eNews July 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." Genesis 1:31 (ESV)



If you listen to the news you would start to believe that there is nothing good happening in the world. There are constant stories of war, famine, disasters, man's inhumanity to other men and women, there does not seem to be anything positive happening anywhere. However, in Genesis we are told that when God created everything was not only good it was *very good,* and despite the news media there is much happening that is good, positive and wonderful. People helping others, miracles of healing and birth, the list is amazing.

Paul as he concludes his letter to the Christians in Philippi makes this statement.
"*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise,* ***think about*** *these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—****practice*** *these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*" Philippians 4:8-9 (ESV)

Philippi was an interesting colony as it was largely populated by veterans of the Roman army who retired there. There was good agricultural land surrounding it which was given to these veterans to work and maintain a living from. (Perhaps the original soldier settlement scheme)

Paul wants to encourage the Philippians to live out their lives as citizens of a heavenly colony, as evidenced by a growing commitment to service to God and to one another. The way of life that Paul encourages was manifested uniquely in Jesus Christ as demonstrated by Him in the Gospels. In this passage Paul instructs the Christians to - *think about* - all the good things, blessings and how to live. He emphasises that we are to not only *think about*- a passive action; but to *practice* - an active action.

So maybe turn off the bad news and pick up the Good News and spend time thinking about and practicing what you find there, and you will find there is much to be positive about.

Godspeed

Steve Neuhaus
MCF CHAIR (photo of Yass river – Steve Neuhaus)

MCF-A 2022/23 tax deductable donations

A huge thanks to those who have given financially this financial year. If you don't already have your tax receipt one will be emailed to you by the end of July. You can email mcf.office@defence.gov.au if you don't received it by then or if you have any questions.

The MCF-A is a tax deductable charity - donations received over $2 can be claimed against your tax.

The only government assistance received by MCF is some office space. MCF is run via donations from its members and supporters and through the generous gifting of Bibles and some of the other Christian material MCF uses. If you wish to financially contribute to supporting and building God's Kingdom in Defence you can do so via direct debit (don't forget to put your name in the reference box), directly out of your pay (don't forget to add your name) or via the donation boxes on the website.

All the info can be found at Donate - Military Christian Fellowship of Australia (mcf-a.org.au) with instructions for each method on the right hand side of the page. Remember to scroll to the bottom for all the info.

National Day of Prayer for Defence



Chaplain Steve Neuhaus, MCF Chair giving the welcome at St John's

The National Day of Prayer for Defence ACT/National service was held on Saturday 24th June 2023 at St John's Anglican Church in Reid. St John's was founded in 1841 and the Rector, Dave McLennan, himself an Army veteran who served in East Timor, briefly told us of the many ties between St John's and the military, Governor's General and Politicians. Following the format of a Prayer Service rather than splitting into groups as in previous years, it was lovely to have a variety of people lead each Prayer Focus area. Good fellowship followed over a cuppa and bite to eat. Thank you to all who attended, especially those on the live stream which included people from India, Nepal and Australia.

Unfortunately, a recording of the event isn't available due to technical issues on the day.

Thank you to all who have held, or are going to hold and event either at their Base or local Church. You are still welcome to do so with material available on the MCF website.



MCF Patron, MAJGEN Sue Graham, praying one of the Prayer Focus's



DGCHAP-A, PRINCHAP Kerry Larwill, praying one of the Prayer Focus's

MCF-A Small Group info

All at or visiting ***Fisherman's Bend*** are welcome to join in their upcoming ***Alpha*** course ***at any time***, starting Wednesday 12th July from 12.30 – 1330pm.



HMAS Albatross – small group info

HMAS Albatross would like to restart weekly MCF catch-ups. These have historically been held at lunch time on Tuesdays though time and day can be varied to suit the needs of the group. Our primary focus is to provide a space for fellowship, prayer and mutual support for Christians working at HMAS Albatross and across the Fleet Air Arm, where we can openly discuss life, service and the Bible.

They plan to start meeting again from the first week of July. If you are interested in being involved, weekly, monthly, or otherwise as work allows, please email Chaplain Byron Steele byron.steele@defence.gov.au

Anyone visiting HMAS Albatross is very welcome to come along.

New Chaplaincy Program for Veterans and Families



Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh has launched a new chaplaincy program. The Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program (VCPP) aims to help veterans and families in their transition into life back in the Australian community.

Minister Keogh said extending the support provided by ADF chaplains to those who are transitioning from service, provides a new source of support that they are familiar and comfortable with from their time in service.

"Chaplains have long been a feature of the ADF, playing an important role providing spiritual, religious and pastoral support to personnel and their families, regardless of their religious beliefs," Minister Keogh said.

"There is no doubt that transition from service requires a massive readjustment for veterans and their families. The Government is working to enhance the supports available through transition, and the supports provided by ADF Chaplains will provide familiar comfort for many."

In Perth, Army Chaplain John Crosby has been seconded to DVA as the first Regional Veterans and Families Chaplaincy Manger. John has a new office within the Veterans and Families Hub and also works with Open Arms, other DVA and Joint Transitions Agency staff. Most referrals to the VCPP chaplain come from current ADF chaplains but John also sees people referred by Ex Service Organisations and unit welfare staff.

Additional VCPP chaplains should commence in Brisbane in July and Townsville later this year.

Program Coordinator, Chaplain Rob Sutherland said, "There is evidence, including before the Royal Commission, that ADF chaplaincy makes a strong positive difference for some members and families. This pilot program aims to continue that support and look for ways to develop local faith communities to provide long-term support for veterans' families.

Further detail is available from the DVA website: Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au)

Other info that may be of interest

Save the Date



34th Australian National Prayer Breakfast 2023

In person and online (EST and WA timings)

7.15am, 13 November 2023. Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra – all welcome.

In person and livestream registration details to follow.

National Prayer Breakfast info

Thanks to Chaplain Kevin Russell and Defence Anglicans for allowing us to share these.



Pausing to Consider

'The motivation of why we do anything at 1 RAR, and in life, is love.' Says Chaplain Chris Booth. 'And it is for this reason we commemorate past events, so that we can consider life, death and the meaning of it all' Every year, on the 12th May, the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) pauses to remember the Battle … story link

Ukrainian military chaplains get training from British Army



Ten Ukrainian chaplains have been embedded with the Royal Army Chaplains' Department of the British Army to learn more about providing pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance during military operations - and the post-war rebuilding period that ultimately follows. The ability to deliver pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance has made chaplaincy a critical capability for Ukrainian commanders. story link

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 overseas or in Australia, or on a long exercise?

MCF-A would love to support and pray for you while you're away. (You are welcome to ask for restrictions on info shared) 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. Please make sure your donation was accepted. You will be emailed a receipt in July each year for use when doing your tax.)

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 Brendan Pell: brendan.pell@defence.gov.au

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 Brendan.

Contacting the MCF Office

PHONE: 02 6132 7845

EMAIL: mcf.office@defence.gov.au You can also find us on Facebook, ForceNet and Twitter.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact: mcf.office@defence.gov.au