

Chronicles Of  
Military Christian Fellowship Singapore –  
The First 20 Years



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## BACKGROUND ABOUT MCF

*“I know thy works, behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”*

Revelations 3:8.

In January 1970, a group of Christian Officers led by LTC (Ret) Rev Patrick Tan Kang Ping gathered and founded a Christian fellowship (Fellowship of Christian Serviceman or FCS) within the Singapore Armed Forces.

In the following two years, attempts were made to formalise the group but these were not successful. Upon knowing this situation, Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) decided to adopt it because National Service is an inevitable fact in the lives of male students: they either finish NS before joining a tertiary institution, or be enlisted after their Polytechnic education. FCS became the Armed Forces Committee (AFC) of FES on 8 July 1972, and thus became affiliated to FES.

In 1983, the AFC was renamed Military Christian Fellowship (MCF).

Today, we are trusting the Lord to raise up camp fellowship groups across the SAF which will not only serve to pray for and encourage one another, but also reach out to the lost and backsliding.

To achieve this end, we presently conduct Pre-NS seminars in partnership with churches and para-church organisations (such as Diocese Youth Board and CRU – formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) for pre-enlistees to prepare them-NS Enlistees mentally and spiritually for their NS service, and know that God can prosper their time in NS for His purposes and plans (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

At these seminars, we partner with the local church/para-church leaders to share our personal testimonies and bring along MCF materials to encourage the pre-enlistees to start/join the fellowship groups wherever they get posted to in the SAF.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD*

Jeremiah 29:11-14

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*"The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become...  
It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality,  
that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."*

-C. S. Lewis

The conception of this book came upon meeting with Dr Patrick Tan, Pastor Alfred, Brother Pak Shoon, and their spouses for dinner on 2 December 2014. Brother Patrick Liew also joined us to share stories of how MCF began, as well as testimonies of how they showed evangelistic Christian movies like "The Cross and the Switchblade" in BMTC and thereafter distributed Gideon's bibles to all the recruit who attended! I then knew we had to capture these testimonies and build on this legacy of faith that has been passed down to us, and much thanks has to go to all of the pioneers of MCF who have contributed their time, efforts and energies into the Kingdom's work in the SAF.

Special mention goes to Dr Patrick Tan who founded MCF, and of which this book is an expansion of his speech given at MCF's 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner in 2010. Acknowledgements go also to Pastor Alfred who encouraged me on in this work to honor the work of our ministry pioneers, as well as the current MCF Chairman/Council/Exco/Supporters whom have given full support to this publication, and to my wife Esther who has assisted in the proof-reading of this manuscript, and in the continued operation of MCF's current activities.

Highest praise goes to our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom all blessings flow!

Running this Race with you,

**David Jeremiah MCJ**

Ministry Staff, MCF

17th January 2015

## FOREWORD BY DR PATRICK TAN

### LEST WE FORGET: THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS

*“For who hath despised the day of small things?”*

Zechariah 4:10

The prophecy of Zechariah is Messianic and much quoted in the New Testament. It was written during the time of the Babylonian diaspora. God had promised His people, Judah that after 70 years they would be gathered to their homeland. Further God instructed Zerubbabel the appointed governor of Jerusalem to rebuild the temple destroyed by the Babylonian invasion. The small number of returnees needed encouragement to accomplish the task although the Persian king Darius had provided the funds and resources for the project.

God encouraged the Jewish remnants not to be fearful of the smallness of their numbers and the large size of the project. Every big project begins small. On July 20 1969, Commander Neil Armstrong became the first man to land on the moon. He said the following historic words, “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” It is much the same for the New Testament Church. 120 frightened disciples gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Christ. But on the day of Pentecost, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Church of Jesus Christ grew into a mighty movement today with disciples in every continent and country.

God promised Israel of victory through Moses, the man of God. “How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?” Deut 32:30. Joshua the Israeli supreme Commander put that spiritual principle to the test. After all his victories and now in retirement from the military Joshua said, “One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he had promised you.” Josh 23:10.

Thus Zechariah records for us God’s eternal Word, “This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Zech 4:6.

It is much the same for MCF - it is by the work of His Holy Spirit that we have begun this ministry.

## **PART 1: TWO MEN PRAYING (1968)**

### *“I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR”*

Revelation 3:8

The history of the Military Christian Fellowship of Singapore begins with the record of the faithful prayers of two men. The year was 1968. The British forces stationed in Singapore would be returning to the United Kingdom. The island state of Singapore having become independent on August 9, 1965 must now defend the territory herself. National Service was the answer. We had to defend ourselves. The country now belonged to every citizen.

The two men who prayed were Gerald McClelland a Scripture Reader with the British Forces and Tom Hamblin a missionary with the Sandes Soldiers Home.

Gerald came from North Colchester in England. He was a Scripture Reader, with SASRA (Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Scripture Readers) a uniformed missionary to Her Majesty’s Military Forces around the world. Gerald was posted to Singapore. The Prayer Fellowship of the Officers’ Christian Union of North Colchester had been praying for Singapore and the Christian witness in the young military force that Singapore was building up. Dr Patrick was privileged to visit Gerald and Ivy in the east of England before they went to be with the Lord. He also presented to the prayer fellowship the work of the MCF.

Tom Hamblin was a civilian missionary working in the Sandes Soldiers Home. The Home was set up by Christian Churches and opened in 1949. It was an accommodation for soldiers on rest and recreation. Tom from Reading west of London, had opportunity for Christian witness and spiritual counsel to soldiers on leave. Since 1982 the premises at Portsdown road, Wessex Estate is established as the Temasek Club for Officers in the SAF.

These two men prayed for a Christian witness in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

## **PART 2: FORTY-THREE BRETHREN SERVING (1970)**

*“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”.*

2 Timothy 4:8

Gerald and Tom met regularly at the bell tower of a Presbyterian Church at 9A Gilstead Road. They prayed fervently and often through the night, the church had an open door policy.

In that same church on Jan 1, 1970, gathered 43 servicemen and women from the Singapore Armed Forces for a New Year gathering. Was it the Holy Spirit’s answer to the prayers of the two men?

The speaker was Dr Bobby Sng, a medical doctor who gave up medicine for the Christian ministry and served as the General Secretary of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students. He had previously been a medical missionary to Cameron Highlands. He established a medical clinic at Tanah Rata and helped in a local church there. He was Dr Patrick’s mentor in medical school and he (Dr Patrick) had wanted to be a medical missionary too.

But the Lord had other plans for him - Dr Patrick was drafted into the SAF on Feb 2 1968. It was in the midst of the sick parade that God gave him a vision. “I know thy works, behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Rev 3:8. Was this to be my mission field? Were there other Christians in the camps? Would there Christians with a spirit of prayer and enterprise for fellowship and evangelism among national servicemen. We were all pioneers and soldiering was a very new task. Would Christians make good soldiers?

## **PART 2: FORTY-THREE BRETHREN SERVING (1970)**

He was to be surprised. Turning boys into men over two years resulted in many psychological and physical casualties. Christian boys also succumbed. Churches were unprepared for sacrifice to the nation. What should he do? He was of little strength. Would he dare to trust God's Word?

Dr Bobby Sng was to be a tower of strength. Of more than 200 names of Christians, 43 gathered for the inaugural meeting. We remain grateful for men like Robert Yeo who gave much support. Robert was an aircraft technician and he worked well together with Dr Patrick in Tengah Airbase. After initial failure to register our fellowship, Dr Sng graciously proposed the Armed Forces Committee (AFC) as the missionary arm of the FES. Their spirits were revived and Bible study and prayer groups were formed in different camps.

