed shortly. If you are a military person, serving or retired, and would like to be part of some exciting initiatives in providing support to Australian and surrounding countries militaries, please let me know.
- Above all pray for Christians serving in the world's militaries. 'The prayer of a righteous person is great in its effect' (James 5:16).



Forum of Christian Military Ministries Report on February 2010 Meeting

MAJ Thomas Bielenberg

The Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) provides an opportunity for the ministries working within Defence to meet together to update each other on how they are going, what their needs are and to pray for one another. The covenant shown below was signed at the 2002 inaugural meeting by representatives of the participating organisations.

"Recognizing 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."

Each FCMM meeting has a theme on which those attending focus their presentations and general discussion. The topic at the meeting held in February this year was 'Ministry to deployed personnel and those preparing for deployment'. The following people or organisations were present:

AMCF Vice President for the South West Pacific and representatives from MCF, The Australian Navigators, Fighting Words, Defence Chaplaincy, Everyman's Welfare Service, Red Shield Defence Services (Sallyman), Solid Rock Ministries, Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS) and, by invitation, a civilian chaplain seeking to set up a prayer network for parents of those deploying.

The FCMM met initially in the evening for dinner, the purpose of which was to

fellowship and to hear a talk by CAPT Mark, then recently returned from service in Afghanistan.

Those in attendance were moved by Mark's sharing about his personal experience of loss when one of his close subordinates was killed. Mark also passed on some very useful insights on how we might better support those who are deployed.

On Thursday each ministry made a presentation on how their ministry was going at the time, struggles and plans for the future and the challenges they were facing. Each ministry was prayed for before the next presentation. Following a lovely lunch prepared by ladies from St Paul's Ginninderra, each organisation presented their activities in support of deployed personnel and their families. During the extended discussion, all recognised the challenges of providing this support.

Listening to each ministry's presentation I came to understand more of the depth and breadth of the ministries being provided in the Defence environment. It was certainly encouraging to see how God is working and how he has placed people in the best position for them to proclaim Christ and see him honoured.

The next few paragraphs contain some of the key things that challenged or encouraged me.

It was interesting to hear about one challenge experienced by Everyman's representatives: many young sailors spend time playing computer games rather than going to the recreation centre or to the local Navy bar. The methods of finding ways to come alongside and encourage young Defence members have changed, and with them how the gospel can be effectively preached.

God has provided the opportunity for the reality of member's spiritual needs to be better catered for in the future, with deployment and post deployment programs. Praise God for that and ask that this door will remain open.

It was good to hear about the growth in, variety of, and complementary nature of the ministries. FCMM also highlighted some opportunities for further cooperation between ministries.

Among the outcomes was a commitment by member organisations to focus on those who are deploying, deployed, or returning from deployment. With support of FCMM organisations MCF agreed to facilitate the preparation of an Australian deployment book similar to the US Officer Christian Fellowship's "Deployed, not Disconnected", and the writing of an article for a denominational paper explaining how church members can encourage the deployed, and more widely support the Defence community.

There are many and varying challenges for each of the ministries represented at the FCMM. If you have the opportunity to meet with, support and help those ministering in your area, I encourage you to do so. You could help by asking for specific needs for prayer, helping out during planned activities or just by providing hospitality for them.

A general prayer need for all the ministries is that as they move ahead they remain faithful to God's word. Pray also that the leaders might continue to grow in spiritual maturity and that those to whom they minister will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour if they don't already, and to be presented worthy in Christ.

Please also pray for the planning of the next FCMM meeting which is being hosted by MCF and programmed for November 2010.





Chaplain's Corner

By CHAP Rob Sutherland

This issue announces the launch of Battlesmart which aims to discuss and equip military Christians for the battles of life. Many Christians who follow the King of Love (the God who declared the peacemakers to be blessed and the Lord who said that we would be known as Christians by our love) struggle with the concept of this life as a series of battles. For me, through many years in the Army, Joshua chapter 1 and Ephesians 6:10-18 have always been important.

I struggled for quite a while to understand why God repeatedly told Joshua to be courageous. Surely when God has said in Joshua 1:3 & 5

"As I promised Moses, I will give you every place where you set foot. . . . [5] No one will be able to stand against you while you live. I will be with you as I was with Moses: I will not leave you nor forsake you."

Surely there is no need for courage, a need for faith perhaps, but no need for courage, unless God is warning Joshua that the process of being given the land by God will be by battle after battle. The book of Joshua and those that follow show that this is exactly what God had in mind and every ounce of courage and faith that God could give Joshua was needed.

Similarly, I struggled as a young Christian to wonder why St Paul would command us to

put on the whole armour of God. I reasoned that Jesus had won and death and sin and the devil were defeated. I should have known St Paul would know better than I did.

We military Christians will encounter military battles and challenges that will require every ounce of courage and strength and integrity and faithfulness that God gives us. In our personal and professional lives we will face challenges that the devil chooses to throw at us; we will need to wear all of the body armour that God has perfectly made for us.

Battlesmart will allow us to discuss, to share and learn what works in combat and in life.

In combat when we are removed from our churches and our study groups and perhaps even from time to study the Bible, what works?

In life when we are challenged by things like the grief shared by others in this issue, when we are tempted, when we are attacked and when we fail what works?

Battlesmart will help us to be battle smart.

This issue of Crossfire focuses on grief.

Many question why Christians grieve, both why the God who loves us allows situations in which we grieve, and also why we who believe in God's perfect future grieve.

I don't know why; all I know is that even Jesus cried when he encountered the reality of his friend Lazarus's death. Jesus knew that he was about to bring Lazarus back to life, yet the Bible records him weeping.

Others will share poignant personal insights into grief; all I can leave you with is God's promise that he will be with us as we pass through the valley of the shadow of death.

We grieve in response to evil; God has given us armour to protect us; it only works if we are wearing it.

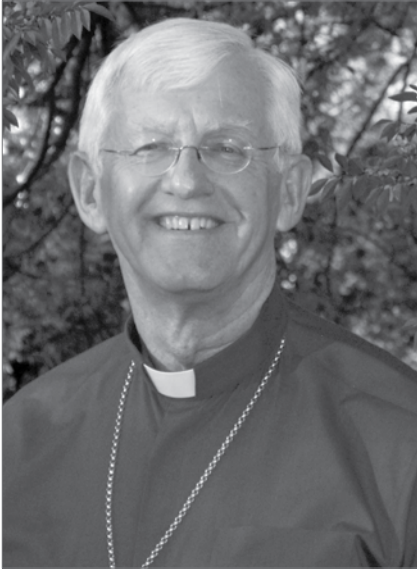
"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

UPDATE

In the Easter 2009 edition of Crossfire (Being Deployed is not Easy) there was a reference to child care rebates for non working partners of deployed personnel. As per the family assistance website, approved care of up to 24 hours of Child Care Benefit per child per week may be available without having to meet the work, training, study test.

http://www.familyassist.gov.au/Payments/familyassistance/child_care_benefit/Pages/ccb_work_training_study.html An eligibility waiver for full benefit is also possible when the partner is overseas or under compelling circumstances.





Deep in the Heart!

By Bishop Len Eacott AM

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.
In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you.
I am going there to prepare a place for you."

So states the Gospel of John Chapter 14, verses 1 to 3. This scripture passage is read at many Christian funerals to offer comfort and hope to those who grieve; to remind those who know and believe in the redeeming love and sacrifice of Jesus that he is with them in their grief as they search their hearts for an explanation to the death of a loved one.

The wounds of grief need both time and care to heal and the tradition of the funeral rite may help this process by enabling those who grieve to acknowledge their loss, to give thanks for the life of the person who has died, to offer a last farewell, and to begin to take up life once more. The funeral is the rite of passage and tradition by which our society lays a person's body to rest and marks the passage from life to death.

