



eNews November 2022

What's happening in MCF-PNG? from Jamie Van Heel

'...and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb....' Rev 7:9 (NIV)

The Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) is an organisation with representation in 150 countries military, police or security forces. AMCF is divided into 14 regions. LTCOL Jamie Van Heel is the AMCF vice President for the SW Pacific region. From 23-28 Oct 18, MCF Australia had the privilege of hosting the Association of Military Christian Fellowships South West Pacific Conference in Brisbane. These regional conferences provide an opportunity to connect with, encourage and teach other military, police and security forces personnel in our region how to establish, develop and grow an MCF in their countries. The conference theme was: *Thriving in Christ in a Challenging World*. We had representatives from PNG, Tonga, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Australia including Thursday Island and the U.S.A. It was a very encouraging and uplifting time for all.

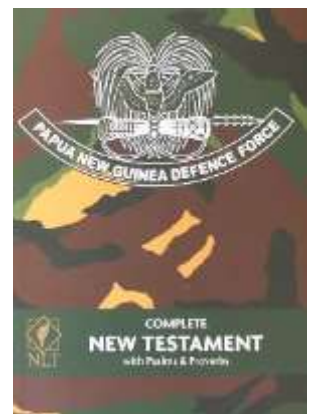


To maintain contact with, and support the network of SW Pacific MCF leaders, Jamie Van Heel visited PNG from 13-17 May 19. This was a great time to provide encouragement to the PNG MCF Group. Jamie was able to meet with four senior PNGDF leaders and then conducted the conference with Al MacKinnon and Olly Kaese. The teaching topics included truth and grace, conflict resolution and building positive relationships. Following the visit, Jamie, Bible Society Australia and PNGDF Chaplains commenced the exciting task of partnering to produce PNGDF camouflage

Bibles. I am pleased to advise that the PNGDF camouflage Bibles were delivered mid Oct 22 and they will be presented, according to SGT Jack Eki, PNG MCF leader, at the PNG CDF Church Parade in early 2023. This is exciting news with 4000 PNGDF camouflage Bibles being delivered into PNGDF personnel hands.

Jamie will be visiting other SW Pacific nations over the next few years. If you are interested in being part of a team let him know at james.vanheel@defence.gov.au

The AMCF World Conference is scheduled for Oct 24 in Brazil. You are welcome to attend along with Christian military representatives from over 100 countries.



New AMCF President: *In October 2022, AMCF's President General Srilal Weerasooriya conducted a turnover ceremony for the next president, Major General Essel Soriano of The Philippines.* Please give thanks and praise for both these men and pray for General Soriano in this role.

Upcoming MCF Dinners/BBQs in 2022



MCF Sausage Sizzle - Canberra Saturday 5 Nov at St John's Church, Reid – the church and museum will be open. Come any time between 11 and 2. Everyone welcome. Free onsite parking and undercover area if wet. Info has been sent to Canberra members and is on MCF Facebook. Email mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you are from elsewhere and would like more info to attend.

MCF Defence Christians Dinner – Adelaide Saturday 19th Nov at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club – 111 Hutt St, Adelaide (Private room). Pay for your own food and drinks (bar meals). 6:30 for 7pm start. **Register to attend:** [Defence Christians Dinner - Adelaide 2022 Tickets, Naval, Military and Air Force Club, Adelaide | TryBooking Australia](#)

In SA and didn't receive an email with info and the flyer? Email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

MCF AGM + Other Events

MCF-A 2022 AGM online – 14 Nov @ 7pm AEDT

Exec are trying out a new way to do the AGM to be more inclusive for all MCF members across Australia. All registered full MCF-A members should have received the Secretary's invitation email with official invite attachment and second email with Reports attached. If you didn't, or you're not a full member but would like to be an observer at the meeting or read the reports, please contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au asap.

Other events coming up in November:

Defence Sunday - MCF Exec strongly encourage you to have your Church pray for the Defence community on **Sunday 6th Nov**, the first Sunday before Remembrance Day. This is a great way for people in your Church to support the Defence community, you may even like to give a short talk on being a Christian in Defence and how your Church can support you, your family and the wider Defence community.

Thank you to Defence Anglicans for use of their material for the day.



An informative video and a prayer that can be used in your Small Group and Church can be found here: [Defence Sunday, 6 Nov 2022 - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](https://www.mcf-a.org.au)



National Prayer Breakfast at Parliament House and free Livestream - *Mon 28 Nov 22*

World Vision and Bible Society Australia as the lead sponsors. The sponsors help cover the many costs of running the breakfast and their support is greatly appreciated. You are extended an invitation to join together at Parliament House for the 33rd Australian National Prayer Breakfast. This year's breakfast at **7:15am AWST on Monday, 28 November**. *Please note that registration is essential for in person attendance at Parliament House and tickets will be refunded if health restrictions prevent in person participation. If you are unable to join us in person this year it will also be livestreamed*, please [register](#) now to participate with us online. **We will also be holding an additional streaming at 7:15am AWST (10:15am AEDT) so you can gather with us online in your time zone and at your preferred time.** You may like to host your own local National Prayer Breakfast event at your workplace, church, school or home. The breakfast is now less than one month away and tickets are selling fast. You can hear more about the breakfast in the below video from Mr David Smith, MP and Senator Matt O'Sullivan, co-chairs of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship and this year's hosts. www.youtube.com ***MCF Exec encourage you to attend or watch with your Small Group.***

Free webinar – In this webinar, you'll hear ***Dave's story of running away from faith and the church; joining the Armed Services; and how he found life in Jesus again.*** I am then looking forward to hearing Dave's thoughts on Australians' receptivity to faith and how we bring the good news message to our modern world.



Register, or for the link to watch later: www.olivetreemedia.com.au/webinar

RAAF Williamtown Mental Health event report

MCF-A was proud to be a sponsor of RAAF Williamtown's Mental Health event where Tina and Andy Summers shared part of their family's story in a very powerful way. Andy has been a long time member of MCF-A and doesn't shy away from telling people it was his wife's prayer and our Saviour Jesus who saved his life here on earth and beyond. Read part of their story below.

Through the Valley by Tina Summers

I'll never forget the day Andy returned home from his first tour in the Middle East and as I looked into his eyes, I knew that the man I married four years earlier wasn't the same.

It took another tour, four more years, and a suicide attempt before Andy was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and began getting professional help.

But that's not the end of our story. Four years later again and Andy was medically cleared of PTSD and we continue speaking publicly of our experience, raising awareness for mental health and encouraging people to get the help they need.



One such event was recently held at RAAF Base Williamtown on 6th October, organised by the Military Christian Fellowship, where Andy and I spoke during a lunch time event and then again at an evening event for spouses.

We've received a lot of positive feedback from attendees, including one who saw the presentation in its earliest form and was amazed at how much it had evolved.

At the event, we spoke about Andy's experience with PTSD, how it affected our family, we encouraged people to reach out for help, and what to do (that actually helps) when someone you know is going through a difficult time. The presentation normalises discussions around mental health and equips our listeners with tools to help people around them.

Our memoir titled, "Through the Valley: One family's journey through PTSD" is a deeper look at our experiences during that time, and is available for purchase directly from the publisher at www.payhip.com/b/ZeN4 or from any online bookshop.

Alternatively, to hear our presentation in person, please contact Andy on a-summers@bigpond.com

Other items

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

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

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

Membership

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

Donations

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

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

Prayer requests

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

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

Contacting the MCF Office

PHONE: 02 6132 7845

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

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