Then fear descended upon them. The groups were being monitored and a ministerial report was written about their activities under the title "An Army (Christian) within an Army (SAF)". In April 1974, Dr Patrick was called to meet in MINDEF. He was told that the Minister of Defence (then Dr Goh Keng Swee) had read the report about the AFC and had approved our meetings. The MCF pioneers who heard this were overjoyed.

God be praised. Dr Goh was an unusual minister who would make daring decisions. He once said that he wanted officers who could make decisions boldly even if there would be some mistakes, rather than officers who made no decisions at all.

### **PART 3: THREE CHAPELS WORSHIPPING (1977)**

*Ebenezer: "Thus far has the LORD helped us."*

1 Samuel 7:12.

Ebenezer was the name that was given to the chapel located in Harding Road in Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) in 1977. It was formerly a Catholic chapel called "Christ the King". MCF's first ministry staff worker was Alfred Yeo who was a former signaler from 2nd Singapore Infantry Brigade. He organized Bible study and prayer meetings for service personnel in MINDEF and Central Manpower Base (CMPB) during weekday lunch times.

In that same year Dr Patrick was ordained a pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church and assigned as the honorary chaplain to the SAF. His greatest joy was to conduct marriages using Ebenezer Chapel for service personnel. Besides the joy of marriage, he had the sorrow of conducting a few funerals of servicemen.

It was at Ebenezer in 1982 that the name of AFC was changed to MCF. It happened in this manner. A top secret letter was erroneously delivered to Ebenezer marked AFC. Alfred, having been trained to detect error, promptly returned it to the com-centre. We were subsequently asked to change our name. Hence we chose Military Christian Fellowship (MCF). AFC hides our identity but MCF is a bold witness.

St George Chapel in Changi was unused for many years until Dr Patrick was posted to Changi Airbase from 1970-75. His duty was to provide medical support for the airbase and the basic military training camps in Changi and Pulau Tekong. Soon St. George Chapel also became a sanctuary for the servicemen and trainees to worship and pray there.

It was in Changi that they did the most unusual ministry. Recruits in Basic Military Training (BMT) would be confined for the first 4 weeks of their basic training. We used the opportunity of the confinement to meet the recruits on the Saturday evenings to show them a movie. The most popular was "The Cross and the Switchblade" starring Pat Boone. The content of the movie was the conversion of gangsters in New York City from drugs and gang violence. It was a ministry by Pastor David Wilkerson. Conversion was through the love of Jesus and the gospel. The MCF team introduced to the recruits the greatest love story book which we would give to them without charge. In three fruitful years we distributed 10,000 Gideons soldiers green New Testament Bibles.

Shalom Chapel is located in Tengah airbase. It was a quiet lovely place where airforce personnel could have their quiet meditation and individual worship. A time came when MCF and other service personnel could not use it because of the security constraint.

By God's grace however, one of the commanders, had always been a great supporter of the ministry of the MCF and was never ashamed of his Lord and Saviour. He made no small effort to externalize the chapel by re-routing the security fence.

## **PART 4: SOLI DEO GLORIA (1980-1990)**

### **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

40 years constitute two military generations. Dr Patrick served in the first twenty years. Others in the MCF have served valiantly following. God receives all the glory. We are all to serve our own generation of military personnel as the Lord shall call and open the doors of opportunity.

This is also apparent in the centrality of Christ as reflected in the Mission and Vision of MCF, which remains as follows:

#### **Mission:**

To maintain a Christian fellowship amongst Christians with a military background - including the Regulars, National Service Full-time (NSFs), National Servicemen (NSmen), and Non-uniformed persons who works in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and MINDEF.

#### **Vision:**

A Christian Fellowship Group in every camp and workplace - to energise Christians in the SAF in their walk with Christ and to shine the light of Christ in the SAF.

In terms of our Doctrine and Beliefs, MCF maintains and upholds the fundamental truths of the Christian faith including:

1. The Unity of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead
2. The Sovereignty of God in Creation, Revelation, Redemption and the Final Judgement
3. The Divine Inspiration and entire trustworthiness of the Holy Scripture (both of the Old and New Testaments) as originally given and its supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.
4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of all men since the Fall rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation
5. Redemption from the guilt and penalty, dominion and pollution of sin solely through the sacrificial death (as our Representative and Substitute) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. This forms the basis of men's salvation
6. The mediation between God and man only through the Lord Jesus Christ
7. The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and Ascension to the right hand of God the Father
8. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of Regeneration
9. The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone
10. The only Holy Universal Church which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong
11. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer
12. The expectation of the Personal Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1973 AFC Meeting (Group with Dr Patrick Tan & Brother Tom Hamblin)*



*1973 Tanglin Camp Fellowship – Outing*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1974 1st AFC Bible Camp*



*July 1974 OMB Water Tank Fellowship*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*August 1974 OMB Outing @ Coney Island*



*1975 AFC Combined Fellowships Outing*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1975 2nd Annual AFC Camp @ Shalom House @ Jalan Haji Salam (Speaker: CPT (Dr) Lim Liong)*



*May 1975 OMB Overnight Retreat at Jurong Calvary BP Church*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1975 Small Group of Ladies from Tanglin CF meeting at home*



*1976 AFC Combined Fellowships Meeting*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1977 Celebrating AFC 7th Anniversary at Gilstead Life BP Church*



*June 1977 Combined Tanglin-OMBCF Outing*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*1978 – Volunteers & Campers at the 1st Pre-NS Camp at Loyang Camp*



*1976 AFC Combined Fellowships Meeting*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*(Above pictures) 1984 International AMCF Conference – Theme “God is love” (1 John 4:8)  
All One in Christ Jesus  
held in Seoul Korea by the Officers’ Christian Union of Korea*

# TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

**Special Events**

**MEET-ONE PARTY**  
After you all arrive Thursday 19th 1984.

**REMEMBERING BROTHER CHAPLAIN AND CHURCH MEMBERS**  
Friday, September 20th

**KOREAN ARMED FORCES DAY**  
A million thanks you will give.

**VISIT TO PAMUNJUM AND INDIAN TUNNEL**  
A tour to remember.

**LADIES AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**  
For those who choose.

**VISIT TO A KOREAN HOME**  
Experience hospitality at its best.

**SPORTS**  
Swimming, tennis, swimming.

**FAREWELL PARTY**  
Monday, October 1st 1984 1984.

**Welcome**  
84 International AMCF Conference Delegates

September 27-October 3, 1984  
Seoul, Korea

We're honored to serve you around the world.

KOREAN AIR

**'84 International AMCF Conference**  
Sept. 27 – Oct. 3, 1984.

**"God Is Love" (1 John 4:8)**  
**All One in Christ Jesus**  
Seoul, Korea  
Officers Christian Union of Korea

**Speakers for Plenary Sessions**

September 28th  
September 29th  
September 30th

**Workshop Topics**

How to Study the Bible Daily  
How to Remember God's Promises  
How to Share Christ, the Light of Christianity  
How to Guide a New Believer  
Developing a Good Service and Devotion  
Family Life and the Christian Education of Children  
A Minister's Strategy for the Military  
Living a Christ-Like Life in the Military  
Human Relations: The Christian Soldier  
Meeting the Needs of God  
Meeting the Initiative of Communism and Christianity  
Crafting a Group for Christian Activities  
Communications: Issues, Tools, Methods and Christianity (Management, Application, Communication, Christianization, Spiritual Power, Public Relations)

**General Information**

**Registration**  
If you have not yet made your registration card, an advance fee is required in order to get a registration card at the conference. You may mail your card to the conference and pay in the office.