But what does a parent say to a child who asks questions about that which may trouble them more than other things – death? A particularly difficult task when the child has experienced the death of a brother or sister or parent or grandparent.

The funeral rite may have little meaning for the young who have yet many unanswered questions about life. And when a child does ask, adults stumble and stammer for we also realise that we too have many unanswered questions about death.

We adults know that when we grieve, we search, amid feelings of deep loss and perhaps even anger, for something, anything that will comfort us. So what might be said to a child?

Adults really don't want to see children suffer and desire to "fix things" in order to protect them. But we can't easily "fix things" when it comes to death and grief.

As a father who has experienced the death of one of my own sons, I recall my desperate desire to try and make things better for my other children – to have offered something, anything that would have eased the pain of their brother's death, as well as my own and my wife's grief.

I knew that I could not have said, "it will be alright" while deep in my own heart I knew that it wasn't. If I had said "it will be alright", knowing that it wasn't, my children would have thought that something was wrong with them. They knew that it was not alright, they had only to look at their mother and father. I am reminded that Paul said that death is an enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Even though I am reassured by the promise of Jesus to not let our hearts be troubled because there is a place in God's house for us, while their grief was acute it would have been futile to have said "you will see your brother again" because their brother was dead and they loved him and missed him. Such a well meaning scriptural platitude would not have given them any consolation. It might have helped me to theologise and rationalise my own grief but certainly not my children's nor their mother's.

As a father, as a family we began to realise that there was only one thing to do – to love one another.

When the pain was too sharp and words were inadequate only love was sufficient.

No one grieves in the same way or at the same rate and although it is true that some people get stuck in grief, it is not wise to push children in their grief, it may take years. Love, therefore is not something to be offered on a whim.

When adults struggle for words of comfort, it is the paradigm of Jesus to "... love one another ... as I have loved you, so you must love one another" that will be sufficient (John 13:34). And so when children and adults grieve, the most beneficial thing is for them to be understood and to be assured that they are loved. To be listened to when they are ready to talk and to be permitted to reflect their feelings assists them to know that someone is with them in their suffering. I am reminded of Paul's words, that we should "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).



Dealing with Grief in Command

By Mick Mumford



As a commander (especially as one responsible for troops on operations) there is always the possibility that one of your soldiers will die either in training, in combat, in an accident, or from illness. As a commander you are also expected to guide your unit through this process, but even the most hardened commander feels strong emotional attachments to his or her soldiers, and for many the added sorrow of walking beside a grieving family can be personally distressing. As a Christian commander who over a 24 year career has had the misfortune of losing several soldiers under my command, I have learned some key lessons about how commanders can best cope with the sudden loss of someone for whom they have responsibility.

Be Prepared

Don't kid yourself that you aren't going to be effected personally by the loss of a soldier. Even if, as is often the case in a large unit, you don't know the soldier intimately, the loss and subsequent journey that you will take with his/her family and friends will impact you, most likely much more than you would expect. It is important then to be prepared for the loss of a soldier. Go through in your own mind a rehearsal of what that will look like. Think about the reaction of the grieving

family to the news, to the funeral, to the unit. Think through the way that you will notify them, or contact them shortly afterwards, and the means that you can support them through the period immediately after the loss. Go through a virtual funeral; think about what you are going to say and what will make it special, not just for the family but for the unit. If you aren't prepared beforehand then, when tragedy strikes, you won't have the time nor the emotional distance to make dispassionate decisions about even mundane things, so have a plan, then stick to it.

Accept the Emotions

On deployments, for me, the farewell parades were the worst times. Seeing distressed wives, partners, parents, and children all with fear of death written large on their faces really churned my heart. I can remember at one farewell parade sitting next to a soldier and his family as they said their final farewells. My wife leaned over to me and, experienced herself in these sorts of situations, observed that his wife looked more anguished than most and might need some extra support. Unfortunately that soldier would later die on that operation. After I had visited his wife following his death, the image of the anguished wife, now with her worst fears realised, haunted me. I sat in my room and wept, distressed at the loss of a son, husband and father, and of the loss of a valued member of my unit. The next few weeks would be one of the most challenging periods in my life, and at times my emotions overcame me, but I didn't try to suppress them all of the time. Of course I wasn't grieving for my own loss, but rather for the family that was now without a precious loved one. And I took comfort myself in knowing that Jesus himself cried over the loss of friends and was moved with compassion for the plight of widows. I learned that there is no disconnect between being a source of strength and support, and being able to show your own emotions within that. In fact

I learned that as the commander many look to you to provide a healthy example of grief, and the least valuable role-model to the people that matter is that of the hardened, distant, unemotional patriarch.

Don't Promise What You Can't Deliver

After sharing a journey of grief with a family it is easy to be overcome with compassion and make rash promises about how much involvement you will have in their lives afterwards. As a battalion commander I lost three of my soldiers. Each time it is no more or no less catastrophic for the families and friends involved. Empty promises about ongoing support from either yourself or your unit will just bring bitterness when your attention turns to the next grieving family, or your unit starts to gather distance between itself and the family of the lost, as is inevitable when people are posted and time marches on. Units recover from the loss of soldiers, but families never do, so be careful what you promise, or how personally involved you become afterwards, lest that become an ongoing expectation.

Draw Closer to God

Death is a fact of life, and even more so in the Defence Force. Death of people at the end of a long life usually brings an element of joyful celebration of a life well lived, but not so for someone lost in the prime of life. Tragedy and death is confusing for all involved, not the least those that serve a loving God. It is possible to start to blame God, or at least to resent Him, even though He grieves even more than the closest wife, or friend, or mother. It can also be a time when faith brings great comfort, and in times of tragedy someone with a strong faith has qualities of compassion and confidence that becomes a comfort to those around them. At a soldier's funeral, a senior Army officer who had been someone cautious of my Christian beliefs to that point leant over to me and said, "It's a good thing we have someone with your faith

ctd. overleaf



The Pain of Grief

CAPT Mark

ctd. from overleaf

doing this job." I believe that getting closer to God myself, as a source of my own comfort and security, helped others around me to draw from that same comfort.

Conclusion

At some stage all military personnel have to deal with the loss of a work colleague, and military Christians have a special role to play in these tragic situations, even if just as an example of healthy grief to others. Dealing with your own grief as a military Christian is a challenging and difficult task, especially when it involves someone for whom you are responsible, but faith is also a source of strength, comfort, peace, and security, and one which many around you will recognise and desire. Be ready, accept the painful emotions, be careful not to over promise support, and immerse yourself more in your faith, and you will go a long way towards making a real difference in the lives of the people you command during periods of grief.



Photo: Led by Australian Engineers, a Special Operations Task Group Long Range Patrol Vehicle carries the casket of Sergeant Brett Till past the international Guard of Honour who gathered to pay their last respects to a fallen comrade.

Many times during our military training we hear reminders about the realities of war – the confusion, the consequences, the fact that others lives will depend on our actions. I never gave these concepts great thought – there always seemed another assessment or exercise taking a higher priority. Unfortunately it sometimes takes a tragedy to focus your attention and highlight what is really important. I hope in this article I can highlight some of the realities and emotions of war should any readers share my experience in this area. I sincerely pray you do not.

In 2009 I deployed with my troop of sappers (combat engineers) to Afghanistan. It was the role of my troop to find and neutralise Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs or 'roadside bombs') to enable our manoeuvre force to achieve its mission. My troop and I had trained together for months in the lead-up to this operation. We all knew the risks, but none of us had a reference by which to understand the reality. As mentioned above, none of us had lived a tragedy to bring to life the consequences we all knew potentially lay ahead.

