



# eNews February 2026

## A word from the MCF-A Patron to start 2026

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. **John 16:33***

My favourite time of the year is the period between Christmas and New Years Day, when you lose track of what day it is with the Boxing Day test locked on the television. The old year is being laid to rest and the new year is as yet unformed.



As January has progressed this year I have constantly been reminded of the Dorothea McKellar Poem 'My Country' as Australia has experienced scorching heat, bushfires, flash floods and shark attacks. Compounding on these events in Australia has been the shock and uncertainty as world events rupture longstanding frameworks in unexpected ways.

When things seem to be spiraling out of control, I am always reassured by Jesus' teaching that trouble, strife and uncertainty are not unexpected. As John's Gospel reminds us, in this world we will experience trouble – both as individuals and through wider events over which we individually have no control. However, amongst this trouble we can experience peace through turning to Jesus.

Over the past few years I have started the habit of reading the book *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller each February. The subtitle of this book is *Connecting with God in a Distracting World*. I need to read this book each year as it is too easy for day-to-day events and bigger worries to crowd in. Reading Miller's book is an annual reminder to me of the importance to turn to Jesus in prayer - not when it's easy but always.

As 2026 now starts in earnest, I encourage you to join me in turning to Jesus. None of us know what the year ahead holds but we know where we can find peace.

MAJGEN Sue Graham  
MCF-A Patron



(Stock photos from [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com))

## Who's the MCF-A Chaplain Rep?

Principal Chaplain Kerry Larwill is our MCF-A Chaplain Representative for 2026, who is currently the Director General Chaplaincy - Army. His guidance and advice in this role for MCF-A is greatly appreciated by the MCF-A Exec/Council and Staff Worker.



Blessings to you all for 2026 as I introduce myself. I come from a family where Christian faith was lived out every day, and my parents modelled a humility and selfless service to others (often unseen) that I keep learning more about as an adult. As a young adult, I gave my life to the Lord when I witnessed first-hand his answers to prayer. I was convicted that God was real, and therefore what I did with my life needed to matter eternally for God's Kingdom. As a result, I quit my education studies and went to Theological College. In 1996, I was ordained as an Australian Baptist Minister and pastored churches in Brisbane and Ipswich, as well as ministering as a high school and university chaplain. During my time pastoring at Ipswich Baptist Church, there were both Army and Air Force people in the church and I grew interested in and then joined Army chaplaincy in 2001.

One of the Bible verses that speak strongly to me is John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." I think this is an excellent reminder for us as Christians serving in the military that our everyday behaviour and love for one another as followers of Jesus serve as a strong statement about faith.

My primary focus as an Army Chaplaincy Leader is delivering a spiritually vital and relevant chaplaincy capability that is positioned to serve Army's people and its connections in the world in order that soldiers are prepared to perform in life; before, during and after the fight. The key lines of effort are that chaplains know and care for soldiers; fortify courage, perseverance and toughness through spiritual fitness and character; and enhanced chaplaincy international engagement. May God bless you and your family in 2026.

Blessings,

Kerry

## Save the Date – National Day of Prayer for Defence

This year's National Day of Prayer for Defence has been scheduled on or around **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**.



MCF-A Small Groups, Church's, schools, and other groups are encouraged to host a prayer event or pray over Defence in their group around this time. More information will be available via the next MCF eNews or on the MCF-A website in coming weeks.

Please email [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) for more information, or to request a copy of the prayer booklet.

## MCF-A needs your help!

MCF-A is run almost entirely on donations from its members and supporters. There is an office on a Defence site and Bible Society Australia gift a lot of the Christian material given out. MCF-A is a little behind in the budget for this time of year, so if you can spare the cost of a cup of coffee a pay cycle, gift a one off donation, or support in other ways, that would be greatly appreciated. **All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.** There are various ways to donate financially found under the big green button on the donate page on the MCF-A website. [Donate - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia](#)

**Website design/advice** – our website is ageing and we'd love to update/revamp it. We may need to build a new website. If you have some knowledge on website design and management, or know someone who does, please get in touch with the office.

**Legal advice for insurances** – if you or someone you know understands public liability and other similar insurance policies, the MCF Exec would love to hear from you. They're looking for someone with more knowledge in this field to look over the current policies. If you or someone you know is happy to help please get in touch.

**Get in touch:** Do you need more info or wish to help out, please email at ANY time: [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

## Is this a donation from you?

**BFS – Christian Finance**, did you donate some money into the MCF-A bank account on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan with this as the subject line? The MCF-A would love to hear from you so they can allocate the donation to you so you receive your tax receipt at the end of June. Please use the 'get in touch' email address above. Thanks!

## Victorian MCF-A Defence Christian Dinner

Due to many factors the MCF-A Victorian Dinner will **now be held sometime between start of May and end of July 2026**. This will give more time for information to be shared and for people to settle into new postings. Keep an eye on the MCF-A eNews, website and Facebook for the date and info. Thank you for your patience, it will be worth the wait!

## Sth Aust Dinner in review

The fourth South Australia MCF Christian Dinner was held at the Naval, Military, Airforce Club in Adelaide on 5 December 2025.

Twenty five gathered in the Long Tan Room, rather symbolic given the bravery of D Coy 6 RAR in South Vietnam as part of the Australian Task Force in 1966 who never gave up despite being outnumbered.

Representatives from the ADF / ADO, family and friends celebrated the ongoing importance of the MCF in supporting our service men and woman and all who support them.



We were inspired and encouraged by Hugh Marquis our guest speaker, an experienced entrepreneur, executive leader, speaker, inventor and social change philanthropist, engaged in building God's Kingdom so all should prosper. His key message - "When we develop an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit and obey His leading, miraculous signs and wonders follow - in our terms, the Holy Spirit moves to become our "Centre Of Gravity (COG)" - Our Strength on the Spiritual Battlefield.