**Travel Arrangements and Expenses**  
The United States and Europe are well served by air to Seoul. Please advise the date you will arrive in Seoul. Air fares to Seoul from the United States and Europe are included in the registration fee. Air fares from other areas will be met in Seoul. Inquire from the AMCF office for details.

**Meals and Lodging**  
The Conference Committee has made arrangements for meals and lodging for all delegates. Lunch, dinner and breakfast are included in the registration fee. As an added incentive on the day of the conference, there will be a complimentary breakfast for all delegates. This is not a complimentary breakfast. It is a complimentary breakfast for all delegates. This is not a complimentary breakfast. It is a complimentary breakfast for all delegates.

**Transportation to Seoul**  
There is a good amount of transportation to Seoul. You may use your own car or a taxi. Inquire from the AMCF office for details.

**Chairman's Welcome**

Dear Friends,

It gives me great personal pleasure to invite you to "God Is Love" (1 John 4:8) which you will attend the 84th International Conference of the Association of Military Christian Fellowship (AMCF) to be held in Seoul, Korea, from September 27th through October 3rd, 1984.

This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of a Christian mission in Korea. Our mission is to all Christian servicemen, officers, enlisted men, chaplains, active or retired. We have selected some outstanding speakers from Britain and America to lead us in worship. It is our hope that this conference will be a place of blessing to all. The conference theme is "God Is Love" (1 John 4:8). Our hope is to accomplish the many purposes of the conference. For example, we hope that your participation in the conference will increase your understanding of the AMCF and glorify our Lord, Jesus. We pray that you will all go home spiritually. Finally, it is our desire that this will be a time of prayer for world peace and the world's peace.

Pray with us for the spiritual outcome of the conference and make your prayer to attend.

Sincerely,  
*Kim Eul-Kwon*  
Major General Kim, Eul-Kwon (Army)  
Chairman, 84 International AMCF Conference Committee

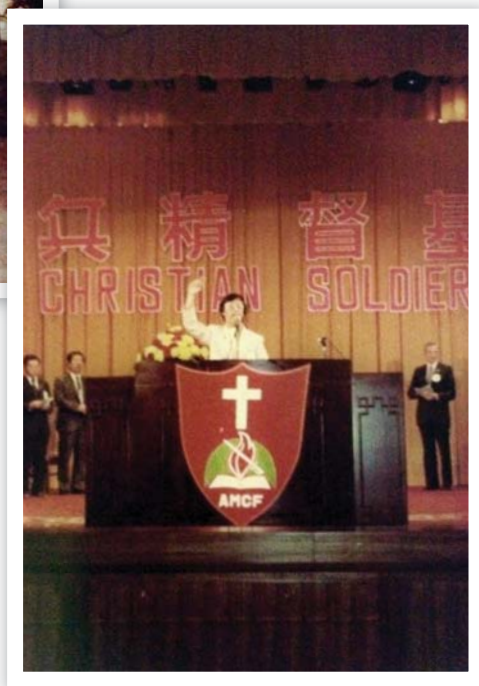
**Evening Worship Hour Speakers**

September 27th, Thursday, 1984 1984  
September 28th, Friday, 1984 1984  
September 29th, Saturday, 1984 1984  
September 30th, Sunday, 1984 1984  
October 1st, Monday, 1984 1984

Rev. H. H. Wang, Chaplain, Korean Air Force  
Rev. S. B. Kim, Pastor, Central Baptist Church  
Rev. E. H. Kim, Chaplain, Korean Air Force  
Rev. C. H. Kim, Pastor, St. Paul's Church  
Rev. C. H. Kim, Pastor, St. Paul's Church

(Above pictures) Conference Brochure from 1984 International AMCF Conference

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*MCF Singapore Representative Rev Alfred in China (left) and sharing the message at 1984 AMCF Conference (right)*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### AFC Tanglin Camp Christian Fellowship (1970-1978)

– by Irene Goh (Mrs Irene Ong)

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

Hebrews 10: 24-25 (NIV)

May 2008 Sister Irene Ong (first row, third from left) during the Get-Together of former Tanglin Camp & OMBCFers with Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan

I fondly remember small groups of Christians meeting regularly in the early 1970s even before Central Manpower Base (CMPB) moved from Kallang to Tanglin Camp. Christian groups continued to meet for fellowship, bible study, sharing and prayer in various offices and in the homes of SAF servicemen and women. They were mainly from MINDEF, CMPB and MINDEF Signal Battalion (HQ Communications & Electronics).



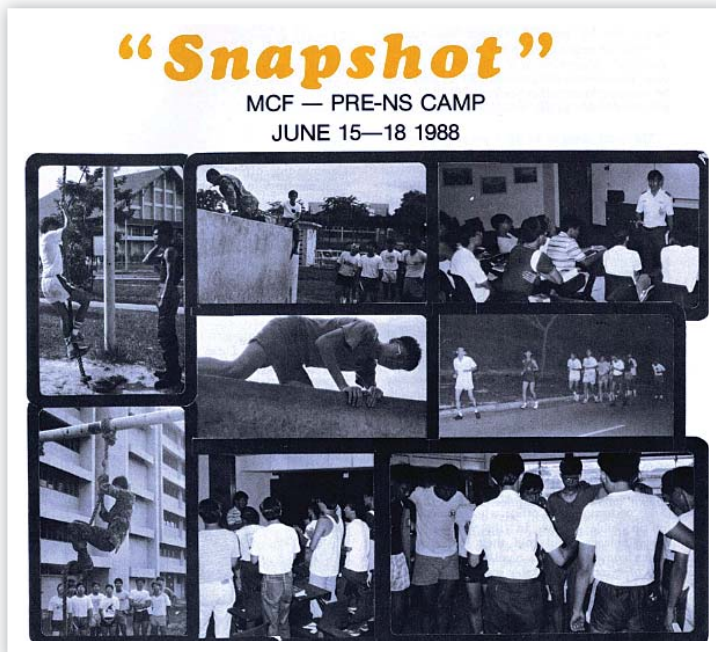
*May 2008 Sister Irene Ong (first row, third from left) during the Get-Together of former Tanglin Camp & OMBCFers with Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan*

Those were the days before the term “marketplace ministry” was used to describe missions and outreach to where we work, live and play. The groups grew and later came together to form the Tanglin Camp Christian Fellowship where about 25-30 Christians met during lunchtime on weekdays at St George’s Church off Minden Road.