It was in the very early part of our deployment when one of my team commanders, Sergeant Brett Till, was killed instantaneously whilst diffusing an IED. Brett was highly regarded by everyone he worked with – his soldiers, his superiors, me; even those he had only recently met during the deployment. This made dealing with the freakish accident in which he tragically lost his life all the more difficult to deal with. By far the greatest tragedy in Brett's passing was that of his family's loss, but in this article I am limiting my focus on the impacts on my troop and on myself.

ctd. overleaf



ctd. from overleaf

I was not co-located with Brett's team at the time of the incident; I had remained back on base with the other half of my troop, which is quite common on operations. This simple fact greatly complicated the grief we all felt, as every member of the troop felt a lack of closure. Those on the incident site only had a numb hour or two to absorb what had happened before Brett's body was whisked away by helicopter to base. For them, the operation continued 'outside the wire' for another three weeks, by which time Brett's body had long returned to Australia. Many had not felt they had a proper chance to say goodbye.

Those of us who had remained on base were racked by guilt in not having been there to help, prevent or at least witness the event and suffer the same trauma that the rest of our team had endured. It sounds strange, but I felt guilty for not being as scarred as my men had been. In the end it was only my storeman and I that were left of the troop to carry Brett onto the C-130 during his ramp ceremony, as even the on-base team had deployed before the ceremony.

Every member of my troop dealt in different ways with their own load of grief – some grew incredibly angry with the insurgency they saw as responsible, and channelled all their energy into operations. Some grew quiet, or often asked the 'what if' questions about how they could have prevented the incident. Others blamed themselves for not being the one that was killed. The fact is that everyone deals with grief based on past hurts, their beliefs, and their personality. The method of dealing will also change over time, swinging through any of the above and many other emotions. We were all guided by compulsory post-incident counselling from trained psychologists, which in my opinion is an area where Army has learnt from painful past lessons and now does an outstanding job.

I myself put a lot of my grief on 'lay-by' in the early stages – I was more concerned in ensuring my troop remained operational for the rest of our long deployment. After all, this had only happened during the first few weeks we were in country. When I did finally come to dealing with my own feelings, I felt the same pain my men did, mixed with a heavy weight of responsibility. In the end this painful responsibility was one of the things that helped me continue through. I accepted the responsibility – I accepted that I had come back to Australia a man short, and somehow instead of shame and darkness, I felt pride that I had the honour to serve with someone as brave and selfless as Brett.

The other key part of my coping strategy was the unwavering support of my wife, my friends and my church. They were all aware of what had happened, which helped keep things real when I came home. I did not want nor did I feel as if they were sorry for me – I prefer they feel sorry for Brett's family – but their acknowledgement meant the world.

Now, just over a year on from the event, the recovery continues for all of us. I have been

posted from my troop to another city, but I still keep in contact with a few of them. I think this is important, as no matter how much people understand your pain, only those who were there know the full context. Tragedies like this have the remarkable effect of forging incredible friendships. As it says in Romans 8.28, God works for the good of his people in all things, even those things we would prefer did not happen.

I have learnt through this that there is no easy way through grief, and have found that pushing it aside is not helpful. Wishing things were different does not help either. I believe (as do many counsellors) accepting emotion and letting it hurt is the key to moving on from grief. If responsibility is part of that pain, accept it and don't fight it. I now invest a lot more into every person in my life, both at work and in everyday life. I want to know that should the worst happen, I will be able to look back on their memory with a smile, not wish that I had done things differently.



Photo: Special Operations Task Group salute the RAAF C-130J Hercules carrying Sergeant Brett Till as it lifts off from the airstrip at Tarin Kowt, southern Afghanistan.



Lest We Forget



By Rev Ann Lock

'And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Rev. 21.3-5

Perhaps it was the silence before the service began which was the most moving part of the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli, though this is not to diminish the rest of the day. In the stillness of the pre-dawn darkness 9000 people sat quietly listening to the names and gravestone inscriptions of those who died in the battles 95 years ago. The communal spirit of sadness and solemnity was palpable. My husband Garry and I were part of this crowd and recognised that to

grieve as a nation is important, even though it will mean different things for each person.

Often grief is a very personal experience and, hopefully, one we journey through to healing with the love and support of family and friends. How does this happen when the grief is that of a nation, and where is God in that?

Garry travelled to Turkey as part of the Australian contingent attending the Anzac Day services and I was able to accompany him. Garry, as DGCHAP-N, led the prayers in both the Dawn and Lone Pine services. He was interviewed for the Navy News earlier in April and said then that it is vital that we engage with each other as a nation and remember Gallipoli and other conflicts of our past and present. We need to tell our stories, listen to the moment and carefully and in a

most dignified manner remember what the sacrifice of all these young people means for us all. '... one of the real privileges I (Garry) have as a chaplain is to be engaged in these very special times in our national and personal lives. Chaplains often find themselves invited into the very centre, the sacred space, of people's lives at moments of great joy or sadness. This (Gallipoli) is a bit like that but on a national scale.'

In the days prior to Anzac Day we had walked through the battlefields and heard again the story of the events of the Gallipoli battle 95 years ago. To stand in the trenches and look just over the road to see how close the Turkish people were was profoundly moving. We also got to know a number of Turkish people who have become not just acquaintances who share an old battle, but strong and close friends of Australia. There is a shared sacred space in which we meet. Of course the Turkish celebrations are of a victory which saw the might of the Allied attack repelled. Those who joined us at Anzac Cove however saw things very differently. For them it became a time of real shared remembrance, of telling each others' stories about our nations, and sharing deep moments of both celebration and grief.

In that moment God was present to us in the absolute sense that surprises us at moments of joy and deep sadness. Not a judging, but a loving presence bringing peace. God who makes all things new, words which are trustworthy and true.



Crowds of thousands attend the Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove for ANZAC Day 2010. Photo by Corporal Hamish Paterson





The Grief Journey: How to do it Well

Pastor Anne Iuliano

The strength of my gut-wrenching sobs scared me. I had just waved away the taxi carrying my son into his new life in the army. Yes, I was proud. But I was also apprehensive . . . not only was he permanently leaving home . . . but leaving for a life that involves challenges and front-line danger. My passionate mother-heart was grieving, intensely.

Whether I'm at the Victorian Bushfire front, the Tsunami devastated shores of Sri Lanka, sitting quietly at the bedside of the dying, providing a shoulder at the courthouse after a marriage annulment, or with executives who have just been retrenched, I see it . . . people embarking on their personal new journey. It's a journey that none of us desire, yet we can't escape from it. From a very young age we begin to experience this journey, over and over again, throughout our entire lifetime. It's the challenging journey of GRIEF!

Grief is what we feel when we experience loss of any kind. Remember as a child, the heartache of losing your favourite toy, or your first pet? And the losses just keep on coming, whether it's your health, job, finances, loved ones, security, relationships and more. Whenever you lose anything of significance, you grieve. And the more significant the person or thing you have lost, the more you will feel it. So as we navigate through life, we have to go through multiple journeys of grief, some overlapping.

But God has placed within us humans an amazing tenacity to survive. Even when overwhelmed with a devastating grief journey, most people will eventually come through . . . although each journey will take *as long as it takes!* There are many examples of Bible characters who walked their journeys of grief. Some did it well, such as Joseph (Genesis 37-50), David (2 Samuel 12:15-24); sadly, others did it badly such as Naomi, the widow who changed her name to 'Mara', meaning 'bitter' (but the story eventually ends

well!). Jesus Himself is described as "a man of sorrows, acquainted (meaning 'very familiar') with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). He experienced much grief such as bereavement (John 11), rejection (John 6:66), betrayal (Luke 22:47-48), pain (Luke 22:44) and thus understands the grief journey and helps us through it. Psalm 147:3 paints a wonderful picture of God's compassion in the Grief journey: "*He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.*" This paints the scene of a wound being protected by bandages whilst in the healing process. So too, God protects us through the emotional grief journey (which cannot and should not be avoided) and can help us emerge wiser, stronger, and a new 'you'.

