



eNews August 2024

Unremarkable – no – truly remarkable!

I often think that my own testimony is unremarkable, but when you consider the rebirth in Christ of the believer, every changed heart and every spiritually renewed life is not only evidence of a divine miracle, but also truly remarkable.

Raised in a Christian home; Christian education, Sunday school, weekly church attendance and Bible readings after meals were all part of the routine for as long as I can remember. While I had publicly accepted Christ as Lord as a teenager and conscientiously sought to live that out, it was not until I was in late high school and met a young lady, that my claim to faith in Jesus Christ was truly challenged.



The girl I met, Elizabeth, was a member of a strict religious cult. As our friendship developed, we spoke less and less about the things that teenage boys and girls talk about and more and more about what it meant to be faithful to God. Deeply fond of each other but convicted that we would not be 'unequally yoked', for years we struggled knowing that no meaningful relationship together was possible unless agreement could be reached on the issues that were so fundamental to who we were seeking to be as children of God.

After 3 turbulent years, Elizabeth came to know her Saviour, left the cult and was baptised into a Christian church. There is even a [book](#) written about it. It was only on reflection afterwards that I came to realise that as challenging as it was, the time had been immensely formative in my own spiritual journey. It brought me to the point of being fully convinced of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I was now confident in the saving work of Jesus Christ as *my* Lord and Saviour!

I'm also happy to note that it all ended well and Elizabeth has been my wife and partner in ministry now for 28 years.

Not long after we married, I commenced my career in Defence APS and soon became aware of the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) through a local workplace Bible study group. I soon became a member. MCF facilitated contact with many other devoted Christians who faithfully support and encourage Defence Christians in many different ways. Over the years my career in Defence has put me into contact with many wonderful people involved in Military Christian Ministry, Christians outside of my own church fellowship who I would not otherwise have had the opportunity of working with. Many people whom I've grown to respect and learned a great deal from.

The Christian life has many joys and rewards, but also its challenges and disappointments. Whenever it seems to overwhelm or you feel the temptation to give up or just 'coast for a while', remember the words of the Apostle Peter in John 6:68-69. Noticing his disciples are looking overwhelmed Jesus asks them if they wish to leave, to which Peter famously replies, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.*"^(ESV)

Mr David Coleman (1), MCF-A Secretary

2023/24 Tax Receipts and donations



Thank you to those who have donated to MCF-A over the past financial year. You should have your tax receipt. If not, please contact the MCF Office: mcf.office@defence.gov.au

All donations to MCF-A over \$2 are tax deductible.

MCF-A is run by its members for its members and is almost entirely funded by its members and supports. **MCF is currently running at a deficit and would love you to prayerfully consider if you can support its work.** Just \$10 a month from each member would cover existing costs and give more scope to expand what is possible. ***If you'd like to support the ministry of MCF-A, you can donate via the website, or use the various options like direct debit or straight from your pay - instructions on the right hand side of the same donate page.***

All donations to MCF-A over \$2 are tax deductible.

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

Alpha and Christianity Explored courses

Various MCF groups have recently run, or are looking to run, Alpha, Christianity Explored or similar courses. If you'd like to join or learn more about having a course near you please contact the MCF Office.

Thanks to Bible Society Australia for helping secure course material free of charge to participants.

RAAF Williamstown will be running Christianity Explored Course over 8 weeks from 21 Aug, 2024.

Save the Date/book – Sth Aus Dinner

Help Sth Aust MCF-A celebrate 40 years of MCF ministry in Defence!

A great night of fun and fellowship. You don't need to be in Defence to attend – all welcome!

When: Friday 4th October, 2024

Where: Naval, Military and Air Force Club – 111 Hutt St, Adelaide (Private room)

[Naval, Military and Air Force Club - Sth Aust](https://navmil.com.au) (navmil.com.au)

Cost: pay for own food and drinks from bar menu

Dress: Smart Casual eg: collared shirt, neat slacks or equivalent (no jeans - jacket and tie optional)

Guest Speaker to be confirmed

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CTSTH> (limited tickets so you can secure your spot now)

Help Celebrate 40 years of MCF-A – book now!

