



## Reflection – David Coleman (MCF Secretary/Crossfire Editor)

During the recent Anzac day commemorations we again reflected on the considerable cost of war both in terms of human lives lost and the long-term impact on those remaining. This year it seems particularly poignant as we see images from the war in Ukraine splashed across our screens on the evening news. Contemporary images again depicting the loss, destruction and associated grief. We also hear reports of tensions rising closer to home in our own region. These things can easily unsettle us and even drive us to despair. But what should the believer's response be to these things?



Jesus instructed his disciples in Matt 24:6 *"You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."* (NIV)

Jesus warned his followers that these things would come, but that we should not be alarmed as if these things are a surprise to God. Unpleasant as it may be, it is all part of God's plan for his world and so we can take comfort that all things are still under his control. Events are unfolding exactly as predicted.

Certainly, we are not called to a life of apathy or indifference. We should absolutely do all in our power to avoid conflict and alleviate suffering. Jesus' earthly ministry was characterised by his concern for those in need, and so should ours as we walk in his footsteps (though our ability to make the lame walk and give the blind their sight might be limited).

Jesus goes on in Matt 24:8 *"All these are the beginning of birth pains."* (NIV) These are the struggles and hardships that will usher in the new world when Christ returns; one that is free of hardship, suffering and death for all who put their trust in Jesus. And that is the promise we are called to proclaim. Rejoice in this hope.

## Please pray with us



On Thursday 21 April people across Australia and beyond came together to watch a prayer video and pray with MCF-A members, supporters and other Military Ministries. If you were unable to join, the link to the video is on the MCF-A YouTube page for you to view at your convenience, and as many times as you like. You may like to share the video and pray with your Small Group. *(Remember to like and share the page. YouTube can't be viewed on the DPN)*

**Prayer video link:** <https://youtube.com/channel/UC7IFjLTy-WmA3ND1X5kNZBw>

## In case you missed it

The MCF Exec highly recommend watching the following YouTube video about Chaplains at Gallipoli and the Western Front in WWI if you didn't see it last year. (It's also worth a second watch)



**Padre – 'Where is God in this?'** was produced by Cityhope Church Ripley in Brisbane and released in 2021.

Feel free to share this approx. 1/2hr video with family, friends and your Church, with acknowledgment to Cityhope Church.

**Video link:** <https://youtu.be/ll24w6icVv8> (NOTE: this link can't be viewed on the DPN)

Cityhope Church produced another YouTube documentary this Anzac Day on two brothers from Ipswich. Search YouTube : **Yield to None – Two Brothers in France**

## Tax receipts for 2021-22

MCF-A is funded by the generous donations of its members and supporters. These donations are tax deductible. A huge thank you to those who have donated in the past, especially this financial year. Your tax receipt, if not an automatically generated one, will be emailed to you by end of July 2022. Various ways to make a tax deductible gift to MCF-A can be found on the right hand side of this link: [Donate](#)

## Info for parents and Small Groups

***The following is from an MCF-A support partner. It is aimed at Parents and Grandparents and you may like to use the stories via the link for study material for your Small Group or to start a conversation with your colleagues.***

Dear all,

Can you believe this??

**OFFICIAL: OVER 50% OF OUR POPULATION DO NOT KNOW IF JESUS IS REAL OR JUST A MYTHICAL CHARACTER.**

National Church Life Survey <https://ncls.org.au/news/is-jesus-real-to-australians>

**QUESTION? Who is going to teach the children of Australia about the reality of Jesus??**

To help you answer this question we invite you to consider sharing the attached FLYER with those in leadership in your church and school, as well as family and friends in your local area.

ALL the stories on our [www.didyouknow.org.au](http://www.didyouknow.org.au) website is a part of the National School Curriculum and there is a strong move to have our heritage removed from the curriculum.

**Please ask the Lord to show you what He would want you to do.**

**My prayer is that every church and school will send a copy of this flyer home to the parents as a matter of urgency!!!**

Yours in His name for the boys and girls.

Graham from Did You Know education

## Other items

### Have you posted or moved house?

Please update your details [HERE](#)

### Membership

[Membership](#) is free and **open to every Christian**. If you've not had an association with the ADF you can be an associate member.

### Donations

MCF is supported through freewill donations by members and supporters.

Please look at supporting MCF in prayer, with your time and through [financial support](#).

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

### Prayer requests

To put forward prayer points for inclusion in the calendar please email the MCF Prayer Coordinator Dr

Brendan Pell: [brendan.pell@defence.gov.au](mailto:brendan.pell@defence.gov.au)

You can also send through **urgent prayer points** (you can state they are confidential) that are sent on to the MCF Prayer Warriors or enquire about becoming an MCF Prayer Warrior by contacting Brendan.

### Contacting the MCF Office

PHONE: 02 6132 7845

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

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