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

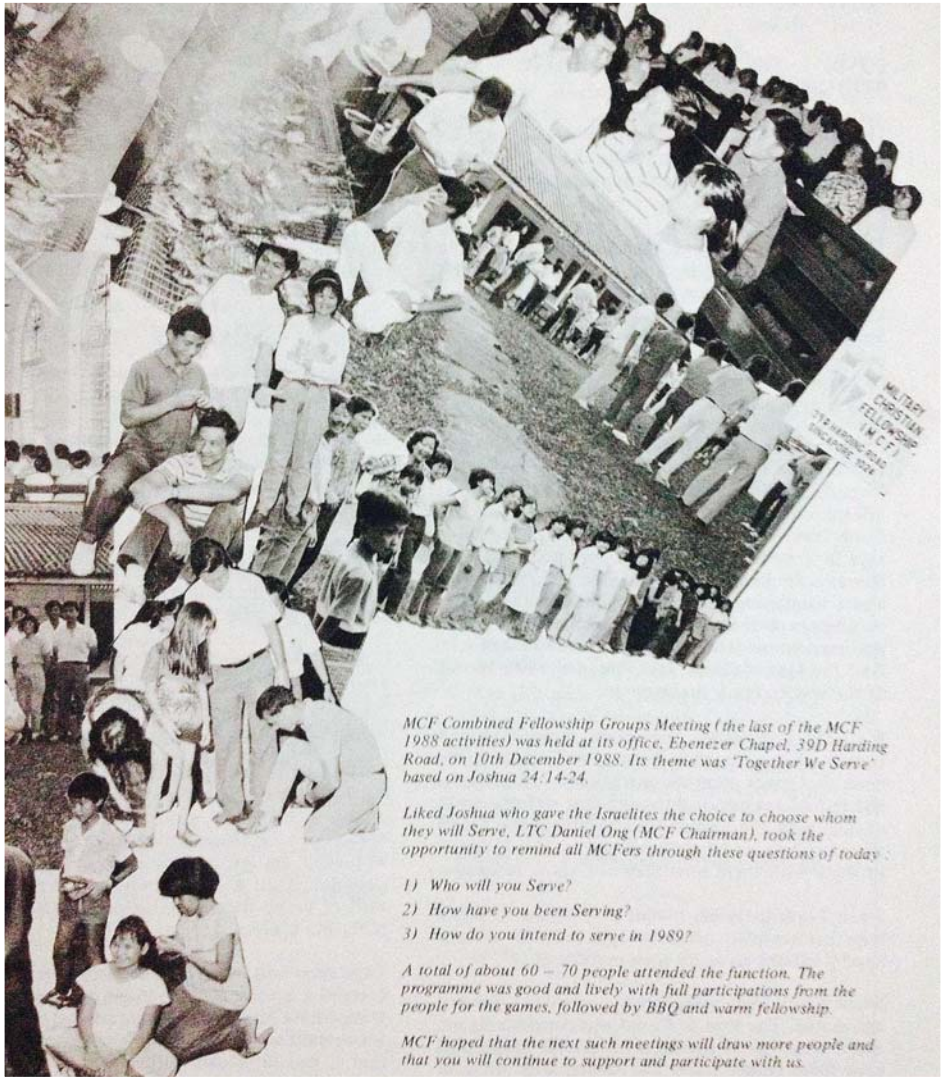
Around 1974, then-MAJ (Dr) Patrick Tan, who was leading the Armed Forces Committee, initiated the monthly meetings at St Andrew’s Cathedral on Saturday evenings, where Christians from other Camps, Formation and Units (eg. Singapore Maritime Command (Navy), Air Defence Command (Air Force), Air Engineering Training Institute, Armour, Communications & Electronics, Engineers, Signals, Maintenance, Medical Services, General Equipment Supply, Ordnance Supply) came together for times of mutual encouragement and spiritual edification. Average attendance at these meetings was about 60.

The first AFC Bible Camp was organised in 1974 with then-MAJ (Dr) Patrick Tan as speaker (to be confirmed), followed by the second AFC Retreat in May 1975 at Shalom B-P Church off Upper East Coast Road. The speaker at this Retreat was CPT (Dr) Lim Liong. In those days, the bond amongst fellow believers in the LORD was palpably strong and some even got married to each other while others formed lasting friendships. It was even more significant that many came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour during this period. The first Pre-NS Camp was then also organised in 1978, which carried on through 1988 (see “Snapshot” below).



*Montage of photos taken during the Pre-NS Camp organized and conducted by MCF from 15-18 June, 1988*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES



*MCF Combined Fellowship Groups Meeting (the last of the MCF 1988 activities) was held at its office, Ebenezer Chapel, 39D Harding Road, on 10th December 1988. Its theme was 'Together We Serve' based on Joshua 24:14-24.*

*Likewise Joshua who gave the Israelites the choice to choose whom they will Serve, LTC Daniel Ong (MCF Chairman), took the opportunity to remind all MCFers through these questions of today:*

- 1) Who will you Serve?*
- 2) How have you been Serving?*
- 3) How do you intend to serve in 1989?*

*A total of about 60 – 70 people attended the function. The programme was good and lively with full participations from the people for the games, followed by BBQ and warm fellowship.*

*MCF hoped that the next such meetings will draw more people and that you will continue to support and participate with us.*

*Excerpt from 1988 issue of Onward Soldiers on the Combined Fellowship Groups attended by more than 60 people on 10 December 1988*

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### January 3, 2015 Sharing by Pastor Jack Sin

I remembered my involvement in MCF and Officer Christian Fellowship (OCF) where (then Colonels) Jimmy How and Raymond Chia were serving then from 1982 -84 during my NS days when I was a young signal officer in the School of Signals then in the old Sembawang camp. We would organise monthly (or bi-monthly) meetings with some of the soldiers with mutual sharing and corporate prayers and sometimes we would have speakers to come and share the word of God with us .It was an edifying time and we cherished the seasons of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement as we strengthen and exhort one another in the knowledge and fear of God during our NS days.

It is our prayer that you and the MCF council and the next generation will continue steadfastly to labour fervently and to persevere on with the good work of spreading the pure gospel among our national servicemen and their families to the saving of souls and to the spiritual and moral enrichment of their lives and their families in the SAF and for the spiritual well-being of our nation (and many Christian commanders have played a pivotal role during these 50 years of nation building ) and even beyond. We are sowing the seed of everlasting life in the next generation and let us leave behind a God honouring legacy for our labour of love is not in vain in the Lord (Galatians 6:9-10 ).

May the Lord greatly strengthen and bless you on this occasion by this biblical resolve to encourage all of us with these inspired words from Nehemiah 4:6 which say “So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work.”

Rev Dr Jack Sin.  
Pastor/Lecturer

*“Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”*  
(Colossians 1:28)

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### Q&A with Mr Tom Hamblin



*Photo taken above at the Sandes Soldiers Home of the early gathering of MCF, where Dr Patrick Tan (2nd row, 5th from right) and Bro Tom Hamblin (2nd row, 4th from right) ministered.*

#### 1. How did you become a civilian missionary working in the Sandes Soldiers Home?

I have always thanked God for bringing me to Singapore as a soldier in April 1955 for my two years national service. I was a young Christian from a non-Christian dysfunctional family. I met Chinese Christians for the first time in my life as well as missionaries to Her Majesty's forces, proclaiming the gospel. How grateful I was to discover the Sandes home centre in Portsdown road, and so many Chinese Christians. Friendships were made which still remain. In 1968 I returned to Singapore with my wife and two children, and became superintendent- evangelist at the Sandes home. We also had small outreach centres in Nee Soon Barracks, Johore Bahru, Borneo and Hong Kong. Then came the closure of UK military bases in Singapore and I had responsibility of handing over the properties to the government authorities in 1976. Before the final handover in Singapore, a great prayer warrior, a personal dear friend, Gerald McClelland and I spent every Friday night, all night, praying for the Singapore Armed forces for almost 3 years. Praying that God would raise up those who would start Military Christian Fellowships throughout Singapore. We came to know Captain Patrick Tan....and the rest is history as they say.

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### 2. What led you and Mr Gerald McClelland to pray for a Christian witness in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)?

