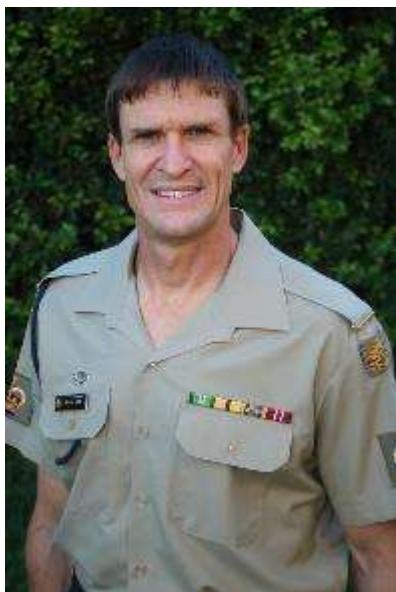




eNews Oct 2025

Why I decided to follow Jesus – WO2 Martin Fisher, MCF-A Member Rep



My family attended church until the three children were in the first few years of primary school. In youth group I felt there were real people, who were rough and played footy like you should. We also received particularly good bible teaching. In youth group I decided to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

I made mistakes as a teen. I had no doubt that God existed, although I was not following Christ. I knew God was there when I was in heaps of trouble and decided to pray. One hot Melbourne Cup Day I was swimming in Port Philip Bay. I swam about two kilometers to an offshore yacht. This was a promising idea until I realized the water was still cold and not warmed up, being the start of a Victorian summer. When I was still a long distance from shore, I got hyperthermia which was a problem because you need to get out of the cold environment. At this point I decided to pray for help. After negotiating for my life, which I now consider unacceptable, I had agreed to go to church every week. The unthinkable occurred and I did not keep my side of the negotiations for a while.

Doing things with my own strength had not worked. I personally needed God as the focus of my life. I had no other choice, and I knew I wanted to make the effort to follow Jesus. During my first posting to Townsville, I lived with my dad and had a member of MCF in my small group who encouraged me to join MCF. This helped consolidate my faith grounding and I was able to support the local minister who organized the youth camps. A commitment to support the local community continued until I got married and included my family in everything, reducing the time for volunteer work.

As with all organizations, there can be resistance to people with faith. On a month-long course I was sleeping in a tent with one other person. Reading the bible before first light I did not want to wake the other person, so I read the bible in an undercover area. The cook was preparing breakfast; another was reading the paper and three people were smoking near the area. An instructor threatened to pour water over myself and the bible if I continued to read in the corner of the under covered area. Not continuing with my normal routine prevented further interest in the course. In retrospect I should have managed the situation better, you need to be on your guard.

Defence values are standardized organization-wide and were educational from a Christian perspective when our Gallipoli Barracks fellowship group studied them. At a leadership course a member of MCF presented and informed the course you should be able to do everything at work. If told to do something that does not align with Defence values, there is something wrong. The previous CDF said it is not just what you do, it is how you do it. When you read the meaning of the Defence values they align with what you should strive for as a Christian.

Every posting I find a church within three weeks, a small group, and a time for daily bible reading. This routine is mandatory for me on deployments and extended courses. It is important for me to have a time and place where I read the bible with a purpose daily with an open heart and mind to receive from God not only information but then formation.

Martin is an MCF-A Small Group Rep as well as being one of the three current MCF-A Member Reps.

Korean Chaplain Interaction

On Thursday 4th September the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (MCF-A) were excited to meet with two Republic of Korea (ROK) Chaplains, as well as the Korean Defence Attaché to Australia.

It was great for the Vice Chair of MCF-A, Darren Thomas, along with the Staff Worker Julie, and ADF Chaplain Rep to MCF-A, Kerry Larwill, to be able to share about MCF-A and what it does, as well as discuss the support and collaboration of MCF-A to ADF Chaplains and other Christian Military Ministries in Australia and beyond. This was also backed up by discussions from the Association of Military Christian Fellowship (AMCF) Vice Chair, Pacific Region Jamie Van Heel, and a representative from the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS), Grant Dibden, sharing some of their experiences with MCF-A, and working together and supporting each other in both the ADF and in the region.

Much was learnt from both sides, with special thanks to the interpreter (Chaplain Dennis Park) and ADF Chaplaincy, especially the DGCHAP-A office, for the invite and making the engagement such a success.



SAVE THE DATE/Book now!

Vic and Sth Aust Defence Christians Dinners

More information is available when using the booking link for both dinners.

Victoria and surrounds: Saturday 25th October in Melbourne - \$30p/p all-inclusive home cooked Indian food (choose spice level or indicate if can't eat Indian food) Children 12 and under \$10 under 5 free. 6pm-9.30pm

See attached flyer, trybooking link or contact the MCF Office for more details.

Trybooking link for Vic Dinner: <https://www.trybooking.com/DFYBK>

South Australia: Friday 5th December Hutt St Adelaide – pay for own food and drinks from bar menu.

Trybooking link for Sth Aust (table seating purposes): <https://www.trybooking.com/DFZAD>

Everyone is most welcome at either or both events! You don't need to be in MCF, Defence or live in the State to attend. Contractors, APS, uniformed, retired, parents of ADF, family and friends.

Preachers Round Table

MCF-A were invited to attend a 'Preachers Round Table' at Parliament House in Canberra recently. It was a chance for the MCF-A Vice Chair, Darren Thomas, to speak about the work of MCF-A, who we support and how we do that, and the awesome volunteers who keep the organisation going. This was a revelation for most at the gathering. It was also an opportunity to make them aware of the Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) and our collaboration, as well as our support of ADF Chaplains.

The MCF-A Exec and Council are very grateful, and praise God, for the wonderful opportunities that have been opened up to MCF-A of late.



Meet the new head of ACCTS

Association of Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service

A couple of week's ago some of the MCF-A Exec (Secretary and Staff Worker), the current and former Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) Pacific Region Vice Presidents (Eric Burton and Jamie Van Heel), and their partners were privileged to have shared a meal and some quality time with the new head of the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS), Terry Wichert, who was visiting Australia and the Pacific from Colorado in the US. www.accts.org

Terry gifted the current AMCF VP Pacific, Jamie Van Heel, a lovely glass 'world' ornament which was engraved and is to remind Jamie that the Pacific region is part of all the MCFs across the world. MCF-A Secretary, David Coleman, also gave some gifts on behalf of all of the MCF-A members. A very informative and fun night was had by all.



ACCTS is one of the Forum of Christian Military Ministries (FCMM) here in Australia, of which MCF-A is a member.

In case you missed it

Royal Australian Air Force Chaplains: [While Shepherds share field with their flock](#)

[Harmonising spiritual care between partner nations](#)

Thanks to Service Newspapers for these links.

Timor Leste interaction – Army Chaplain: [Sharing the Word!](#)

Thanks to Contact for the link

Other items that may interest:



National Prayer Breakfast – in person and online

Registration for the NPB is required to attend in person, or to get the link to attend online. (Online is free or you can give a donation) Use the link below

The Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra

7:15am Monday, 3 November 2025 (and also a later streaming for those in WA/NT)

It's a great chance to get your MCF Small Group, or some friends together to either grab a table, or do your own online 'local hub', or join a 'local hub' nearby. *There are local hubs are being added across Australia, and you can see them or get assistance to set up your own 'local hub' via the link below.*

It is important to pray together for our nation and other issues.

LINK: [About Us - Australian National Prayer Breakfast](#)

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 once click 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