Although grief is unique to each individual, there are similarities in our journey. William Worden's grief model describes four stages. These are:

Firstly accepting that a loss has taken place. If we reject the bad news or deny that there is any effect on our emotions, we won't even leave base camp. Pretending everything is okay is not helpful at all.

Secondly, we have to work through a myriad of emotions. These can include shock, numbness, anger, sadness, feeling overwhelmed, guilt, depression, hopelessness, confusion, loneliness and so much more.

Thirdly, we have to adjust to a new lifestyle without the thing or person we have lost. Each time a loved one is deployed, the family has to navigate a grief journey and adjust to life without that loved one present, even for a

season. The more help you can get to adjust, the easier it will be . . . so don't be afraid to ask for help from those who are there for you.

Fourthly, being able to move on in life with a new 'normal'. This means that you can accept the ramifications of the loss, laugh and cry at the memories (which you now can control) and that you have the inner strength to create a new lifestyle.

Knowing what the grief journey looks like will certainly help you as you have to navigate it. There are some great books to help you.* Also, learn from other people. I recently introduced a widow of 5 months to a widow of 14 months. It was incredible to see the latter speak words of hope and life to the new widow - because she'd been on the same journey and is surviving well. I personally get great comfort when speaking to other parents of ADF personnel. They understand my mother-heart! So no matter what you're going through, others have been through a similar journey to you, although no two journeys are ever exactly the same. It will help to chat with such 'survivors'. Reach out to a Chaplain or Counselor and ask them to link you with an individual, a group, a program or someone to help you in your journey. Please don't do it alone, your life is too precious for that.

What is the desired result from our grief journeys? To come through with a sweet (not bitter) spirit, with much experience under our emotional belt, with wisdom to impart to others, with a strengthened character and the ability to create a new 'normal' which brings us hope for the future. Grief is one of the



Defence Christians Dinner 2010

Friday 3rd September 2010

Do Christians belong in a competitive environment?

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

Everyone is welcome – so why not organise a table?



Keynote speaker

Andrew Fisher travels in the fast lane (at nearly 250 km/h!).

He is a high profile sportsman with over 30 million viewers watching him race in the Yokohama V8 Ute Series. Every year, Andrew speaks to over 50,000 students and 10,000 adults.

He will entertain you as he talks about the reactions he receives and the impact a Christian makes in his challenging "workplace".

Venue

Top of the Cross Function Room
Southern Cross Club
92-96 Corinna Street
Woden ACT

6.30pm Drinks/Canapés
7.00pm Dinner
till approx **9.45pm**

Dress

Smarter Casual (e.g. not jeans)
A bar will be available for drinks.

Co-sponsored by the Military Christian Fellowship and other Defence Christian ministries

Booking Details

Please email your booking details with payment advice to:

MAJ Bernard Jones

bernard.jones@defence.gov.au

All bookings will be acknowledged by email

To make a reservation please email the following details

to **bernard.jones@defence.gov.au**

- Your christian name and surname
- Your contact details (email and/or phone)
- Guests' christian name and surname(s)
 - Payment method
- Seating preferences
- Special dietary requirements (vegetarian?)

Cost (per person)

Earlybird (pay before 13 August) \$50,

Standard (pay before 27 Aug) \$55 or

Late (pay after 28 Aug) \$60

Group Bookings (8 or more before 27 Aug) \$50

Payment Methods

Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include reference: "Yourname — Dinner 2010"

Account Name: MCF – Serving Defence

BSB: **803-205**

Account Number: **20747028**

DEFCREDIT Member Number: **3858578**

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to
MCF – Serving Defence

Mail to MAJ Bernard Jones (see address at left)

Enquiries

MAJ Bernard Jones

R2-2-A188

Department of Defence

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: **bernard.jones@defence.gov.au**

Phone: **02 6265 6449** or **0407 212 514**

MAJ Thomas Bielenberg

R1-6-A109

Department of Defence

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: **thomas.bielenberg@defence.gov.au**

Phone: **02 6265 7969** or **0488 133 583**

I would like to make a difference in the ADF by becoming a 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 \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 per fortnight.

☐ I have made a \$_____ per fortnight allotment via DEFPAY to allottee WG0052.

☐ I have arranged an auto transfer of \$_____ per fortnight to MCF's DEFCREDIT account
(Account name: Military Christian Fellowship, BSB 803-205, Member number 66126, Account number: 20514572).

☐ Find attached my cheque of \$_____ to cover one year's support. Please contact me in twelve month's time to renew my pledge.

3) Agree to promote MCF by displaying MCF advertising provided to me in my local area and church.

4) Do/Do not (circle one) wish my name to be listed in Cross Fire as an MCF Centurion.

5) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive quarterly updates about MCF including an email from the Chairman about the recent happenings in MCF, Treasurer reports so I can see my gift working, and sneak previews of Cross Fire and MCF products.

6) Do/Do not (circle one) wish to receive a Centurion Pack of signature items including a Centurion coffee mug, MCF Centurion lapel pin, a 15%-off coupon for Koorong bookstores, and book 'Principles of War'.

Signature: _____ Appointment Approved: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Return to:

MCF-A, CP3 -1-130, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600
OR fax 02 6266 3578

For further information ring MCF Staff Worker on 02 6266 4950 or email ann.lock@defence.gov.au.

Only MCF members can become Centurions. MCF membership and Centurion forms are available online at www.mcf-a.org.au, from the MCF Office at CP3-1-130, or in the 'Cross Fire' magazine.

The Centurion program commenced in 2005. We are aiming for 100 centurions to carry the Lord's work forward in MCF by 2014.'



Application for Membership of MCF

Return to MCF-A, CP3-1-130, Dept of Defence, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____

Rank: _____ Employee ID: _____

Mailing Address (preferably a Defence address):

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

I apply for Ordinary Membership: *(tick one)*

- ☐ I am a member/ex member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS *(circle)*
- ☐ I am the spouse of a member/ex member of the ADF: Air Force, Army, Navy, APS *(circle)*
- ☐ I am an accredited representative of the ADF philanthropic organisation
- ☐ I am a civilian who currently works alongside ADF personnel, or have done so for at least one year at: _____ *(Location)*
- ☐ I am a member/ex member of the Armed Forces of _____ *(name of country)* currently residing in Australia
- ☐ I am none of the above and apply for Associate Membership.

Military Christian Fellowship Statement of Belief

To ensure that members of MCF agree to the basics of Christian doctrine, applicants must, in accordance with the MCF Constitution, sign the following Statement of Belief. This Statement is based on the 381 AD Nicene Creed; the most commonly used statement of Christian faith in the history of the church:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men (meaning all) and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scripture; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one holy catholic (meaning universal) and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sin. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. I believe that the Holy Scripture is inspired by God and is the authority in all matters of faith, teaching, activities and personal conduct concerning MCF.

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Battlesmart

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia Seminar 2010

4TH September 2010



Battlesmart will encourage and equip Christians in Defence to prepare for and succeed in spiritual battles. Biblical perspectives and practical ways of 'taking up the armour of God' in the workplace will be shared by inspirational and thought provoking speakers.

Battlesmart is a forum where we can strengthen each other in our Christian walk and the challenge of being Jesus' ambassadors in the ADF. Topics will include spiritual warfare, behind enemy lines, prayer warriors and spiritual health whilst deployed.

Battlesmart is open to anyone associated with the Defence community who would like to prepare for and succeed in spiritual battles and make a difference for the kingdom of God in the ADF.

