



eNews May 2024

Do not worry

Well I guess this is it... Stabbings, wars, and rumours of wars...

I was discussing this topic briefly with a dear brother at church the other Sunday and was struck by the reality in which we live, and the reality of life in the ADF – where these rumours and wars are even more relevant for us than for the general public...

And yet, what were Jesus' next words in Matthew 24?

"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." Matt 24:6

Wait, don't be afraid? Seems there's quite a contrast between Jesus' message and the message of the 24hr news cycle...

"Do not be afraid" is arguably the most repeated command in all of scripture. How exactly do we obey this command?? How do we obey, and remain unafraid even though we and our families may be directly affected by war and even the rumours of war...?

Well, I would expect that it's not by simply "trying hard". As we've talked about at an MCF meeting a few weeks ago: we do not change by trying hard; only by training hard (to quote J M Comer). Just as we in the ADF are constantly training for war, let us also train ourselves to stay in step with Christ. I suspect it is really only through communion with Christ, "living according to the spirit", remaining yoked to- and in step with- Christ, that we can possibly fulfil the commands "Do not worry", "Rejoice in the Lord always", "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request".

But it's possible! As believers in Christ, we are given the Spirit of Christ (the same one that raised Him from death unto life). We are sons and daughters of God – co-heirs with Christ, the Lord over all creation – the supreme master – the most powerful being in all the universe.



Let's prayerfully and humbly initiate habits in our lives that draw us closer to that identity – that bridge the gap between the now and the not yet; that make constantly praying in the Spirit the most natural thing in the world; that make loving people and exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit second-nature; that make a loving, joyful and peaceful disposition the default; that make not worrying and looking forward with genuine hope towards Christ's imminent return... possible. Amen. Maranatha!

And when we fail, and quietly panic as we catch another glimpse of the latest news, or let the

frustration and stress of life spill out in a conversation with someone we love, we have yet again a fresh and wonderful opportunity to experience the grace of the Lord Jesus all over again. Repent, and believe in the gospel (Mk 1:15). Praise the Lord!

Robbo (an MCF-A Rep)

The MCF Council encourage you to pray in the Spirit together at a National Day of Prayer for Defence event. See details further down the newsletter.

Unknown donor – is this you?

There is a regular fortnightly donor to MCF-A that started in January. Thank you! The Office would love to know who you are so we can send you a tax receipt at the end of June. If you think it may be you please email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

MCF gets little to no outside funding apart from office space at a defence site and some Christian material (Bibles etc) from Bible Society Australia. MCF runs on donations from it's members and supporters. The Staff Worker is the only paid position. **Please consider donating to MCF this financial year!** *MCF is currently running at a loss. If every member donated at least \$10 p/mth this wouldn't be the case. Every little bit helps!* All donations to MCF-A over \$2 are tax deductible.

If you'd like to support this ministry you can donate via the website or use the various options like direct debit or from your pay - instructions on the right hand side of the same donate page.

Donate to the work of MCF-A: [Donate - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](https://mcf-a.org.au)

Thanks for letters to Ukraine troops



Letters written by MCF-A members and supporters have been sent over to the UK to boost the morale of Ukraine troops being trained by members of the ADF. Thank you to those of you who have contributed, and if you're still to send your letter to MCF, it's not too late as it can still be forwarded to the UK. Some of the letters have been photocopied as the demand for mail is high and the Ukrainians don't mind if they are given a photocopied letter. The Padre who asked MCF to help is very grateful to all.

You can read more via these two links: [Soldiers' symbols of hope for Ukrainian trainees](#) and [Letters of support lift spirits](#)

MCF National Day of Prayer for Defence, June 2024



National Day of Prayer for Defence
2024
National Day of Prayer for Defence
Sponsored by Military Christian Fellowship of Australia
<http://mcf-a.org.au>



Saturday 15th June, 2024 has been chosen to set aside for the National Day of Prayer for Defence.

