



eNews August 2026

Please find the Prayer Calendar attached to this email

To whom do you pray?



I'm not sure who needs to hear this, but here goes.

Sometimes when I've "prayed", I wonder if I've just been talking to myself... There is a subtle but significant difference between truly engaging with another person and merely talking, complaining, or chatting.

Liturgy and ritual are deeply comforting to the human soul, and we seem to be wired for them – for good reason. Traditions like these remind us of the holiness of God, of the goodness of his character, of the power of his grace, and the majesty of his creation. They bring glory to God by reflecting him in unique ways. The church's modern liturgies, buildings, accoutrements, traditions and iconography are, I think, akin to the tabernacle: they create a microcosmic Eden; a place to house the Most Holy Place.

But when we sit down to pray, or enter a place of worship, what are we actually aiming for?

What makes the Holy Place holy? And what is the point of approaching the temple? (See Matt 23:17)

Hint: It's God Most High! And the God of the Bible is not an abstraction. He is personal.

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." John 4:20

So when we sit down to pray, go to church, or engage in any spiritual discipline – we must never forget who we are approaching.

We're not just talking into the air, or merely to ourselves. We are called, in light of the gospel of Christ and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to engage – **person to person** – with the God of the universe. He wants a *relationship* with **you**.

The centre of the sin narrative chiasm in [Genesis 3:1-14](#) is when Adam and Eve *hide from God*! It's *not* taking the fruit, or desiring wisdom, or being cursed – it's the act of *hiding*. **Are you still hiding while you're praying?**

Arguably, the purpose of life is to **know and be known** by God. And our relationship with God is mediated *through Jesus*! Hallelujah!

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus" 1 Tim 2:5

When Jesus pronounces judgment on people who do not do the will of God, even as they "do all the things", the proclamation is that "I never knew you":

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Mat 7:21-23

So I encourage you today: bring your true self – your heart and soul – to God. When you worship, worship in **spirit** and **truth**; when you pray, seek genuine connection; as you work out life and faith with fear and trembling, seek genuine relationship:

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Heb 4:16

In Christ,

Robbo – MCF Member Rep.

Reflections of my deployment, and MCF-A support



From March 2025 for 12-months I was privileged to deploy on Operation ASLAN, Australia's contribution to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

The country and the people

Since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011 life in the world's youngest country has been characterised by civil war, poverty, famine and drought. The ADF has taken part in peacekeeping operations in this region since 2005 and plays a vital role in the protection of civilians. Despite such harsh conditions, the civilians are friendly, hospitable and eager to share their culture.

The African church

Our dear friend and teammate, John, invited the Australian contingent to his local church. The congregation danced more than my Anglican church in Canberra, but the Gospel was the same, the songs were the same (one by an Australian band), and they were gripped by the love of Jesus all the same. This universal church shows that our gracious God is the same in Africa as in Australia. Pray that they would grow in faith and faithfulness.

MCF

I reached out to MCF before deploying, asking for their prayers. I was worried that I wouldn't handle the distance from family, friends and my church. I was warned that the conditions in South Sudan can be confronting. Julie, from the MCF Office in Campbell Park asked my permission to share my request to the Prayer Warriors of MCF. I received regular letters of encouragement from Helen, and Christian resources in the mail. I felt remembered and loved.

Curious about Jesus

With only a few months left in my deployment I invited some international colleagues to take part in a Bible study, with the promise of a home cooked dinner. Little did I know, some of them had never heard the Gospel or even held a Bible before. We used the SOAP method (Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer) and worked our way through the Gospel of Mark, revealing the action-packed life of Jesus. My new peacekeeping friends were amazed at the teachings and promise of reconciliation with our Heavenly Father. They treasure the Bibles that I gifted them, which MCF had posted over earlier in the deployment.

What can you do?

If you're deploying: Let MCF know! They would love to pray for you and post some resources to you. It was a game changer for me, and I know it will be for you too. If you miss your church or Bible study in Australia, you can often find other Christians that you're deployed with. If it's in your heart, why not invite them to read the Bible with you? I learned a lot from hearing biblical perspectives from different cultures.