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Lieutenant General David Hurley, AC, DSC

*Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF)
Patron – Military Christian Fellowship of Australia*



Brigadier (Retd) Jim Wallace AM

Managing Director Australian Christian Lobby

VENUE:

R1 Theatre

Sir Thomas Blamey Square
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT

CONTACT:

MCF-A National Staff Worker

Ann Lock

CP3-1-130
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6266 4950

Fax: 02 6266 3578

Mobile: 0410 556 436

Email: ann.lock@defence.gov.au

Website: www.mcf-a.org.au

DETAILS:

Registration 9.00 – 9.30am
Lunch (Provided) 12.30pm
Close 4.00pm

BOOKING DETAILS

Please email or forward your booking and payment details to the MCF-A National Staff Worker (see contact details above)

COST

\$25 per person

PAYMENT METHODS

Please complete your payment by 28 August 2010.

Electronic Funds Transfer

Please include reference: "Your Name – Battlesmart"
Account Name: Military Christian Fellowship of Australia
BSB: **803-205**
Account Number: **20514572**
DEFCREDIT Member Number: **66126**

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to
Military Christian Fellowship of Australia
Mail to National Staff Worker (see above)

Please reserve

tickets at \$25 each.

TOTAL: \$

Guest Details

Your Name

Guest 1

Guest 2

Guest 3

Phone

Email

Your Contact Details

All bookings will be acknowledged by email

ctd. from overleaf

toughest journeys in life....but look around you, there are multitudes of heroes who have survived their own nightmare journeys and come through well. You can too.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR HELPING OTHERS IN GRIEF.

A. TAKE YOUR CUES FROM THE GRIEVING

- If they want to talk, let them talk.
- If they are aloof, they may just be overwhelmed and need some time.
- If they are asking for help, try to assist in whatever way appropriately

B. DON'T SAY CLICHES OR GLIB STATEMENTS.

- If you don't know what to say, **say very little**, except "I am so sorry", 'what can I do to help?'
- Don't say "I understand exactly how you feel!". (you don't!)

C. LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN!

- Which could include them venting all sorts of 'ugly' emotions – this is grief/pain talking.
- Let most of it go in one ear and out of the other (they will feel different over time)
- If they say anything which really concerns you, consult with someone experienced such as your supervisor.
- But most will feel better just by venting and not being judged.

D. DON'T TAKE THEIR REACTIONS PERSONALLY.

- Put yourself in their shoes. It will help you understand some of their feelings.

E. BEWARE OF TRANSFERENCE (picking up and feeling their emotions).

- Help as much as you can.
- But take care of yourself in the process.

*Recommended Reading

Growing through Loss & Grief by A. Pearson (London: HarperCollins, 1994).

The Anatomy of Bereavement by B. Raphael (London: Routledge, 1994).

A Grace Disguised by Gerald Sittser (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1995).

Grief Counselling and Grief Therapy by William Worden (Great Britain: Springer Publishing Co., 19991).

Anne Iuliano is an Ordained Minister with the Australian Christian Churches, Founder of Chaplaincy Australia, Disaster Chaplain, and teaches on grief in both Christian and secular environments.

Hope Lost, by God's Grace Restored

LTCOL James Van Heel



Jo and I were married in 1995. It became evident six years later that we would struggle to have a family. This was the first time that Jo and I experienced grief as a couple as it appeared that Jo and I couldn't have a family without the assistance of fertility specialists.

We commenced our medical treatment and appeared to get off the ground quite quickly. We were very excited that we finally had the chance to be parents. Unfortunately, at 4 months, Jo was admitted to hospital with complications. I was in shock and feeling numb. We had plans for our baby to be born on Christmas Eve and now our dreams were being shattered. It was tragic and very difficult to come to grips with what was going on and why in our minds God had allowed this to happen.

Over the next 18 months Jo fell pregnant through treatment another 5 times and all the pregnancies terminated early. We were referred to pregnancy specialists who undertook a series of tests. Jo then had to have a daily injection to improve the chances of a healthy full-term pregnancy. We handed the situation over to God and had a lot of people praying for us however we were still very concerned due to our past experience.

At 6 months of Jo's pregnancy I was on a work trip in the US and Jo was admitted to hospital. She was in hospital for another few weeks before Joel was born 2 months early. This meant that Joel would remain

in hospital for another 5 weeks before we could take him home.

Thankfully, we now have two healthy boys, Joel 4 and Jonte 2. Having gone through this experience we can now empathise with other couples going through grief. It is a terrible place to be in. With God's grace we managed to get through however not without emotional scars that will take many years to heal.

At the time we were able to be supportive of other couples who had fertility problems and still today avail ourselves to couples who are trying to have a family. It is really tough, very painful and for some couples there is no joy at the end of the experience. Through this time, having faith in God and spending time in his word has assisted to bring light into the dark places. It isn't easy however having God in our lives and being in a Christian community you don't have to do it on your own.

God's word has a number of Biblical characters from which you can draw strength in your time of grief. Job lost everything he had but still kept his faith in God and Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice with his life.





Solid Rock Ministries

By Mrs Janet Mumford

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.." Ecclesiastes 3:1–4



Grief...it is something we all experience during our lifetime. We grieve when we lose a loved one, we grieve as we move from one location to the next, we grieve during times of deployment and during other times when life isn't as we would like it to be. Grief is a very real and necessary emotion. The scripture from Ecclesiastes reminds us that there are times when we weep and when we mourn.

During our early years of marriage my husband and I lost a number of babies through miscarriage. With each pregnancy there was much excitement. Would this little one be a boy or a girl? Who would they look like? What sort of personality would they have? There was much anticipation as we looked excitedly towards expanding our

family. There was much excitement at the thought of this new little life and the fun and joy that they would bring. There was much excitement at the prospect of being parents and being able to love and input into the life of another.

When we lost these babies there was great sadness. The dreams we had would no longer be realised. This side of heaven we would not get to cuddle this little one, we wouldn't get to see if they were a boy or a girl. We wouldn't get to love them, to see who they looked like and to enjoy their personality. We grieved. These were times to weep and to mourn.

During the last miscarriage we were living in a location that would never be my choice! Life was fairly lonely and I allowed grief to overwhelm me. Grief became my god, it consumed me. All I could think about was the babies we had lost. I was not an enjoyable person to be around. I was obsessed with my grief instead of looking at the good things I did have. While we definitely needed to grieve, I took that further and allowed grief to become my identity.

I picked up a Christian magazine for women one day and saw a Retreat advertised.

Something leapt inside me as I read the advertisement and I felt I needed to go. I knew little about the organisation and the Retreat was in a different State but I made plans and was able to attend. In the weeks leading up to the Retreat I had a very sore shoulder and nearly chickened out of going! While on the Retreat I was in a small group seminar when a lady asked if there was anyone in our group with a sore shoulder... she pointed exactly to the spot where I was experiencing pain. I had never seen this lady before or told anyone at the Retreat my story. She explained that it was a symptom of grief and that grief was consuming me! The Seminar disintegrated at that point as some very precious ladies prayed strategically for me. I came home from that Retreat a different person (much to my husband's relief!). God not only healed me of my grief but 11 months later we were blessed with our precious daughter Rebekah.

Grieving is both healthy and necessary. I took grieving way too far though and allowed it to consume me, it became my god. If that's you, can I encourage you dear sister to get help? Don't stay isolated and consumed by your grief. Let God use His people to bring healing into your life.



National Staff Worker

By Rev Ann Lock



Greetings to everyone from the MCF Office at Campbell Park; you are always welcome to drop in for a visit to CP3-1-130 if in the Canberra area. I have been working as the National Staff Worker since October last year and such a lot has happened in that time. I'm grateful to Mrs Helen Rose, the previous Staff Worker, who worked with me until I learned the ropes. Also thanks to LTCOL James van Heel and Mr Darryl Gibson particularly for their help in getting established.

