



eNews March 2023

Unity

In John 17 we find Jesus praying for not only himself but particularly his disciples and then moves His focus and prayer, to the future church. Jesus prays *“my prayer is not for them alone (the disciples) I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message (all believers since and into the future) John 17:20.* Jesus desires that ‘all of them’ that is, the apostolic church and the future church, should be unified. Jesus sees generation after generation after generation of his followers, He calls them *believers*, for they will believe in him; and their belief will be the fruit of the apostles words, passed down through generations and across the nations. There is a pattern – the Word is given, received, heard, believed and passed on. This is what MCF-A strives to do alongside the other ministries within and around Defence, even though we approach our worship and praxis from different angles when we all hold to the One Truth in Christ then we are unified. It is my prayer that we all remain unified in the One Great Mission bound together through the love and redeeming blood of Christ.



In this eNews there is some information on what others ministries in Defence are doing. Please pray for them and encourage them.

Godspeed
Steve MCF Chair

National Day of Prayer for Defence

The National Day of Prayer for Defence will go ahead again this year after a break. **Canberra will hold an event on** It is desirable that other events be held on or around the same time but may change due to



local commitments. MCF Reps will have a copy of the Order of Service and may coordinate with local Christian Chaplains to find a format that suits the local area, or use this as a guide for prayer in your MCF Small Group. The Order of Service contains prayer for different parts of the Australian Defence Force and its people, as well as suggested Bible readings and info for running the event. Please contact your local MCF Rep, Chaplain or the MCF Office for more details or to get your copy of

the Order of Service. Why not encourage your local Church, Church Small Group to pray for Defence and those who work in it? mcf.office@defence.gov.au

What do FCMM partners FOCUS and Navs do?

FCMM – Forum of Christian Military Ministries, is a group of Australian Ministry partners across Defence

“Did you bake all this?” Was the incredulous question from a number of first year trainee officers at ADFA as they were presented with an incredible range of home baked goods for supper after their first military chapel service.

Each year the chapel services during the Year One Familiarisation Training (YOFT) are a highlight for many trainees during the intensity of their first weeks at ADFA. A chance to just breathe, and the first hit of sugar they’ve had since day 1.

The chaplains run the service itself, creating a beautiful space for rest and reflection for everyone, regardless of their faith background. Then after the service the trainees mill around outside the Duntroon Chapel, chatting over the supper that has been provided by volunteers from Navigators, FOCUS and local churches, while the Salvos provide drinks.

Volunteers and staff from Navigators and FOCUS wander around chatting to trainees and collecting details for anyone who’s interested in receiving information about the groups so that we can invite them along to socials, bible studies, and other events once semester starts.



While FOCUS and Navigators at ADFA have varied ministry approaches and styles, both ministries are united in the centrality of the gospel - that makes for a great partnership! As the academic semester gets going at the beginning of March, both groups will run activities to build community, help Christians grow in faith, and for anyone who’s interested to explore faith and consider the claims of Christianity. Navigators and FOCUS staff support trainee officers who coordinate activities for the groups as part of the voluntary extra-curricular clubs at ADFA. Both groups are committed to providing every trainee with the opportunity to know Jesus, and to grow or explore faith as young adults within a military context.

Trainee officers regularly testify to the blessing of being part of vibrant Christian community during their time at ADFA. We expect, hope and pray that 2023 will be another year of God working through the ministry of FOCUS and Navigators to bless trainees through reading the Bible and talking about faith with mentors and peers, training in Christ-like leadership, and the support and warmth of Christian community.

Please be praying for Christians to connect well with Christian community on and off base and to grow in faith.

Please also pray for anyone thinking about faith and exploring Christianity too understand the truth of the gospel.

Navigators and particularly FOCUS also have ministry opportunities on other Bases, primarily at ADF training facilities. Please also remember these in prayer.

By Merryn – FOCUS ADFA.

Photo – One of the YOFT Chapel services in 2023

www.focusmilitary.org.au

www.navigators.org.au/community/military/

Upcoming MCF Dinners/BBQs



MCF Sausage Sizzle - Canberra

Saturday 4 March at St John's Church, Reid – the church and museum will be open. Come any time between 10.30 and 2. Everyone welcome. Free onsite parking. Info has been sent to Canberra members and is on the MCF Facebook page.

Our FCMM partners Solid Rock and the Sallyman will be there too!

Thanks to Solid Rock, the Sallyman and St John's for their support of this event.

Defence Welcome events

A huge thank you to the many MCF-A Reps and others who hosted or are about to host a stall at one of the many Defence Welcome events that have been held around the country. It's a great way to meet new people and let the Defence community know about MCF and the small groups in their area.

The MCF Staff Worker was excited and privileged to host a table alongside Solid Rock Defence Ministry (for ADF women/female partners) and the ADF Chaplains at Questacon in Canberra last weekend. Around 1500 people registered to attend the event and many great conversations were had with Christians and those wanting to know more. Let the office know if you'd like help with a stall at similar events in your area, including Church or school events where there may be a number of Defence personnel attending and keep an eye out for an MCF stall when you attend events. *You don't need to be a Rep to host a stall.*





Julianne (Solid Rock – an FCMM partner), Julie (MCF – an FCMM partner) and CHAP Gary waiting for the people to get to their level at Questacon – They loved the floor they were given, ‘Awesome Earth’, a great conversation starter.

Can we take our faith to work?



‘Can I take my faith to work? It is the question most people ask me nervously. For many, work is the place you lie low, keep quiet, get defensive. That is an understandable response.’

Click the link to read this thought provoking article from Eternity News and reflect on you and your ‘work’.

<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/faith-at-work/can-we-take-our-faith-to-work/>

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 and ForceNet.

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