



eNews October 2022

Why should I care about the MCF AGM?

Over the last couple of weeks all members should have received a letter from the MCF office giving notice of our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and seeking nominations for the Council positions to carry us through 2023. Understandably, the AGM is not the highlight of the annual calendar of events for most people. While it is generally administrative in nature, the AGM is nonetheless important for the good and orderly operation of the MCF. It also enables us to present an honourable account of our practices before our membership, government and the world.

The AGM is therefore not siloed or separate from our ministry, it is an essential part of our ministry. Not only is it the mechanism used for the election of the Council, those who will provide leadership to the MCF over the next 12 months, it is also where we agree to the allocation of resources to the various aspects of ministry and other operations of MCF. MCF has no ministry without these enablers. We give thanks to God for his sustaining of the ministry of MCF over many years, with financial and other resources, and we trust that he will continue to provide for us into the future.



When thinking about those qualities that make one suitable for leadership, we continue to be blessed and gratefully receive those who put themselves forward and volunteer their time and energy in service to God's Kingdom. Though it is also good to be reminded of the account of Moses. He was not one to strive for a leadership position, in fact he did all in his power to avoid it (Exodus 3). Pleading with God to 'please send someone else'. Leadership can be hard work, but it can also be greatly rewarding. Particularly in the case of leadership in Christian ministry, as the rewards are not constrained to this life.



Moses was a reluctant leader, he didn't grasp after power or seek the limelight. But in faithful obedience to God's call, he witnessed God do many great things in the deliverance of his people. We very much value willing volunteers, so please consider avenues of service even if you feel ill-equipped or inadequate. This is something to be mindful of as we consider any nominations we may put forward for next year's Council.

Blessings, David Coleman: MCF-A Secretary

MCF-A Exec and Staff Worker at Puckapunyal MCF Dinner 2022.
Julie Jaensch – Staff Worker, David Coleman- Secretary, Steve Neuhaus – Chair, David Schweinsberg – Treasurer, Darren Thomas – Vice Chair

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. Info to be sent to Canberra members and on Facebook in coming weeks. Email mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you are from elsewhere and would like 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 your own food and drinks (bar meals). 6:30 for 7pm start. More info to follow in email to SA members and on Facebook. Email mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you are not a member or are from elsewhere and would like to attend.

MCF AGM + Other Save the Date

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 invite email and official invite attachment. If you didn't, or you're not a full member but would like to be an observer at the meeting, please contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Save the Date:

- **The Truth of It LIVE 'Babylon'** - *Canberra Sat 29 Oct 22* Great Hall Parliament House 6:30-9:00pm, - *Melbourne Fri 11 Nov, Sydney* watch replay of livestream.

More details at www.acl.org.au (best viewed on a personal device not DPN)

- **National Prayer Breakfast at Parliament House and free Livestream - Mon 28 Nov 22**, 7:15-8:15am, set for various time zones across Australia. Australians gather to pray for our leaders and for the wellbeing of all people throughout this great land. We will again be privileged to hear messages from national dignitaries, Members of Parliament, Senators and other civic leaders. For more info or to buy your ticket, register to watch live online (free), or watch with your MCF Small Group or your local Church group, go to: [National Prayer Breakfast 2022 | City Bible Forum](https://www.citybibleforum.com.au/national-prayer-breakfast-2022)
- **National Day of Prayer and Fasting - Sat 27 May 23.** More info closer to the date.

Remembering the Victorian Defence Christians Dinner

Our family was very excited to drive to Bridges Barracks, Sergeant's Mess, Puckapunyal to attend the 2022 Defence Christians Dinner on the 9th of September 2022. It was a beautiful evening as we were welcomed and escorted into the base by WO2 Darren Thomas, driving past the kangaroos as the sun set on the pristine surroundings of Pucka with the soldiers almost camouflaged by their surroundings. We were greeted by very committed Christians in Defence and other ministries associated with them, making a total of 26 attendees. Everyone was glad to get back together face to face after 2 years of Covid restrictions.



