



eNews April 2025

Momentous Events / Momentous News

At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. Matthew 27:51. (NLT)

In the news these days we are hearing of momentous events across the world and more particularly with the announcement of the Federal Election in Australia which pits politicians and differing views against each other in an election campaign that straddles Easter and ANZAC Day. With ANZAC Day we are reminded of the sacrifices of many service personnel and those who supported them throughout the last 110 years to ensure that we in Australia have a peaceful way of life. Finally with Easter we are forced to reflect on the Day the Revolution Began over 2,000 years ago with the death of Christ on the Cross to atone for our sins.



As Christians we need to be revolutionaries within a world which wishes to destroy all that God created and enslave us in a bondage of silence and fear. We as revolutionaries do not fight in the temporal realm through the application of physical violence on others to win but we fight in the spiritual realm through prayer, fasting and witnessing, through maintaining the standards that Christ gave us particularly succinctly expressed in Matthew 5-7 and the Mission he gave us in Matthew 28:18-20.

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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

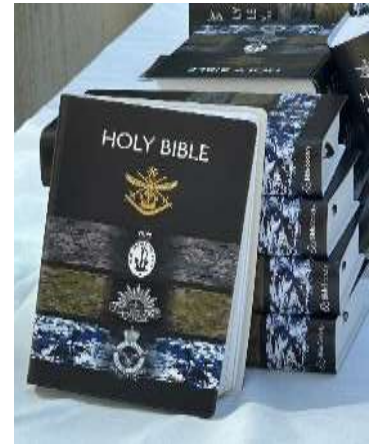
Steve - MCF Chair

New ADF Bible

MCF-A was excited to be invited to the launch of the new NIV ADF full Bible at Russell Offices on 13th March, 2025 and was represented by various members, Exec and the Staff Worker. It was great other representatives and leads from the Forum of Christian Military Ministries, Chaplains, Bible Society Australia, and other Defence Christians were able to be in attendance.

The Bible was launched by MAJGEN Sue Graham, representing CDF. MAJGEN Graham is also the current MCF-A Patron and has been a member of MCF-A since joining Defence many years ago. She has always appreciated having a Defence specific Bible and other Christian Defence specific material available.

PRINCHAP Kerry Larwill (who is the current MCF-A Chaplain Rep) gave an overview of Bible Society Australia and Bibles in Defence, from the Bibles arriving with the first fleet, the Boer War and through to more recent campaigns. Bibles from the Boer War through to Afghanistan were on display with only a couple of campaigns missing. (If you know someone willing to donate/loan their Sth Korean War ADF Bible to Bible Society, please get in touch with MCF.)



Tina King from Bible Society Australia said a few words and made note of the huge effort by many, many people to pull this Bible together, especially with the extra material to help Christians and non-Christians be able to use this Bible more fully. Some content includes Christian Response to the Defence Values, Service and other Prayers, glossary and maps, and much more.

The forward is by former Governor General of Australia (and former MCF-A Patron) GEN (ret'd) David Hurley.

To get your own copy of this Bible you must be a current member of Defence (MCF and others are working on having this expanded in the future to include past members and immediate family) and it should be available via your local ADF Chaplain or MCF Rep. Contact the MCF office if they don't know how to get some copies to your place of work.

Grab a copy for yourself and hand one on to a colleague!



SCHA Thorburn (Rep DGCHAP-N) Tina King BSA, MAJGEN Graham (Rep CDF), Chris Melville BSA, DGCHAP-A PRINCHAP Larwill, CHAP Williams (Rep DGCHAP-AF)

MCF Small Groups/Bible Study Groups

MCF Russell Lunch Time Bible Study

Come and join our time to read the Bible together and connect on Wednesdays 1230-1300, at R2, Level 6, Conference room D001. You are welcome to bring your lunch. And if you need a Bible, we can present you a new ADF Bible (NIV)! Contact CHAP Dennis Park (dennis.park1@defence.gov.au) for more information. **Drop-ins to Russell most welcome!**

RAAF Wagga – revamp

Everyone is welcome to come along to MCF RAAF Wagga, even if you are only dropping by the Base. MCF RAAF Wagga meets pay Thursday's at BLD 163 (Edgy AF Lab) – 1200-1300hrs. Contact FSGT Kane Langmaid (kane.langmaid@defence.gov.au) for more info.