Ongoing Activities:

One of the things I enjoy most about my role is visiting the Area Groups and by April I had been to HQJOC, DSTO Port Melbourne, Puckapunyal, Latchford BKs and Sth Bandiana, HMAS Stirling, RAAF Pearce, Solid Rock Duntroon and Campbell Park. These have been terrific times of meeting people, learning what happens in each area and talking about plans for the future. These visits will continue with plans to head to SA and Qld soon, as well as continuing to keep in touch with the Canberra groups.

In my visits and conversation with MCF members it is obvious that we need a brochure which explains who MCF is and what we do. To meet this need the Executive Council have created an MCF flyer. You can obtain copies by contacting ann.lock@defence.gov.au.

Part of the MCF Strategic Plan is to support the work of the ADF Chaplains and I have made a point of including them in my area visits. This has been very worthwhile with the opportunity to share the joys and challenges of working in each area. I look forward to continuing these discussions. Through the Principal Chaplains we have been able to send a Crossfire magazine, part of the Strategic Plan, and supporting letter to each Chaplain.

In February MCF joined with Solid Rock Duntroon to have a stand at the DCO Family Welcome Day. It was a warm and sunny Saturday morning and lots of people

came out to enjoy the event. We had the opportunity to speak with a number of these families who were new to Canberra about MCF and Solid Rock.

In March Canberra MCF groups gathered for a BBQ on the Wednesday prior to Easter as a way of getting to know each other and recognise how important Easter is for us as Christians. This was a great day with over 40 people attending. This sort of event could be something to consider for your area.

My husband, Garry, and I attended the Anzac Day services at Gallipoli.. This was a very moving time for both of us as we shared in this solemn event. You can read more about it in the article 'Lest We Forget'.

In June I visited MCF groups at Brindabella Park, Randwick and Holsworthy Barracks, and RAAF Bases Richmond and Williamstown. It was great to meet these people in person and join in their MCF meetings.



MCF and Solid Rock Ministries Duntroon at the DCO Family Welcome Day, February 2010



Evangelism Update

By CAPT Katie Chapman



In the near future an 'Evangelism' page will be established on the MCF website. The webpage will outline the evangelism resources available from MCF and will include a summary of each resource and what situation it is best suited to. The collection of resources will be available for loan from MCF sourced through the National Staff Worker, Rev Ann Lock.

The resources fall into general categories or phases of evangelism. Examples include:

- The *Going Public* package; aimed at building relationships with people in the workplace so that the topic of Christianity can be raised.
- The Fighting Words booklet *Gospel Talk*; which gives you some tools and ways to broach Christianity with someone (say, someone you've just built a relationship with) and to get meaningful discussion about Christianity happening,

- The booklet called *For Christ's Sake* that is designed to introduce a single reader to Jesus' character and potentially discuss this with a Christian friend.

There will also be Alpha books available, so after relationships have been developed, and Christianity discussed, a group of like minded, questioning people could get together and be introduced to Christianity through an Alpha course.

I appreciate that there are a lot of tools out there for evangelism, so I encourage MCF members to email me if they have previously used an evangelism resource that they feel would be suited to ADF personnel and the military lifestyles we all lead. Be prepared to write an overview for me though!

Thank you to all the Area Representatives who have responded to my emails. I will continue to pray that you can encourage, motivate and grow others in your areas.

Homeguard Australia

— A New Prayer Network For Mothers and Fathers of Military Personnel

When a son or daughter enlists in the military world, it produces a wide range of emotions within the parents and other family members. These emotions are intensified during periods of deployment; demanding training sessions or times of personal challenge.

The purpose of 'HomeGuard Australia' is to connect Parents of Australian Defence Force Personnel, encouraging prayer for their sons & daughters, especially those on the front lines of war. It will also provide support to the parents. It is a highly confidential and secure network, founded by an Ordained Minister

and chaplain, who also has a son in the army.

ATTENTION MILITARY PERSONNEL:

If you think your Mum or Dad would be interested in this network, send an email to homeguardaustralia@gmail.com.



Vale: CHAP Bove

By Jon Belmonte

I first met Chaplain Joe Bove at Richmond and then later in Townsville.

I always enjoyed Joe's sense of humour that had wisps of the cynical and satirical interweaved with a bit of real truth. If we weren't talking about ministry it would revert to either cars or motorcycles, engine capacities and our respective families.

I fondly recall two humorous incidents at Townsville with CHAP Bove.

One was when we passed the survival training course and Joe tried to have the instructors issue an integral piece of equipment to all the candidates.

FSGT: "What is it Chaplain?"

Joe: "It is the greatest rescue device in history and saves countless lives, yet it is very compact, you haven't issued it – a Bible."

I had already twigged to where this was going.

After some small banter the FSGT did tell

the candidates that if they failed to listen and take on board what they would learn then the Chaplain's advice was very sound.

The second was also at Townsville; the air strip is shared by three components consisting of the Civilian Airport, RAAF base and the Army Aviation.

CHAP Bove would always rib me by saying he had to cross the runway to preach to the "unconverted heathens" across the way, and then he would point to the Army Aviation area with his face beaming in a mischievous grin.

I replied "How could you say that? There are Christians there too"

Joe: "No they are really unsaved air force members living in the wilderness of the Army."

I was sucker punched right into that one and I didn't see it coming; much to his hilarity.

Joe reminded me of the biblical example of Paul; Joe was able to meet people, he was able to tap into exactly where people were

coming from and how they felt, no matter what their rank or status. But when you dealt with Joe you knew he had a deep sense of compassion that was tempered by his direct and straightforward, no-nonsense approach. He possessed a keen zeal and dynamic approach to want to meet every person under his watch, as he sought to mentor them on their journey into faith and growth in faith.

CHAP Bove was a man after God's heart, he sought to bring the gospel to everyone in any way that they would hear it; this usually meant that a spoken word wasn't necessary. He was a great supporter of The Military Christian Fellowship of Australia and gave great and sound advice to me.

Now to borrow a phrase from my denomination - Chaplain Joe Bove, Promoted to Glory.

May he hear the words of our Glorious God, that of; "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Resources for those Deploying

By MAJ Thomas Bielenberg

Due to the increased operational tempo of ADF personnel, there has been an increasing focus by MCF on deployment with the recent Christmas edition of Crossfire, and through the deployment theme at the last Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries. A deployment position has been created on Council and will be filled by LTCOL Mark Jobst who returns from his own deployment in the new year. The intent for this position is to increase our support to deployed personnel.

The MCF Deployment pack is undergoing a review of contents and we are hoping to

link into other opportunities to improve our support to deployed personnel.

To assist us in providing support to you whilst you are deployed may we ask that you please contact our National Staff Worker, Reverend Ann Lock, by telephone or email and advise your deployment details. Similarly, if you want a copy, or copies, of the Deployment Pack, please contact Ann.

Ann's contact details are as follows:

(02) 6266 4950 or email
ann.lock@defence.gov.au

In this article I would like to explore some of the resources for those deploying. To put what I say in context I will first explain a little of my background. I was blessed to grow up in a Christian household, going to Sunday school, youth groups, Boys Brigade and church. Both my parents became Christians before they were married, so I grew up in a Christian home. I became a Christian when I was about 12 years old, but I can't remember any specific date. Sometimes I envy those who have had a dramatic conversion experience later in life, but they often say the converse – they wish they had had the

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upbringing I had. My testimony is therefore about life as a Christian. Life as a Christian can sometimes be easy, but is also sometimes hard. On the occasions when I doubt and think that it might be easier to give it all away, I come back to the words Peter spoke when Jesus asked him (my words) 'What about you – these others have left because my teaching is hard, what about you?' Peter replied 'You have the words of eternal life'. Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6) - He is the way, the truth and the life. He is the word of life. And that is one of the main points I would like to make. God is a speaking God, but more of that in a moment.