If someone you know is deploying: Pray for them! Pray for their safety, their heart, their mind and that they would represent Australia honourably. Deployments are tough on everyone – especially families; pray for their loved ones as well.

Thank you MCF for your support while I was deployed. Keep looking after our people through prayer and encouragement so we can serve away from home.

Thomas Ure

What does it mean to be a Christian Chaplain in the Australian Defence Force?



Chaplains serve in a public setting, alongside people from many backgrounds, beliefs and life experiences. They are present in the ordinary routines of Defence life, but also in moments of pressure, separation, grief, moral challenge and uncertainty.

This work requires more than goodwill or generic support. Anglican chaplaincy is grounded in the Christian faith and in the conviction that the hope of Christ speaks meaningfully into the realities of life, service and community.

Dr Michael Jensen has recently reflected on this calling in his article, *The Chaplain as Public Theologian: Faithful Presence, Truthful Speech, and Responsible Hope*.

Drawing on the work of William Temple, Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr Jensen identifies three important aspects of the chaplain's vocation.

Defence Anglicans article link: <https://www.defenceanglicans.org.au/faithful-presence-truthful-speech-and-responsible-hope/> (Thanks to Defence Anglicans for sharing these links with MCF-A)

Read Dr Michael Jensen's full article: *The Chaplain as Public Theologian: Faithful Presence, Truthful Speech, and Responsible Hope*.

Dr Jensen article link: <https://open.substack.com/pub/michaeljensen603/p/the-chaplain-as-public-theologian?>

Please note: you may need a personal device to view both links.

New/revamped MCF Group – Bandiana Area

People are looking at what may be possible in the Bandiana region. If you are interested in joining an MCF-A Bible Study and/or meeting other Defence Christians in the area email mcf.office@defence.gov.au to be connected.

Donations to MCF and Tax Receipts

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the running of MCF-A this last financial year, be it with dollars, time and in many other ways. MCF-A couldn't keep running and supporting Christians in Defence without you!

For those who **gave via the website donation button** (or the old Give Now platform) you should have received your receipt at the time of giving (you may need to check your junk folder, it will be from Get Generous), or you can log in again to your account and print it off. Please contact the MCF-A office if you still can't see it and we can help.

For those who **gave directly to MCF-A via the bank account**, you should have received your tax statement from MCF-A. If you didn't receive yours, or you can't find it, please check your junk folder and if you still can't find it email the MCF Office.

There are still **two regular donations** that have been going for a long time that don't have a name attached, so please get in touch if you think it may be you!

mcf.office@defence.gov.au

In case you missed it.....

Save the Date



National Prayer Breakfast 2026 - *in person and online*

Monday 26th October – Parliament House Canberra @ 0715

You can join in person or online. ***Why not get your Small Group together for a 'watch party' breakfast?*** Eastern and WA time zones catered for online, and online is free (with a donation encouraged). More info at: [Home - Australian National Prayer Breakfast](#) (You may need to view the link on a personal device.)

Other items that may be of interest

Called to Serve: Welcoming Two New Defence Anglican Chaplains

Defence Anglicans gives thanks to God for the ordination of **Tamara Gill** and **Dr Tawk Kap** as Deacons in the Anglican Church of Australia, marking the beginning of their ordained ministry as Anglican Chaplains serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

The ordination was held at the ANZAC Memorial Anglican Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon, on Saturday 25 July 2026.

To read the full story click the link: [Called to Serve: Welcoming Two New Defence Anglican Chaplains - Defence Anglicans](#)

Book: Sinner Saint Servant

Below is a link to a book by a RAAF Chaplain that was recommended by an MCF-A member that may be of interest to some of you.

Link: <https://www.clarebrucebooks.com.au/books> (Please note you may need a personal device to view the link.)

This is for your info only and not an endorsement of MCF-A

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 below the big green DONATE button on 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 [Daniel](#) or the MCF Office. 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.

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