If you'd like to find your local MCF Small Group you can look [HERE](#) and if you can't find one, contact mcf.office@defence.gov.au for info, to become a POC, or start a group. The office is here to help you get started.

Save the Date – NT

Saturday June 14th the 'Top End' MCF will host a gathering, most likely a BBQ lunch.

More details to come in the May eNews.

Solid Rock Ministry – Retreat (women’s ministry)



Each year Solid Rock, an MCF-A Forum of Military Ministry (FCMM) partner, meet for a weekend of fellowship in the beautiful surrounds of Stanwell Tops. This is a chance to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. **Retreat is open to all women with a connection to the ADF, we have had daughters, spouses, mothers and serving members attend in the past.** This year’s retreat theme is ‘Gratitude’—a time to reflect on whether we can truly cultivate a heart of gratitude and celebrate

God’s goodness in every season. It will be a weekend of connection, reflection, and renewal, as we come together in faith and fellowship.

When: 2nd - 4th May 2025 **Where:** Stanwell Tops, NSW

Cost: \$220 per person – For ladies traveling from ACT and NSW \$100 per person – For ladies traveling from all other States/Territories (Cost includes accommodation and meals for the weekend.)

Babies are welcome! Please let us know in advance so we can arrange suitable room allocations.

Travel Assistance: For those flying in, you can take a train from Sydney Airport to Helensburgh, where we will have someone ready to meet you and bring you to the retreat.

For more details or to register, contact: coordinator@solidrockministry.org.au

For booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CYOUD>

MCF-A National Day of Prayer for Defence

All who have a heart to pray for Defence are welcome to join in praying together. Groups will be meeting all across Australia and it is hoped that many local churches and schools will host an event or use the prayer points during their services. Please get involved and uplift the Australian Defence Force in prayer. All welcome, ***you don’t need to be in Defence to host a gathering.*** It can be in a Small Group, at a Defence Base, in a local Church or school, or by getting a few friends together to pray for these important issues. **You are welcome to organise a time of prayer that works for you and your location.**



Suggested time: Saturday 24th May, 2025 has been nominated as the date for this event, but you are welcome to host an event before or around this time that suits your Base, School or Church situation.

Please register your event, time and location, or if you have **questions:** mcf.office@defence.gov.au (It is nice for our Military Members to know there are lots of groups praying across Australia.)

Churches and Schools are most welcome to host an event or use the prayer points as they see appropriate.

Use the link below for more info and to find if there is an event near you. Events added as they register. There is a Prayer Booklet, that can be adjusted for your local area, and promotional video available via this link.

[National Day of Prayer for Defence 2025 - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia](#)

FOCUS Military Ministry – Anzac Day prayers and video

Below is some thought provoking info and a video from our Forum of Military Ministry Partner – FOCUS.

MCF-A ask if you use the video in your Church/Bible Study etc, that you also mention MCF-A. Donations toward the work of MCF-A can be made via our website – www.mcf-a.org.au or [HERE](#) (*Donations over \$2 to MCF-A are tax deductible*) MCF-A is run mostly by donations from its members and supporters. **MCF-A is thankful to FOCUS for allowing us to share this great content.**

Lest we forget

On Anzac Day the whole nation pauses, solemnly says, 'lest we forget,' and remembers the fallen. We remember the many who have served and are currently serving in the ADF. We remember the terrible horror of war. We remember the sacrifice of so many to win the freedoms we enjoy.

It is good to remember these things. It is also good to remember God. It was more recently that I learned the phrase 'lest we forget' was originally penned that we might not forget God. The phrase is from a Rudyard Kipling Poem, 'The Recessional,' where Kipling urges people to keep remembering God with humility & thankfulness, rather than forgetting God in our pride and arrogance.

Anzac Day video

This coming Anzac day, when you say, 'lest we forget,' we'd like to encourage you to remember the fallen *and* to remember God. There are many ways you can do that; we've made a short video which might be of help. Over the last few years we've made video's for Anzac Day that have been shown in churches all around the country. With thanks to God, they seem to have been received well, so we wanted to let you know of our current video in case it's appropriate to show in your church.