Mr Gerald McClelland was with another great evangelistic work to the military (Soldiers & Airmen Scripture Readers Association) formed many years before Sanders Soldier Homes. They too were all civilians and godly Christians, who ministered in barrack rooms, hospitals, prisons etc. Gerald and I were very close as brothers in Christ, and both of us were burdened for the new formation taking place of the Singapore Armed Forces. We regularly met for prayer, every Friday evening into the night, and often through the night for 3 years for the Singapore Armed Forces. . We approached the Pastor, Elders of Gilstead Road Presbyterian Church to use their premises on Friday nights, and Dr Patrick Tan also encouraged their response. It was near to where Gerald and his family were living and I had a car. Our praying together was precious, we could be ourselves before God, we were moved to weep, and agonise, we were strengthened to prevail, and knew at times we were being anointed by the Holy Spirit. We experienced such a sense of God's presence, even seeing a vision of men bowing down to worship him. That actually did happen on several occasions in the weeks and months that followed. In three months many British military were born again and there were blessings breaking out on our right and left. So extraordinary, so God-glorifying times we encountered. This is what we wanted to happen with the new military being formed in Singapore - yes we yearned for many more to enter the kingdom of Jesus Christ. One day about ten new Singaporean soldiers came to our home and asked politely if they could come to the home for fellowship as they were not permitted to hold such meetings in camp. My wife Edna and I gladly welcomed them, and soon they had me participating and sharing and such lovely bonds of fellowship were enjoyed. This i knew was all of God and He was going to answer our prayers. Glory to His Name!

### 3. What are the testimonies that you have always loved to share when asked about MCF?

I can well remember our first gathering with the 48 Singapore soldiers for Christian fellowship, and when speaking of MCF, for which we still pray (though not through the nights!), we tell people that MCF began with a man called Patrick Tan, who had a vision for it to be born, to spread and increase Christian fellowship in every camp, etc. And in the background, God had two 'orang puteh' English prayer partners, who in His purposes of grace, saw it born into being. To God be all the glory and honour and praise.

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### Q&A with Pastor Alfred Yeo



*Above: Photo of MCF Pioneers Gathering on 10 August 2014 at home of Rev Alfred (seated first row, first from left) – where we prayed for MCF to have a breakthrough year in the Jubilee Year of Singapore in 2015!*

#### 1. Why did you join MCF as a staff?

It was an answer to prayer, and calling of the Lord ever since my time in SAF in 2 Singapore Infantry Brigade (2 SIB) as a signaller. I will always remember the conversation I had on 18 September 1971 with my friend at midnight. I was sitting on the staircase of the Hotel Company block in the old SAFTI camp where I heard the gospel for the first time and received Christ into my life. I then joined MCF as Staff on 1 January 1980.

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### 2. How did you know about MCF?

I was already serving in Armed Forces Council (as MCF was known in the earliest days) during National Service and followed through to serve as Staff under the able leadership of men like Dr Patrick Tan, Bro Wong Leong Jeam, and Bro Daniel Ong. Canon James Wong also was involved in the securing of the chapels for MCF.

Also before I joined MCF, there was Kwan Mei Fung who introduced MCF to me. I then became the first General Secretary and subsequently one of the Chaplains. The first Chaplain was Dr Patrick Tan, then I, followed by Pastor Vincent Rajoo, and Reverend Kuan Kim Seng. We were involved also in counselling at Tanglin detention barracks in collaboration with the SAF Counselling Centre every Saturday.

### 3. What were some of the most impactful experiences you had with MCF?

We screened “The Cross and the Switchblade” in places like Sembawang Shipyard (formerly Terra Barracks) and my ministry work spanned across conducting lunchtime and evening bible studies for servicemen at Ebenezer Chapel (former MCF office), to visiting the SAF Detention Barracks regularly between the years of 1980 till 31 July 1986. I also remember when I faced persecution as a Christian in the army, where I was ‘baptised’ with beer by jeering colleagues even during reservist! Nonetheless, we carried on the work faithfully and we conducted Christian funerals for servicemen (Dr Patrick conducted the burials, I conducted the cremations), and did altar cleansings in some camps, and were even invited to pray blessings over the launching of a new Navy ship. One of the most memorable and significant events was during the 1986 International MCF Conference that we organized and held in the old Loyang Camp – we witnessed the apologizing of Japanese Christians to the Korean Christians for the war crimes, followed by the partaking of Communion amongst all the local and international MCF delegates. Thereafter, the worship song ‘Amazing Grace’ was sung as one voice and all in our own native tongues – most majestically and beautifully in harmonious diversity - a true glimpse of how heaven would be like. Dr Patrick was the main speaker during that conference, and many brothers and sisters in Christ from the SAF formed the committee to help, such as Sister Susie Ang (then a Warrant Officer!) who rallied all the cooks and ensured all the conference delegates were well nourished physically as well!

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### 4. Which are some of the testimonies that you have always loved to share when asked about MCF?

I have always loved to share about the many servicemen who have been touched by the Lord through MCF ministry – and become Pastors and great men of influence locally and overseas. Take for example (then Lieutenant) Yong Teck Meng, he was then a young Platoon Commander (PC) when he joined us in MCF to share the gospel in BMT, thereafter he accompanied me to serve in the Detention Barracks ministry as the Chinese interpreter during Chapel time on Saturdays. Today he is our Singapore National Director, Habitat for Humanity! Others were drug offenders and moved on to serve in Youth with a Mission (YWAM), teach as lecturers in Bible School and even become missionaries whom I still keep in contact with. Another of my favourite testimonies began during the time when I was a radio operator in 2SIB of the linesman who saw me reading the bible one night and came sharing that he was a backslidden Christian – I led him to the Lord that night and prayed with him to return to Jesus. Today, he is pastoring a church in New Zealand, holds a Doctorate in ministry and continue to testify of how God has changed his life.

### 5. What are your hopes for MCF in the future?

MCF should continue to emphasis that ‘Every Christian soldier is a missionary’, and for wherever God places you – that is your mission field. God gives us the position of influence to do good works and to advance His Kingdom here on earth.

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### Q&A with Brother Pak Shoon and Wife (Irene Ong)



*Above: Group photo of dinner meeting on 2 December 2014 organised by Brother Pak Shoon (first from left) – where the idea to publish this book was conceived.*

#### 1. How did you know about the MCF Water Tank / Rowcroft Lines meetings?

Soon after being posted to Ordnance Maintenance Base (now General Support Maintenance Base) upon my signing-on as an Ordnance Technical Officer in Oct 1974, I sought to find out if there was any Christian Fellowship (CF) Group in the Camp. I got to meet other fellow Christians like Tony Ng, Ferdinand Tsang and Linda Pay. They introduced me to the weekly meetings which were held below the Water Tank. Later, we also had regular BS at the barracks which was then called Rowcroft Lines (now Singapore Science Park).

#### 2. Why did you join these meetings?

Having been with the Polytechnic Christian Fellowship (PCF) during my student days, it was a natural progression to seek out fellow believers in my place of work. These meetings were held during lunchtimes, and they included time for praise and worship, prayer, as well as fellowship. Personally, it was a felt need to meet with others of the same faith and encourage each other to grow in faith and remain steadfast in our love for the LORD (Hebrews 10: 25).