I can say I have not had a run of the mill Army career. I have deployed only once, to Iraq. During that time I travelled to Afghanistan twice. It certainly reinforced my belief that we are very blessed here in Australia. I have had the opportunity to *prepare*, go and return from operations. The rest of this article discusses the type of Christian resources I considered, and recommend you consider, when deploying.

The main way God speaks to us is through his Word, the Bible. It is vital that we maintain time in his word. As I have had explained to me, and as I teach my children, it is similar to eating. It is better to eat a little regularly than a large amount less often. The same is true for reading God's word. We should be reading the Bible every day. Remember too, in James Chapter 1 that we shouldn't just read it, but understand it and DO WHAT IT SAYS. So 'What has that got to do with deploying?' you ask. Before you deploy, consider how you can have access to God's word. And not just to read it, but to study it and think on it (meditate) (see Psalm 1). I also recommend you remember or memorise some of it (Ps 119:9,11). Take a small sized Bible you can take with you in a pack. If you don't have much room, try and take a New Testament or at least one book of the Bible. Pack a larger Bible for when you have some more down time.

See the Chaplains – they should have access to some Bibles that you can have, often courtesy of the Bible Society. (The MCF office also has some of those available).

It is helpful to have some sort of notes for when you read. The notes should go through topics, or preferably through books of the Bible, and give hints for things to think about and how to apply it. You will need to consider how long you are going for and how many notes you might need. I currently use 'Explore' from The Good Book Company. You might like to try 'Our Daily Bread' (Google it), or the 'Daily Reading Guide' from Matthias Media. Make sure that whatever you use is grounded in good doctrine – it says what the Bible says and doesn't pull any punches. Jesus is the only way to God and he died for our sins because God was angry with us for them. Pray before you start, that God would help you learn from what you read and to put it into practice. When you are deployed make the effort to read. It is particularly hard when your routine changes, so be careful then. Don't forget to read when you come home on breaks either, another big routine change.

The next thing to mention is support to and from home. Make sure you have people praying for you as well as writing and sending you what you need. These might be your family, friends and those from your local church or MCF group. You could give them specific things to pray about, providing security isn't compromised. Remember to pray for those back home too. I find it helpful to have a list of things to pray for so my mind doesn't wander too far. If you have some space to yourself, praying out loud also helps to focus your mind. Praying prayers from the Bible or adaptations of those prayers is often helpful; try Psalms or Acts for starters. One of my favourites is ^{Phil 1:9} And this is my prayer: that your love ' may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ^{Phil 1:10} so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until

the day of Christ, ^{Phil 1:11} filled with the fruit of righteousness ' that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (NIV).

Heb 10:24-25 encourages us to not stop meeting together. Fellowship including reading and discussion of Bible passages with Christians around you is important. When you arrive, check if there are any studies already underway. If not, ask the local Chaplain to start a Bible study or start one yourself. Many of the websites listed below have some pre-prepared Bible studies you can download or order (If you want to order stuff it is easier to do it well before you go and include it in your trunk). Or simply read a passage with others, discuss what it says, what it meant then, and what it means to us now. Pray with others and encourage each other to be faithful to Christ.

Web sites

MCF

<http://www.mcf-a.org.au/>

Fighting Words Ministries

<http://www.fightingwords.org.au/>

The Australian Navigators

<http://www.navigators.org.au/>

Reformers' Bookshop

<http://www.reformers.com.au/>

Everyman's

<http://www.everymans.org.au/>

Bible society

<http://www.bibleshop.com.au/>

CMS

<http://www.cms.org.au/>

Matthias Media

<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/>



Farewell Peter Rose

CAPT Catherine Crane



After more than 45 years of service to the Australian Army and Defence Force, including four years as the Chairman of Military Christian Fellowship, last month we farewelled a man who could be described as humble and yet a giant in leadership, servanthood and ministry within the military, Colonel The Reverend Peter Rose.

Peter first enlisted in the Australian Army in 1965, graduating four years later from the Royal Military College to the Royal Australian Engineers where he served as a full time officer until

1994. Peter's distinguished career has included service in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Britain. While in Australia, as a junior officer he held a number of regimental appointments ultimately leading to his being given command of the School of Military Engineering and subsequently Land Command Engineers. He then went on to spend time at Army HQ and within Defence, planning and projecting the future development of the ADF. It was during this time that Peter also served as the Chairman of MCF, from 1990 – 1993.

After leaving full time service in 1994, Peter went on to spend four years at the Defence Studies Centre, University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy. He followed this up with six years working with World Vision in the ACT where he was responsible for re-establishing the ACT office and a strong supporter base within the Canberra region.

In 2004, Peter was ordained as a Deacon of the Anglican Church and continued to serve at the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul which has been Peter's spiritual home in Canberra since 1965. In 2005, Peter was appointed as both Chaplain to the Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force and Chaplain to the Federal Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. Peter faithfully served the Lord in both of these jobs until March this year, when he was officially farewelled from the Army at a dinner held at the Royal Military College Officer's Mess.

Peter continues to serve our nation's leaders at Parliament House as their Chaplain, true to his own objectives "To serve Jesus Christ and to make him known in ways that glorify him and that demonstrate his love and compassion towards others".



MCF Prayer Calendar

Jul – Sep 2010



Thank you for praying for and with MCF and we hope this prayer calendar is useful. You may like to pray the points on this calendar during the week starting on the date shown. In general, 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.

4 Jul

- > Ask God for wisdom for the new Prime Minister, Julia Gillard; may she lead wisely. Thank God that He is in control.
- > MAJ Thomas Bielenberg – Vice Chairman of MCF as he supports the Chairman that he would 'work as if serving the Lord'.
- > Chaplains. Thank God for the work of Principal Chaplain Mutzelburg. Ask God to help him to continue to proclaim the gospel.

11 Jul

- > Pray for the family and friends of Sapper Darren Smith and Jacob Moerland who died in Afghanistan recently.
- > Ask God for the deployment packs to be well distributed and used for His glory.
- > Pray for peace as many receive posting orders around this time. Thank God that he is in control.

18 Jul

- > Praise God for the Patron of MCF, LTGEN David Hurley. Ask God to help him continue to be a great example.
- > Mr Darryl Gibson is the MCF Treasurer. Thank God for his enthusiasm and pray for perseverance and strength for him.
- > Pray for those who have recently graduated as they adjust to more changes. Pray that Christians would make time for prayer and Bible reading and find Churches to attend.

25 Jul

- > ACM Angus Houston, CDF. For wisdom, strength and good counsel.
- > Pray for the families of Privates' Ben Chuck, Tim Aplin and Scott Palmer who died in a helicopter accident in Afghanistan.
- > Praise God for the latest Crossfire magazine and ask that it would encourage, challenge and strengthen those who read it, for God's glory. Thank God for the work of David Coleman, the editor.
- > Pray for the Secretary of Defence. Ask God to help him to make wise decisions and that his staff would advise him well.



1 Aug

- › Our deployed troops. Pray for continuing protection. Pray for strength and courage as they face difficult situations.
- › Pray for Principal Chaplains Navy, Army and Air Force that they would have the mind and heart of Christ as they lead our Chaplains.
- › Navigators. Pray for Cat Crane as she disciples cadets at ADFA. Ask for strong connections, the opportunity to speak the gospel and ongoing support.

