



eNews April 2023

Remembering Sacrifice

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Over the last month many Christians have been on a Lenten Pilgrimage starting on Ash Wednesday. This is a most significant time of year for Christians and an important time for us to pause and reflect on what we believe and why we believe it. In the week before Easter, we enter what is traditionally called Holy Week which starts on Palm Sunday and concludes celebrating the Resurrection of Christ and thus the absolute uniqueness and pivotal point of Christianity.

Jesus' death and resurrection is a historical fact, just as ANZAC Day is, however unlike ANZAC Day which commemorates effectively a defeat or a withdrawal, Easter celebrates the most important and substantial victory ever achieved both in heaven and on earth. Both days however remind us of sacrifice and love (agape) of others above self.

Unfortunately, cultural compromise and fear of people's opinions have caused many believers to shy away from Jesus' exclusive claim that He is the only way to Eternal Life, this is not a new phenomenon but one that has occurred from the very start of the church, two millennia ago.



As we move through the Easter Season and celebrate with friends and family it is my prayer that you will be blessed with the boldness and strength to be able to remind people why this is the most significant time of the year for Christians.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Godspeed

Steve

MCF Chair

National Day of Prayer for Defence 2023



The National Day of Prayer for Defence is happening again this year in Canberra and the MCF Exec encourages your area to host an event too. It may be praying through the important issues facing Defence and Defence Christians in your MCF Small Group, hosting a Prayer Service or Prayer gathering, or getting your local Church involved and praying about these important issues in Church or other groups. Knowing everyone's situation is different, especially in current times, you are welcome to do something when it works for you. The Canberra event will be held at St John's Anglican Church in Reid on Saturday 24th June from 11am.

The Exec ask that all events are completed before the end of June 2023.

For the **adaptable Prayer Booklet** and to see if something is happening near you please visit the MCF-A website - [National Day of Prayer for Defence - 2023 - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](https://www.mcf-a.org.au) If you know of an event not on the website **please email details** to mcf.office@defence.gov.au

You don't need to be in Defence to host an event and it can be as simple as having a few friends gather to pray.

New MCF groups and events

It's great to have many new or revamped MCF Small Groups of late. You are most welcome to attend any of these groups if you work or visit the area. They would love to see you there!

ADFA Canberra – contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au for contacts/info

Brindabella Park Canberra – contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au for contacts/info

Defence Science & Technology (DST) Edinburgh Sth Aust – meet each Monday from 12:00-13:00 in the Wide Area Space & Surveillance (WASS) System Program Office (SPO). For more info contact daniel.solomon3@defence.gov.au (There is also another group at DST in a different area – details on the MCF website)



HMAS Stirling WA – contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au for contacts/info

RAAF Tindal NT – various events, contact Chaplain peter.taylor18@defence.gov.au

RAAF Williamtown – **Alpha Course** starts Thursday 11 May for 8 weeks. 11.40 – 12.30, Len Waters Building Lvl 1 Rm 074. Refreshments provided. For more info contact: samuel.hays@defence.gov.au

Russell Offices Canberra – meet every Wed lunchtime, 12:30-13:00, in R2-6-D001. For more info contact david.coleman1@defence.gov.au

Please let email mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you'd like your group or event in the MCF-A eNews.

MCF Small Group locations and contacts can be found on the MCF-A website –

[Small groups - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](http://mcf-a.org.au)

Treats to tell others about MCF-A in your area



RAAF Williamstown and MCF Member Rep, Mr Sam Hays, has come up with a novel way to share when their Small Group meets, and it's also a great way to get Christian material into the hands of your work colleagues. Please find a template attached to this email which you are welcome to adjust to advertise your local MCF Small Group or meeting time, or leave off the Small Group in and put out some lollies and some Christian material. Contact the MCF Office if you'd like some material for your workspace.