There is a booklet with suggested readings and prayers available on the MCF website for you to use and adapt for your area and Church. You are encouraged to organise your own events with your Small Group, on your Base, in your local Bible Study groups and at your Church. If an event can't be held on that day (or weekend, or the week either side), you are welcome to hold it when suitable but preferably before the end of June. **For those outside the Canberra area, it is strongly encouraged you host your own event but you are also welcome to join in the livestream of the Canberra event from St John's Anglican Church Reid beginning at 11am (AEST, CBR, SYD) on Saturday 15th June.**

Booklet, events and info link: [National Day of Prayer for Defence - 2024 - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](http://mcf-a.org.au)

Video (you are welcome to use this to advertise your event): [MCF-A Prayer Event Invite](#)

For more info and to **register your group's event details** please email: mcf.office@defence.gov.au

RAAF Amberley – exciting new programs

The **MCF-AMB small group** will be meeting every off-pay Thursday from 2nd May at lunchtime in the Chaplaincy Centre.

There is also a new group called, **Bereaved Parents** and another group called **Maternity Network**, both run by Chaplain Philp.

Contact Matt Coleman for more details of each group matthew.coleman1@defence.gov.au

Ridley Certificate – *now free*



Ridley Theological College is very excited to announce that all current and future subjects available for study through the *Ridley Certificate* will be made available at no cost from 1 May 2024. This means that every Christian will have the opportunity to go deeper in their faith, grow in their understanding of God and the Bible, and get better equipped for ministry in whatever context they are in.

Thanks to the generous support of many donors, we are now able to do this – making all current and future Ridley Certificate subjects available for free for the next five years. **More information and subjects:** [Ridley Certificate](#)

In case you missed these Anzac Day

- **Helping Hands TV** series featured MCF Vice Chair, Darren Thomas, in their Anzac Day special. *You can view this at - [9Now - Helping Hands](#) series 2, [Helping Hands YouTube](#) or via www.helpinghands.tv*
- For ANZAC Day April 25 2024, **Defence Anglican Chaplaincy** have produced a **short 4 min video** to be shared and used to help remember the sacrifice given by the few for so many. In particular, Bishop Grant Dibden shares the story of Corporal Reginald Samuel Thorn who gave his life in the Pozières, France. *To view (on personal device): [Corporal Reginald Samuel Thorn](#)*
- **The many days of Anzac** – This is a documentary on Anzac Day, how it started and where it is heading. It has some interesting parts in it about Chaplains/Christians, as well as general info. *Find it on iView.*

SAVE THE DATE – Celebrating 40 years of MCF-A

Happy 40th Birthday



Praise be to God for 40 wonderful years of the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia after the amalgamation of the Australian Officers Christian Union and the Australian Services Christian Fellowship in 1984. MCF-A has evolved to include not only all in the ADF but all associated with Defence, such as APS and Contractors along with their families. MCF-A also likes to keep in contact and support those who have left Defence, and those who may not have served in Defence but have a passion to support those who do.

On Saturday 31st August, 2024 at St John's Anglican Church Reid, Canberra, **MCF-A will host an informal dinner to celebrate this great milestone. Everyone is most welcome and you don't need to be in Defence to attend.** Save the date and keep an eye on the eNews and your inbox closer to the date for more info and registration details. **The MCF Council hope past and present members from all over Australia, including anyone who's had a connection to MCF will attend and help them celebrate.** It is also hoped that we may be able to connect across Australia on the night via a livestream.

Cool baptism



A story to encourage you!

March 2024, 7 RAR LCPL affectionately known as Macca, was Baptised in a stream watched on by other members of 7 RAR.

Praise be to God! Please keep Macca, as well as other Christians, those seeking, and Chaplains in your prayers.



Other items that may be of interest



Introducing an initiative to create a new, animated family film about the life of Jesus. *God's Word in Oral and Visual Form.* Just like the original *JESUS* film (1979), the new *animated film of Jesus* will be faithful

to Scripture. In fact, its dialogue makes seamless use of the existing 2,000+ language recordings of *JESUS* (1979). It can also be more historically accurate than a live action film. 'It is the power of God's Word that changes lives.' It is hoped the film will be released in Dec 2025.

Read more: [The New Animate Film Called 'JESUS' \(jesusfilm.org\)](https://jesusfilm.org)



The power of reflection is so key in our walk with God, stopping and taking the time to ask God to show us things from his perspective each day. The key question for this NDOP is what is God saying to us? What is God saying to our nation? What is on His heart for our nation? How is God leading us to pray? What is He leading us (the body of Christ in the nation) to do? We know that Jesus is interceding for us individually, as a nation and globally. What is He interceding for us about? How can we join with Him in that prayer

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 Daniel Solomon: daniel.solomon3@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 contact the MCF Office or Daniel.

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