8 Aug

- › Those from our military who are preparing to deploy or are just back from deployment. Pray for them and their families for peace and love to permeate their homes during these times of transition.
- › Pray for Mark Jobst and Owen Davies, member's representatives on the MCF council. Pray for their safety and for wise service.
- › Fighting Words. Pray for preparation for the Sep annual conference.
- › Pray for a snow trip for ACT students planned for 14-15 Aug – for safety and growth in Christ.

15 Aug

- › The Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner. For wisdom and discernment as he makes decisions. 1 Tim 2:1 -2.
- › MCF Council. Pray for hearts sensitive to God and the work that He wants to do through MCF. For wisdom and perseverance.
- › Everyman's Welfare Service. Pray for Marc Wheway as he leads this ministry. Praise God for the favour this ministry is being given within the military.

22 Aug

- › Those from our military who are preparing to deploy or are just back from deployment. Pray for them and their families for peace and love to permeate their homes during these times of transition.
- › Pray for CAPT Mark Bali, Secretary of MCF. Thank God for the time Mark spends on MCF work.
- › Solid Rock Ministries. That the SRM groups would reach many ADF wives with the unconditional and unfailing love of God.

29 Aug

- › Pray for the Defence Christians Dinner programmed for Fri 3 Sep 10, that God would be glorified and that those who attend would be encouraged. Thank you for those involved in organising it, including Peter McKay and Bernard Jones.
- › Pray for the final preparations of MCF Battlesmart seminar, scheduled for Sat 4 Sep, that the speakers would prepare well, that the administration will run smoothly and that God would be glorified.
- › Pray for the MCF Exec as it organises the next Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) in Nov 10.

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5 Sep

- › Pray for those who are preparing to deploy or have just returned from deployment; for God's peace and love to permeate their homes during these times of transition.
- › Thank God for the work of Peter Rose. Ask God to bless him in his 'retirement'.
- › Navigators. Give thanks for their ministry through Dave West in the Albury area. Pray for many opportunities for Dave to reach our military with the love of Christ.

12 Sep

- › Those from our Navy who are currently at sea. Pray for safety for all and for many to be saved.
- › Pray for MCF members to grow to be more and more like Christ and to serve Him well.
- › Red Shield. Pray for the fortnightly service that RS is preparing to conduct in Canberra for defence members. Pray for access to deployed ministry.

19 Sep

- › Pray that Defence personnel will develop in their relationship with God.
- › Pray for Christians in the ADF to 'not give up meeting together' but to encourage each other as we wait for Jesus to return.
- › Pray for the next FCMM in Nov 10 – for wisdom in planning and administering the Forum. Pray for a fruitful outcome.

26 Sep

- › Pray for opportunities for Christians to speak the gospel to those around them.
- › Pray for other MCFs in the Pacific region to grow in numbers and in members' maturing in Christ.
- › Home Guard – pray that more parents might become part of the Home Guard ministry praying for their children in the ADF.

If you have any prayer points, please send them to Ann Lock at **ann.lock@defence.gov.au**.



Areas Reps/Contacts Listing

If your area is not listed please contact:

Ann Lock, National Staff Worker

MCF Office, CP3-1-130, Canberra ACT 2600

Email: ann.lock@defence.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6266 4950

	NT Robertson BKS Contact: CHAP Mark Simmonds Email: mark.simmonds1@defence.gov.au Phone: (08) 8925 2416 0429 345 167 Holsworthy Barracks Contact: MAJ David Williams Email: david.williams9@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 8782 1335 (02) 9896 8525 Orchard Hills Contact: Ms. Luanne Mills & Mr. Peter Toland Email: luanne.mills@defence.gov.au & peter.toland@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4737 0630 & (02) 4728 0668 respectively RAAF Richmond Contact: FLTLT Ben Allen Email: benjamin.allen1@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4587 1044 RAAF Williamtown Contact: Mr. Rodney Peet Email: rodney.peet@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4034 5030 Randwick Barracks Contact: CHAP Phil Anderson Email: philip.anderson@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 9349 0312	NSW HMAS Albatross/HMAS Creswell Contact: CHAP Ian Lindsay Email: ian.lindsay@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4424 1276 0417 279 362 Holsworthy Barracks Contact: MAJ David Williams Email: david.williams9@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 8782 1335 (02) 9896 8525 Orchard Hills Contact: Ms. Luanne Mills & Mr. Peter Toland Email: luanne.mills@defence.gov.au & peter.toland@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4737 0630 & (02) 4728 0668 respectively RAAF Richmond Contact: FLTLT Ben Allen Email: benjamin.allen1@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4587 1044 RAAF Williamtown Contact: Mr. Rodney Peet Email: rodney.peet@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 4034 5030 Randwick Barracks Contact: CHAP Phil Anderson Email: philip.anderson@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 9349 0312	QLD Enoggera Barracks Contact: LTCOL Mick Mumford Email: mick@mcf-a.org.au Lavarack Barracks Contact: WO2 Martin Fisher Email: martin.fisher1@defence.gov.au Phone: (07) 4411 7617 Oakey 1AVN Contact: CHAP David Snape Email: david.snape1@defence.gov.au Phone: (07) 4577 7123 RAAF Amberley Contact: SQNLDR Jacqueline Miers Email: jacqueline.miers@defence.gov.au Phone: (07) 5361 6045 RAAF Townsville Contact: MCF Office, CP3-1-130, Canberra, ACT 2600 Email: ann.lock@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6266 4950 Shoalwater Bay Contact: Mr. Robin Dennis Email: robindennis@westnet.com.au Phone: (07) 4938 3124
WA HMAS Stirling Contact: CHAP Rainer Schack Email: rainer.schack@defence.gov.au Phone: (08) 9553 2906	SA Keswick Bks/ Hampstead Bks Contact: MAJ Geoff Robertson Email: geoff.robertson@defence.gov.au Phone: (08) 8305 6188 0417 880 657 RAAF Edinburgh (DSTO) Contact: LEUT Ian Spencer Email: ian.spencer@defence.gov.au Phone: (08) 8259 2129	VIC Bandianna Contact: SNRREP Ken Matthews Email: kenneth.matthews@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6055 2257 Port Melbourne (DSTO) Contact: Mr. Graeme Simpkin Email: graeme.simpkin@defence.gov.au Phone: (03) 9626 7305 Puckapunyal Contact: LTCOL Andrew Schaper Email: andrew.schaper@defence.gov.au Phone: (03) 5735 6892 RAAF East Sale Contact: Rev. Stuart Lawson (Rtd) Email: stuart.lawson@defence.gov.au Phone: (03) 5146 7008	ACT ACSC Weston Contact: LTCOL John Raike Email: john.raike@defence.gov.au Phone: 0412 943 675 Canberra Area Rep. Contact: Mr. Peter McKay Email: peter.mckay@defence.gov.au Phone: 0415 985 384 Brindabella Park Contact: Michael Rowe Email: michael.rowe@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6127 2965 0418 736 224 Campbell Park Contact: Mr. David Coleman Email: david.coleman1@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6266 2443 Fairbairn Contact: Jonathon Thow Email: jonathon.thow1@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6128 7596 Fyshwick Contact: Mr. Richard Gray Email: richard.gray@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6266 2434 HMAS Harman Contact: LCDR Samantha Woods Email: samantha.woods@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6265 6676 HQJOC Contact: COL Dan Fortune Email: daniel.fortune@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6128 4946 0429 552 416 Northbourne House Contact: PO Stanley Waye Email: stanley.waye@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6266 5321 RMC/ADFA Contact: SNRREP Lyndley Fabre Email: lyndley.fabre@defence.gov.au Phone: 0407 830 488 Russell Offices Contact: Mr. Dale Cooper Email: dale.cooper4@defence.gov.au Phone: (02) 6265 4083 0413 389 358



Experiencing stormy seas?



*Let God calm the storm.
"He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven."
(Psalm 107:29-30)*