Sam says: I have used this set up in my building for about 12 months now. The lollies and pens are very popular; a few bookmarks and other MCF resources have also been taken.

Canberra BBQ report and other events



Another great time was had by all at the MCF Canberra region 'Welcome' BBQ which was well supported by around 50 people strolling through the beautiful grounds at St John's Reid across the event, including a visit from the MCF Patron MAJGEN Sue Graham (pictured) and her boys. The BBQ cooking was kept well under control by MCF Chair, CHAP Steve Neuhaus (pictured), and attendees were kept well hydrated by the Salvation Army's Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) Chief Commissioner Brett Gallagher with his trusty Sallyman truck. Lots of catching up, laughs as well as making new and strengthening old friendships were made over a sausage in bread. Thanks to all who came along, with special thanks to all who helped out on the day and to St John's Pastor, Rev Dave, and the congregation for use of their facilities and their support.

This month I've enjoyed attending this event along with talking at the NSW/ACT Lutheran Ladies Retreat alongside FCMM partner Solid Rock Ministries, and meeting the new Chaplains at the Chaplain's College along with the other leads of the Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM). If you're having a special MCF/Christian event in your area you'd like me to try to attend, drop me an email at mcf.office@defence.gov.au and I'll do my best to be there, even if it's not in the Canberra area. Blessings, Julie, MCF Staff Worker based in Canberra.

Parliamentary Christian Fellowship – Australia



The **Parliamentary Christian Fellowship** (federal), also known as the **Parliamentary prayer group**, is a gathering of Christian politicians in the Australian Federal Parliament, who hold regular prayer sessions in Parliament House in Canberra.

Wednesday morning, 29th March 2023, the MCF Staff Worker was privileged to witness the Commissioning of their latest Chaplain, Mr Leon Hribar. Leon follows on from Rev Eric Burton who is a retired DGCHAP-Navy and has been an active MCF-A member for many years. He was also the AMCF SW Pacific VP before Jamie Van Heel. Before Eric was Rev Peter Rose, who is a retired ADF Chaplain and was the first recognised Chaplain to the Parliament. Leon has been added to the National Day of Prayer for Defence booklet, please add him to yours if you have downloaded it already. ***Please remember to pray regularly for Leon and all who work in Parliament House.***

Religious Freedom in a Secular Age – Free Interview link



Thanks to Olive Tree Media here is the link to a 1hr interview between Rev Dr Michael Bird, Bible College lecturer, author, former Defence member and guest speaker at an MCF Defence Christians Dinner in Melbourne and Karl Faase from Olive Tree Media.

This interesting and thought provoking interview touches on many topics in today's world, including ADF Chaplaincy.

You may like to watch the interview and discuss topics raised with your MCF Small Group or Church group.

You are welcome to share the link. <https://youtube.com/live/eYOaPogZ1s>

(link can only be viewed on a personal device)

Upcoming Christian Films in the Cinema

Why not get your MCF group (and their families) together and see one of these?



Now Showing - From the organisation behind The Chosen, Angel Studios is now bringing us a feature film on a Bible story that has never been told before.

His Only Son recounts one of the most controversial moments in the Old Testament – when Abraham was commanded by God to sacrifice his son Isaac on the mountain of Moriah. While traveling to the place of the sacrifice, alongside Isaac and two servants, Abraham is flooded with vivid memories from the years he and Sarah spent longing for the son they were promised – the son he must now lay upon the altar.

This film will continue in cinemas longer if it is well attended in the first 4 days of its release. If there isn't a showing near you, you are welcome to contact MOVIES CHANGE PEOPLE and they can help you organise a showing or help encourage your local cinema to show it.

Find your local cinema or book a group screening today! <https://www.hisonlysonmovie.com.au/>



Showing from 20 April

Read about this piece of Christian history that could have been lost in time. There is also a film review: [Click Here](#)

Watch the trailer or find a cinema near you: [CLICK HERE](#)

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 and ForceNet.

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