The downloadable version of the 4 minute video is [here](#) (*only visible on a personal device*) and is presented by Merryn, who is a Staffworker with us at ADFA. If you'd like to show it in your church, let us know as we've got a basic pack of information we can send to your church which includes suggested prayers and introduction for a service leader.

Please pray:

- with thanks for the many who have served and are currently serving in the ADF
- for the safety, recovery and healing of veterans who carry the scars of war
- with thanks that Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross has made peace possible, for all who turn and trust in Him

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

Blessings,

Pete, on behalf of the FOCUS team

Email: pete@focusmilitary.org.au

ACCTS a MCF-A Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) partner

To read what Ministry and support has been happening in Ukraine and Mongolia, click this [LINK](#) - on the right hand side of the page under Newsletter select: 2025 – April to download the newsletter PDF. Allow 5 sec for page to load.

Other items that may interest:

Free online Bible courses and other info



All, MCF-A members and supporters, and their family members, are invited by USA Brother and founder of Virtual Military Ministry, Anthony, to join any of their online Bible courses, Bible Studies, and to read blogs and sermons, and much more.

From Anthony: *we are geographically in the USA but our ministry is both virtual and indigenous. We have free Bible courses available through a partnership with a Bible College. We offer virtual small group Bible studies, virtual prayer meetings and a few other opportunities to allow our amazing military members (past and present and their family members) to stay spiritually focused no matter where in the world they are located.*

You can see all on offer via their website: www.virtualmilitaryministry.com

Also look for Virtual Military Ministry on Facebook – private group, some simple questions before joining.

Online prayer - Christian Parents of ADF members

Facebook group - Kristine, the Christian parent of an ADF and a former ADF member, felt God calling her to gather like-minded people to pray for those in Defence. There is now an ever-growing group of Christian parents whose children have some form of association with the ADF who share prayer requests on a private Facebook page. They have come alongside MCF-A to pray and support where possible. They ask names and more sensitive issues or locations not be shared, but all prayer requests are most welcome. You can answer some simple questions to join their Facebook group via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/595051646753164>

Veterans Hub Australia – Sth East QLD

Veterans Hub Australia came to fruition after asking God what I should do to honour Him. I was at the time doing defence advocate work volunteering and after 18months of “being still and wait upon the Lord”, I (sorry, we) built a purpose built facility for veterans. Constant disappointment with RSL, meant a lot of veterans were being overlooked and ignored. Veterans Hub is run by veterans for veterans. There are a number of buildings; museum/ veterans mess, recreation room, metal workshops, timber workshop, kitchen, cenotaph, Q store, and a 737-800 flight simulator. We are currently building a toilet and shower block, to be completed by May. We are open 1300hrs to 2100hrs on Fridays, with other days by appointment. Open to current and ex service personnel. We are now on Facebook for further information and anyone who wants to join. I would love to allocate a night for MCF for fellowship, prayer groups or bible studies.

Phillip Bond - Defence Advocate

(If you'd like to help Phil get an MCF Small Group up and running at the Hub, please contact Phil directly)



VETERANS HUB AUSTRALIA

SOUTH BRISBANE



RUN BY VETERANS FOR VETERANS

- ✓ Veterans Mess
- ✓ Flight Simulator
- ✓ Military Museum
- ✓ Metal Workshop
- ✓ Woodworking Workshop
- ✓ Veterans Recreation Room
- ✓ Kitchen with Barista Coffee Machine

Make new Friends
Learn new Skills
in a Safe Space

A PLACE FOR ALL SERVICE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS TO MEET

We meet every Friday for Company, Conversation and a Cuppa.

Where

Logan Village, QLD

What to bring

Yourself, Good Service Values and a small contribution for refreshments



Find us on: **facebook**

When

Each Friday from 1300-2100hrs

What Else

We have a Defence Advocate for DVA Claims (VEA, MRCA, DRCA)

Contact Us: Ph. 0411 957 952 (Phil)
email: veteranshubaustralia@gmail.com

ABN 24 266 703 686

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 further down page from 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: [Prayer Requests](#)

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 (via the Prayer Request link above).

Contacting the MCF Office

PHONE: Office: 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