Happy 40th Birthday

Saturday 31st August, 2024 at St John's Anglican Church Reid, Canberra, MCF-A Exec will host an evening event to celebrate 40 years of the MCF-A. Everyone is most welcome and you don't need to be in Defence to attend.



It will be an informal evening of fun and loads of fellowship. Finger food, a few photos/memories shared, and a short message from our Patron.

You may even have a chance to buy some old/limited memorabilia.

Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CTFCX> Tickets are \$20 each to help cover costs.

The Exec hope anyone associated with MCF over the years, from all parts of Australia, will attend.

If you can't make it why not celebrate in your own way in your local area. It doesn't have to be a big event, just a time of fellowship, fun and memories.

Contact the office for more details, possible funding and support for your event:

mcf.office@defence.gov.au

MCF-A patches and clothing



The MCF Office has a limited number of **NEW arm patches** available for purchase as a trial. If you'd like to order a patch please follow the instructions on the attached order form.

They look great on a cammo cap!



Please contact: mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE



Monday, 4th November 2024

7:15 am – 8:15 am AEDT, in person or live stream

The Great Hall, Australian Parliament House, Canberra

Additional streaming at 7:15 am AWST

Registrations opening soon

This is open to everyone! Please share with others in your MCF Small Group and workplace, church, school etc.

See the website for info: [Australian National Prayer Breakfast](#)

Save the Date – MCF AGM

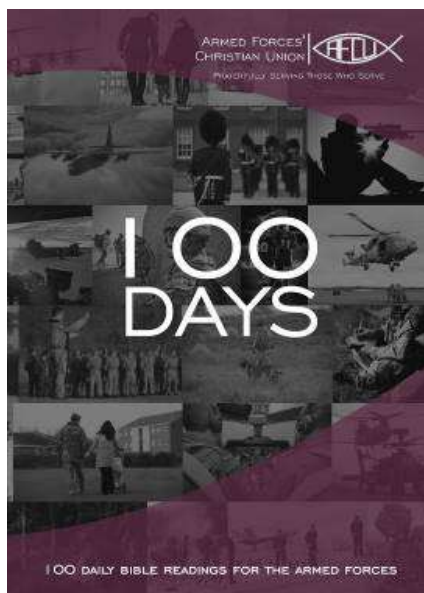
The MCF-A AGM will be held on Monday 18th November 2024 in the evening via zoom.

More details will be emailed to members closer to the date.

If you are an associate member or a supporter you are welcome to join the meeting but won't have voting rights.

Please contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au to be included in member mail-outs.

100 Days Bible Study – updated



The Armed Forces Christian Union (AFCU) in the UK have kindly given us their updated version of the 100 Days Bible Study, updated in 2020. This can be used as a daily reflection, study on your own, or used for your Small Group Bible Study. There are tips on how to get the most out of it, along with its history, included in the manual.

You will find a copy of it on our webpage under resources: [100 days - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia \(mcf-a.org.au\)](#)

You can also get it for your Kindle here (via Amazon): [Kindle version](#)

If you have any questions on its distribution and use please contact the MCF Office – mcf.office@defence.gov.au

New free AI Bible App



Our Forum of Military Ministries (FCMM) partner, ACCTS (Association of Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service), have brought to MCF-A's attention a new free AI

App which helps direct answers to Christian questions to Bible passages. ACCTS has put in some of the harder questions it helps people answer during their teaching sessions and found this app to be fairly accurate in giving appropriate Bible passages. Why not check it out for yourself? MCF-A would love your feedback, good or bad.

Find out more about it here: [Home \(biblechat.ai\)](http://Home(biblechat.ai))

OR find it in your Apple and Android store – Bible Chat

Other items

Have you posted or moved house? Are you deploying or away from home for a few months or longer?

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: skspjs@aol.com

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