## TIMELINE & TESTIMONIES

### 3. What were some of the most impactful experiences (impressions) you had in these Fellowships?

We have formed lasting friendships with one another, even though we may be from different church denominations. This is a testament of the unity in the Body of Christ – many parts but one Body! (1 Corinthians 12: 12) While we go through difficult and stressful situations, it was easier to us to request for prayer support from brothers and sisters in the LORD who knew of our specific circumstances. Very often, we saw how GOD answered prayers in unexpected ways. This helped to strengthen our faith in Him. Though we were of different ranks—both Officers and NCOs (now specialists), this was not a barrier to getting to know one another at work. Being united in purpose helped us to be light of the world and salt of the earth (Matthew 5: 13 & 14)

### 4. What are some of the testimonies that you would always love to share when asked about the Camp Fellowship?

Though a demanding and exacting Unit Commander, our CO, LTC Fong Thean Chee was supportive of our meetings. In fact, we met below a huge Water Tank which was situated next to the HQ Car Park not too far from his office. He did not object to our meetings there and it was the LORD's provision to be able to meet in a place of much comfort (and refuge) and breeze during the hot mid-day.

### 5. What are your hopes for MCF's future?

It's really encouraging to hear and see that over the years, many former officers and men of the SAF are now serving in pastoral ministry (both local and overseas missions). Others are in many para-church organisations serving Him in various other ways. May the LORD continue to raise many more generations of SAF officers and men for His work.

## PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We believe in the importance of prayer and that the Lord has commissioned us to serve Him by helping others whom He placed along our path. We are called to be good stewards and to be the Salt of earth and Light to the world. We believe that you also are concerned with welfare and salvation of people around you. We believe that God has even greater things in store for all of us as we pray and STRENGTHEN the Christian fellowship in the SAF through our prayer and petitions.

Is there a difference between prayer and petition?

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Philippians 4:6 uses two words, possibly implying a difference between prayer and petition. Prayer is any communication with God. A petition, just as it is in the political arena, is a request to a sovereign to take action. The following are petitions that you can make on behalf of the SAF and Nation Singapore to our Sovereign God, of whom the Bible speaks of how even the hearts of kings are in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” Proverbs 21:11 (KJV)

### Our National Leaders

We pray for Your hand of protection over their minds, their hearts, their lives, health and their loved ones and their families. We pray that our leaders will be blessed with Your wisdom in leading Singapore. We pray that You will give them strength in leading our Nation forward, especially through difficult circumstances and to emerge prosperous and successful. We pray You will guide them to do the right things, and to lay firm foundations upon which this Nation will be sustained in the long term, and to grow from strength to strength. We pray that under their leadership, our people will emerge more cohesive, more caring and more united for the very long term.

## **PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

### **Our SAF Leaders and Commanders**

We pray for wisdom for all our Leaders and Top Commanders, as they lead us towards the next phase of strengthening and transformation. We pray that they will lead us with both their minds and hearts. We pray for Your wisdom as they led us, so that the right foundations can be laid to ready us for the next ten to fifteen years. As we continue to transform the SAF, we will become even stronger and more ready for the future. We also bless them with good health and protection over their minds, hearts and their families.

### **Our Unit Commanders**

We pray for grace and strength for all our ground commanders. We pray that they will lead with a heart - a heart for our soldiers who are also the sons, nephews, cousins, and brothers to each one of us. We pray for diligence and an ability to lay in place strong systems, strong foundations upon which we can then sustain effective training and operations for the long term. We pray that our commanders are wise and able to lead our soldiers through good and also challenging times. We pray for right role models, good coaching and good transference of values so that our NSFs are moulded to be responsible and effective citizens of this nation.

### **Our Soldiers**

We pray for the safety of every one of our Aircrew, Seaman, and Soldier, that as they undergo the training and operations, they will emerge stronger and better able to serve the Nation, especially for the NSFs. We pray that each one of them would serve with the right attitudes and in the process, become rooted in this Nation. We pray that all our Regulars, NSFs, and NSmen will work as one entity to train and be ready to defend our Nation when the time comes. We also pray for safety and Your protection, so that as we conduct tough and realistic training, we do so safely and without any accidents.

### **Our NDP 2015**

As our Nation prepares to celebrate our Jubilee, we pray for the NDP 15 EXCO and all the members/helpers. We pray for unity and effectiveness. We pray that the preparations will be safe and smooth, and there will be good support across the Nation for this important event. We pray for protection over the many soldiers and men involved in the preparation, and that the event will be a good and safe one. We also pray for good weather and protection over all the rehearsals and actual day, 9 August 2015. Please bless the Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee. We pray all these in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

We also organise MCF monthly prayer meetings, whereby we continue to intercede for items such as:

- Mission success of SAF operations
- Protection and safety of our people
- Wisdom for the leadership and development of SAF to be a capable force to meet the needs of full spectrum operations
- Christian fellowship to continue to grow in faith
- Detention Barrack Ministry to touch more lives
- Ministry effectiveness and relevancy
- Success and Favor to accomplish His purposes

Do email us at [singmcf@gmail.com](mailto:singmcf@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

## MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – PRE-NS SEMINAR

The Lord has also laid upon our hearts to launch Pre-NS programs in recent years that prepares our Christian brothers for a victorious journey in their National Service. The Pre-NS program is extended to the NSFs, Regulars and NSmen, basically anyone with a heart for the Lord's people in the SAF.

If you are a Pastor/Church/ Para-church organisation Leader, you can also contact us to host a PreNS Seminar at your church/ organization to reach out to the Pre-enlistees in your midst. Previous runs have included for Diocese Youth Board (in St Andrews Cathedral), CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), Mount Carmel Bible Presbyterian Church, Barkley Road Methodist Church etc. We also offer follow-up with Pre-enlistees after they are posted to BMTC/respective units. At these seminars, we partner with the local church & para-church leaders to share our personal testimonies and bring along MCF materials to encourage the enlistees to start or join the fellowship groups wherever they get posted to in the SAF.

The Pre-NS Seminar is typically held on Saturday mornings, but can be adapted for your church/organization timings to run on weekday evenings/weekend afternoons. We believe that God has even greater things in store for all of us if we will simply obey and STRENGTHEN the Christian fellowship in the SAF. The program timings, and key lessons shared during the message are elaborated in the following paragraphs.

*Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.  
He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those  
who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. "Selah" Psalm 24:3-6 (NIV)*

**MCF SINGAPORE**

“Are you entering BMT soon?”  
“Worried about what NS may bring?”  
“Unsure about whether U can cope?”  
“Desire to excel as a Child of God in the SAF?”  
“Want to emerge closer to and stronger in the Lord after NS?”

**REVITALIZE @  
PRE-NATIONAL SERVICE SEMINAR**

*If you said yes to any of the above questions, come find out from a Biblical Worldview how you can prepare yourself through this Pre-NS Seminar organised by **Military Christian Fellowship (Singapore)**.*

If you are interested to host / co-organise / attend our MCF PreNS Seminar, please email [singmcf@gmail.com](mailto:singmcf@gmail.com) or contact **David Jerimiah Mok** at **+65 9487 7784**. We look forward to hearing from you! For more information, you can also visit [www.bit.ly/singmcf](http://www.bit.ly/singmcf).

**MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (SINGAPORE)**

## **MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – PRE-NS SEMINAR**

### **Programme Timings**

0930H	Welcome & Worship by MCF
1000H	Message on the “Challenges and Opportunities during NS”
1030H	Tea-break
1100H	Testimonies
1130H	Q & A
1145H	Prayer and Dedication
1200H	End of Program

### **Key Take-Aways from the Program**

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”*

Matt 5:14-15

Every participant should be able to answer an emphatic YES that a Christian CAN go through the pressures of military life and emerge victorious and closer to Christ. The key points include:

#### **A. HOW TO BE PREPARED**

The most important area of preparation is your devotional life.