Being a fast car enthusiast Hugh was delighted with our MCF-A gift of the "Top Gear Supercars" book - see photo

Army Chaplain Luke Skipper, who is also the coordinator of MCF-A weekly meetings at RAAF Edinburgh, prayed a blessing over the ADF and our future endeavours advising that another ADF member had approached him to be

baptised, which was recently held at Pt Gawler on the SA coast just north of Adelaide.

We look forward to supporting the National MCF-A efforts going forward.

Strength and Honour in Christ,

Geoff (Major Geoff Robertson RAA (Ret'd), Member Rep and SA MCF-A Representative)

## Are you in Melbourne/Vic Barracks?

*You're invited to meet with the VBM MCF-A Reps and enjoy a free (donations welcome) morning tea.*

**WHEN:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2026

**WHERE:** AAFCANS Café, H Block, VBM

**TIME:** 0930 – 1030h

## Are you in Darwin/RAAF Darwin?

**RAAF Darwin is asking for expressions of interest in starting a regular Bible Study or Christian gathering.** Please indicate your interest (even if you can't attend every week or aren't in the RAAF) to Chaplain Darren Loechel. [darren.loechel@defence.gov.au](mailto:darren.loechel@defence.gov.au) or the MCF Office [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

## Other items that may be of interest

### MCF-A is leading a prayer meeting – please join us!

[Every Home](#) is a supporter of MCF-A and they have asked our Exec to lead their February prayer meeting.

They are very keen for members and supporters of MCF-A to join in the online meeting that is joined by people across Australia and the world. Feel free to share the info and links with family, your church and friends.



**WHEN:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2026...for approx. 1hr.

**TIME:** 7.30pm (Syd/Melb time)

**ZOOM LINK Registration:** [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

**Website Events Page:** [Events - Every Home for Christ](#)

***Please note you will need to look at all links and register via a personal device and the flyer has a misprint as the meeting is in February not November.***

The MCF-A Exec would like as many members and supporters as possible to join online.

**MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING** **ZOOM WEBINAR TUESDAY 24th November**

see your regions times below

4:30 pm Perth	7:30 pm Syd / Melb /Hobart
6:00 pm Darwin	9:30 pm NZ / Samoa
6:30 pm Brisbane	8:30 pm Fiji
7:00 pm Adelaide	8:30 am UK

Register by emailing, going to our website or clicking on QR code below

[ehc@everyhome.org.au](mailto:ehc@everyhome.org.au)

<https://everyhome.org.au/events/>



**NOTE:** Once you register you can decide if you wish to participate each month AND you can use the SAME link each month so no need to re-register each month.



This month our special guests are from **Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (MCF-A)** (L) **Steve Neuhaus** (Army Chaplain & Chair of MCF-A) and (R) **Darren Thomas** (WO2 ret'd and Vice Chair of MCF-A).

## DMFS Welcome Events

Don't forget to go up and say hi to your local MCF-A Rep at your local welcome event. If you're new to the area they can help you find an MCF-A, or other military Christian group in your area. They're also great to help you find out about local churches, doctors, dentists etc.

You can find out when the events are taking place here: [Events | ADF Members & Families | Defence](#)

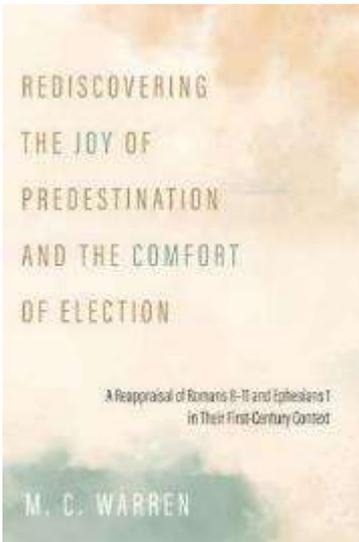
**In case you missed it!**

## Rediscovering the Joy of Predestination and the Comfort of Election

A reappraisal of Romans 8–11 and Ephesians 1 in their first century context

Now includes a

Book Review



Mark Warren, past MCF Area Rep and one time MCF Staffworker, has just had his Master of Theology.

**Review:** Predestination is one of those topics where most Christians roll their eyes and move onto something else, for others it is like a dog with a bone and they will latch on and not let go. Mark in his book, based on his Master of Theology dissertation, takes a new approach to this topic, one in which he takes on the likes of Augustine of Hippo, striving to reverse the idea that these are doctrines of sadness and despair but ones of great joy and comfort. He presents his case in four parts. Part 1 the development of the doctrines of predestination, election and human freedom. In Part 2 and 3 he exegetes first, Ephesians 1:3-14 and then, Romans 8:18-9:29. Finally in Part 4 he pulls all this together by illustrating the opportunities that his fresh approach provides particularly for believers who are struggling with the strictures of the current doctrines of predestination, election and the ‘fallen’

Christians who we so often hear about.

Warren’s book is engaging and thoughtful, his motivation being to enable more open discussion about a topic that is either glazed over, ignored or rigorously defended. It is worth taking the time to read in order to be willing to engage with the topic further.

Chaplain Steve Neuhaus

**Special MCF-A member and supporter deal:** *The book is available from the author himself [m.c.warren.aus@outlook.com](mailto:m.c.warren.aus@outlook.com) for \$25 + \$10 postage (if not in Canberra), [wipfandstock.com](http://wipfandstock.com) (RRP \$27), and other online retailers.*

## 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](mailto: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 below the DONATE button 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 Daniel Solomon [HERE](#)

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 Daniel or MCF Office.

## Contacting the MCF Office

**PHONE:** 02 6132 7845 **EMAIL:** [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) You can also find us on Facebook.

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