It was a delight to meet Principal Chaplain Darren Jaensch AM, Director General Chaplaincy – Army, who was the main speaker for the evening along with his dear wife Julie, who is the Staff Worker for MCF-A. The other guest speaker was the lovely Rev Julie Blinco-Smith, Vicar, All Saints Anglican Church Greensborough in Melbourne. She spoke to us about the Acronym FROG – Fully Rely on God, encouraging us to simply trust in the Lord in all circumstances, reminding us of Proverbs 3:5-6: *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.'* She shared how the soldiers from the Australian Light Horse acknowledged the power of God in their victory and put their faith in Him.

At the start of Darren's address he said that it felt solemn as we were seated right under the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II who went to be with the Lord the previous day, she herself being a faithful Christian to the end. He showed us videos of three Chaplains/Padres working in the Army. You can

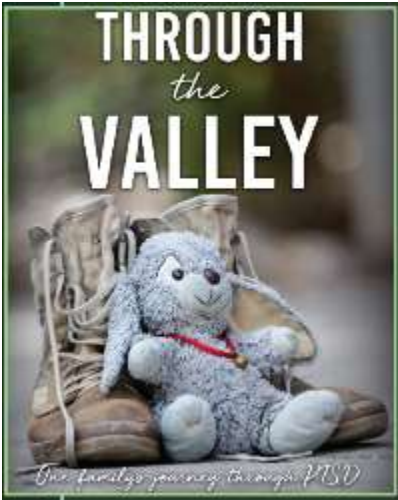
view more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX4ZXLq3ymQ>. In the video we saw the chaplains train along with the soldiers, positioned to serve, inspiring them to stay strong on their course physically and spiritually, to remind them that there is a God and that they were never alone. The call of God on their lives and comradery they build with them was sensational. Darren said that the chaplains were in also responsible to make sure the fallen were brought home with respect. It is a great responsibility towards the families and friends of those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our country. He thanked the Defence Christians who do what they do, loving the Lord and His people where He had planted them.

The meal including the dessert was delicious and abundant, prepared lovingly by the Chef at the Sergeant's Mess at Puckapunyal. We stayed overnight in Seymour and visited the Vietnam Veteran's Commemorative Walk and the Australian Light Horse memorial park the next day. Overall we came home thankful for the rich history of the Australian Defence Force and were inspired to continue to do all that the Lord has called us to do as Defence Christians. We were also thankful for the froggy reminders and the Bibles and 'lil' booklets we got to take home...



Santhosha (Vani) Houghton, MCF Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne Vic.

Mental Health event – all welcome, not just RAAF



RAAF Williamstown MCF Rep/MCF Member Rep Sam Hays has organised a Mental Health event on **Thursday 6th October 2022** featuring *guest speaker and MCF member, SGT Andrew Summers, and his wife Tina.*

All in Defence and their (16+) family members are most welcome to attend either session – 1130 & 1900. (Non-Defence also welcome, see info for details)

Please use the QR Code for more info and free registration.



Proudly supported by MCF-A.

Pray for MCF's across the world – 29 Oct, 2022

Please join believers around the world on 29 October as we gather at Christ's throne for a day of prayer & praise for military ministry. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you, using this guide with requests from military Christian fellowship (MCF) leaders – find prayers and more info here (click on October Newsletter under the DONATE button): [Newsletters and Prayer Reminders \(accts.org\)](https://www.accts.org/newsletters-and-prayer-reminders)

Exciting update from India and Nepal



Some Good News about last weekend. One of our MCF-INDIA Pastors (Blesson Vargesh) serving in Military Base, Gaya Bihar could bring one whole Adhibashi village into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, so **42 people took water Baptism** on Sunday 25th Sept. We Praise God for this great work of the Holy Spirit. It is an answer to our (and your) prayers. **Do continually uphold us in your fervent Prayers** as on 6th, 7th, 10th-12th, 13th Oct, MCF-INDIA

Programmes and 18th-19th Oct MCF-Nepal Programmes. We appreciate prayer support from MCF-A. Our free tuition, children ministries and all activities are smoothly functioning. We are also praying for all the upcoming Programmes of MCF-AUSTRALIA. From MCF India/Nepal Rep – Arjun (Taken in part from recent email)

Arjun desperately needs a motorbike to travel around his area of Nepal. Please uphold this and the ministry in your prayers. Contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you would like more info on supporting this ministry.

Other items

Have you posted or moved house? Are you deploying, 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 calendar please email the MCF Prayer Coordinator Dr Brendan Pell: brendan.pell@dst.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.

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