1. Let your time with the Lord in prayer and in the Word be a regular part of your life.
2. Pray specifically that the Lord will prepare you for NS. Get a few faithful friends to pray for you.
3. Learn to do household chores. You can wash and iron clothes, wash dishes and polish shoes, etc.
4. Exercise regularly. Build your stamina gradually by jogging, swimming, pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups, knee-bends, etc.
5. Talk to your Christian friends who are either in the military or have completed military services.

## **MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – PRE-NS SEMINAR**

### **B. HOW TO LIVE THE EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE MILITARY**

1. Fly your flag at the very beginning. Let your friends know that you are a practicing Christian. Do not do this by standing on the table and declaring “Hey, I’m a Christian”, but share Christ on a personal level with your room-mates. If you do not do this in the first few weeks you probably will never do it.
2. Bring your Bible along with you and read it in the open – unashamedly.
3. You may not have much time to read. But you can find and make time if you want to. A small pocket New Testament is strongly recommended. I was told of a soldier in Vietnam whose life was saved when a bullet fired at him was deflected by a New Testament in his shirt pocket. But do not carry it for physical protection – it would not work most of the time!
4. The Quiet Time is essentially time with God in the Word and prayer. This may well be the most important factor that will decide the course of your spiritual life in the military. How can you in the midst of a heavy and busy schedule afford to spend such time with God? Here are a few tips:
  - a. Adjust yourself to a shorter but consistent Quiet Time (even 5 to 10 minutes will be of great value). You may have to get up slightly earlier than others. If you cannot do it in the morning, make use of traveling time in a military vehicle or while waiting at the firing range, etc. One soldier told me that the best place to read the Word without interruptions was in the toilet!
  - b. Learn to revolve the Word of God in your mind. You can do this simply remembering the verses you read. But do not do it in the midst of your training or you might end up shooting your instructor rather than the target!
  - c. Where possible do quiet time with a Christian friend.
  - d. When praying, bring before the Lord specific needs that you are currently facing.

### **C. FELLOWSHIP**

Christian fellowship will go a long way in encouraging Christians to live for the Lord. Here are some suggestions:

1. Enquire about the spiritual background of your section and platoon mates. This will not only help you single out the Christians but also give excellent opportunities to share Christ. You can round up the Christians and set a specific day and time, after consulting your weekly training program, for all of you to get together to share from the Word, pray and encourage one another.
2. If you are aware of a military Christian fellowship operating within the camp you can encourage the Christians in your company to attend the fellowship.
3. Unless you are assigned for weekend duties, never miss church service.
4. Keep in touch with your Christian friends in church and elsewhere.

## **MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – PRE-NS SEMINAR**

### **D. WITNESSING**

Very few places afford such excellent opportunities to share Christ as the military. Here's how you can share Christ:

1. Pray for every individual in your section/platoon.
2. Your life will have far greater impact than your words. Look for opportunities to help your friends.
3. Do not wait for the ideal situation but use any opportunity that presents itself to personally share Christ with friends.

### **E. ATTITUDES**

Some enter National Service grudgingly whilst others try to avoid it. I have heard of a few who pretended to be mad and got out of NS! A Christian should adopt a positively determined attitude towards National Service. The Bible teaches that every person be subject to the governing authorities. This is as much a Christian duty as is the payment of tax and the fulfillment of other social responsibilities.

One of our favourite questions for National Servicemen is “When is your ORD?” Quite a few Christians reply to the nearest hour! For them National Service is an unnecessary interruption of their lives. They waste away the precious years in NS by dreaming of their ORD. Look upon NS instead as a unique opportunity to develop physically, socially, mentally and spiritually.

### **F. PRESSURES**

During NS, the Christian can encounter testing in all their ugly forms. He can experience severe fatigue, frustrations, opposition, suppression of his personality and being laughed at. Temptations are at every corner and before long, he is pressured on all sides. He should particularly note the following practices:

1. Foul language is common. Fatigue and irritation tends to encourage its use. Do not declare war on foul languages by rebuking every person who uses it – you will never win.
2. Sexual immorality. Ps 119:9 & 11 will be an excellent verse to battle this area. Do not be afraid of not laughing at filthy jokes and songs. Dare to be different.

### **G. EXEMPLARY CONDUCT**

1. Be a pacesetter in setting a high standard of personal discipline, e.g. – punctuality, cleaned boots, ironed uniform, clean barrack rooms, etc.
2. Don't avoid responsibilities; carry out your work even if instructors are not around.
3. Be helpful, cheerful and humorous. It will be of great encouragement to your platoon mates.
4. Avoid currying favours with instructors and trying to achieve popularity by compromising.

## ANNEX A

### A Military Witness – How It Began (By Dr Patrick Tan Dated 1975)

#### ARMED FORCES NEWS

#### A MILITARY WITNESS - HOW IT BEGAN

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door". Rev. 3 : 8

This article is a personal testimony of the marvellous leading of the Lord. The Christians witness among the soldiers of the Singapore Armed Forces began on 13<sup>th</sup> JAN 1970. Two years <sup>before</sup> I was enlisted into the SAF as a medical Officer. This was my first positive following the completion of my housemanship. I was seeking to know the will of the Lord at my new place <sup>of work</sup>. Historically, Singapore had become independent in 1965 and National Service was introduced in 1967. The sudden change of life pattern for Singaporeans from civilian to military and from a carefree environment to regimentation left many young men high and dry. Not a few, Christians backslided. My concern for servicemen began when a particular Sunday School Student of mine whose Christian testimony underwent a drastic change within 6 months of National Service. Simply he could not reconcile his Christian values with his role as a soldier.

Thus the Lord placed the burden on my heart for a Christian witness among the soldiers. I saw and met a multitude of men in green uniform and a still small <sup>voice</sup> of God spoke to me "Behold, I have set before thee an open door". Men came to me for help and advice for some physical ailment. But deep down in their hearts was a yearning for meaning in life. At the same time the Christian soldiers sought desperately to live their Christian lives in an environment lacking in love and understanding. My heart yearned to help them. I set about to look for the Christians and the Lord led me to them. By the end of 1969 I felt confident in calling together the Christians in the SAF to launch a Christian fellowship. On New Year's day 1970, at the parsonage of life Bible Presbyterian Church, the historic meeting took place. 43 Officers and men, from 13 different camps and representing the 5 major denominations in Singapore gathered together. Thus began a ministry among soldiers which today is called the ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE.

The years that followed is a tale of trials of testings and had it not been for the grace of God I would have thrown up my hands up in despair. However there was a <sup>class</sup> of zealous Christians who had a kindred spirit with me and whose heart the Lord touched with the same burden, among them were Ang Beng Chong, Lim Kim Hee and Lim Jui Soh (Bible Presbyterian). Irene Goh and Tan Tuan Seng (Baptist) and Moo Soon Chong (Methodist). By and large the churches showed no interest indeed one was <sup>quite</sup> suspicious of my motives. My initial concern was to contact as many Christians soldiers as possible. Hampered by inexperience and lack of manpower we could not keep up with the rapid turn-over of national service men. In the same year of 1970 we took a bold step of faith in bringing to the attention of the Ministry of Defence authorities of our intended <sup>work</sup> among the soldiers and sought their approval. Approval was turned down. The only consolation was that Christian could continue to practice their faith in the SAF unhindered.

In 1971 the fellowship was lead by the able leadership of Jack Thevathanan (Assembly), Goh Kim Seng (Revival Centre), Patrick Yeo (Brethren).

## ANNEX A

### A Military Witness – How It Began (By Dr Patrick Tan Dated 1975)

Towards the end of the year we made another brave attempt at the registration of the Fellowship with the Registrar of Societies. Then we faced our greatest defeat. The Registrar of Societies declared our Fellowship illegal and ordered us to cease all activities. Defeated and dejected I turned to my loyal friend Dr. Bobby Ong, general secretary of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students. In April 1972 FES initiated the Armed Forces Committee and asked us to revive our Fellowship under this new name and an affiliation to the FES. This name remained till this day.

Revived and having a new spirit the AFC launched a programme of expansion. Fearless of consequences the dedicated team of officers and men now included new members as Tan Kah Aih and Richard Ang (Bible Presbyterian) Goh Cheng Teck and Louis Tay (Anglican), David Choo and Kuan Mei Fung (Brethren), George Ong and Richard Tan (Methodist), John Tan (Assembly) and Leong Sing Kit (Evangelical Free), these started camp fellowships, witnessed to all and ~~regularly~~ conducted ~~and~~ film shows, distributed New Testament Bibles, held Bible Studies and prayer meetings. These were ordinary men who had one thing in common, the ~~same~~ ~~basic~~ ~~need~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~. It is when we recognise that we have a little strength that we can experience the power of our God in our lives and ministry. We believe that the basic need of man is Jesus Christ who can transform the lives of soldiers, and give them a new meaning and a new value to life.

The impact of the work and witness of the AFC drew the attention of the SAF authorities. They took cognizance of our aims and activities. ~~Hearts were~~ restless and minds burdened with the problems of a youthful army. Drug addiction, suicides and venereal diseases are synonyms with any army. SAF has not been spared. It is no boast to declare that Jesus who has changed lives given Christians victory over sin, is He not the answer to all these problems? On 18 June 1974 God performed a miracle. On this day I was informed that the ministry of the AFC had been noted and approved and that clearance had been given for AFC to function unhindered in any SAF Camp. SAF Facilities will be made available for our use at our request.

I reflect on the 5 years of work. I am not ashamed to be the humble missionary to the Singapore Armed Forces. I have loved the men in green and I wanted them to know my Saviour. I had seen the ~~witness~~ through from trials to triumph. I present these years of labour to God as my sacrifice of worship.

*Dr. Patrick Tan*

## **ANNEX B**

### **Guidelines to Begin a Camp Fellowship Group**

Thank you for your interest to begin your Camp Fellowship (CF) group journey with the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) Singapore!

MCF seeks to partner with CF leaders to establish a military Christian community across MINDEF/SAF. Our vision is for all camps in MINDEF/ SAF to be connected to at least a CF where Christians can meet regularly for prayer, fellowship and/or bible study.

All CF leaders are welcome to attend as members in the MCF Executive Committee (EXCO) meetings to join us in prayers and offer suggestions to improve the MCF.

In addition, MCF maintains a database of Christians in the SAF as well as all the CFs in MINDEF/ SAF. This will allow us to better connect Christians (especially NSFs) looking for a CF with an existing CF near them.

As the SAF is a secular institution, it is important that our CFs work within prescribed guidelines. The following are guidelines we request that you go through carefully.

Should you have any questions or feedback, please email us at [singmcf@gmail.com](mailto:singmcf@gmail.com).

## **GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING CAMP FELLOWSHIP**

1. MCF believes that camp fellowship (CF) groups are essential for Christians in MINDEF/SAF to connect as a community for mutual encouragement (Heb 10:24-25) and prayer. However, we need to recognise the conduct of CFs has to be in a manner consistent with what is acceptable in such a secular institution.
2. In a multi-racial and multi-religious society like Singapore, we need to be sensitive that MINDEF/SAF would need to apply the same standards on what can or cannot be done in camps to all religions. If asked, we will explain that the CF is a gathering of a group of SAF personnel who share common interests.
3. To meet the above intent, the following are guidelines we would request our CF leaders to adhere to:
  - Meetings are to be conducted outside official hours (e.g. lunch time, after office hours or after the end of official training).
  - Meetings are informal and completely voluntary. For example, information of CF meetings should not be broadcasted in the camp notice boards.
  - Non-SAF personnel (e.g. Pastors or para-church leaders) are not to be invited for CFs held in camps.
  - CFs are for Christian prayer and encouragement and are not meant to be evangelistic events; the latter is to be held outside MINDEF/SAF camps/units. [Within MINDEF/SAF, we should endeavor to reflect the love of Christ through our daily conduct and be a witness for Christ through our words and deeds (Matt 5:16).]
  - Meetings are to be conducted in a low key and non-offensive manner. For example, there should not be prayer walks around the camps or loud singing that could bring unnecessary scrutiny to the CFs.
4. Some important points to bear in mind when you are running meetings:
  - Have a clear objective for your meeting
  - Make use of available Bible study tools to help you
  - Be familiar with your facts and Bible knowledge.
  - Relate lessons to the needs of members, and current issues or topics of interest
  - All lessons shared must end up with simple practical applications so that members can apply spiritual truths in their daily living

## **GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING CAMP FELLOWSHIP**

- Punctuality: Start on time and end on time. People do not generally enjoy long meetings as it might disrupt their busy schedule. This is especially so if you are conducting your CF during morning times before work and lunch times in between work
  - Pray for blessings. Get members to pray for each other in the group. This will create a sense of belonging as well as strengthen our faith as we see God answering our prayers
  - Be excited. As the leader of the group, lead with an expectant heart that God will move powerfully during the time together and members will encounter God through the sharing and prayer times
  - Allow members to minister to each other. You do not have to feel fully responsible for the outcome of the meeting, nor does anyone have a monopoly over God's presence and power to minister
  - As leaders of the group, live transparent lives. Your members must be able to know you and they are able to detect it if you are insincere. God values honesty and not hypocrisy.
  - Leaders must build up and train others to lead. This will ensure continuity in leadership.
5. The CF meeting must be CHRIST-centred. Viewed in that perspective, your meeting is not just a Bible study meeting, a fellowship meeting, prayer meeting, but it is a CHRIST meeting. We meet so we can glorify Christ – the Author and Finisher of our faith. Read John 15:1-17. May God bless you and your members as you gather in His Name.

## ANNEX C

### Ministry Contribution

“We believe with great conviction that our primary ministry is where the Lord has placed us.” This is the MCF motto and our mission is to encourage military Christians to serve the Lord even as they serve our nation in MINDEF/SAF. The Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) Singapore was established to minister to the Lord’s people in the SAF. Over the years, our activities have expanded to include counseling in Detention Barrack, and working with churches to conduct Pre-NS Talks. We also conduct annual activities, like the Thanksgiving and Prayer Dinner, bringing together soldiers in faith to thank God for his protection and blessing to the SAF operations, training and development.

The MCF is a self-funding organisation depending on offerings and love contributions from churches and individuals who share God’s plan for the SAF. The Lord has graciously sustained us financially over the years through regular love offering. There are also many exciting developments in terms of our partnerships with various para-church organisations to multiply the effectiveness of our ministry efforts. We hope you will share with us God’s vision and assist us financially so that we can support soldiers in faith in the SAF. May you be richly blessed through your support to the ministry of the MCF.



As God enables me, I would like to give \$200/ \$500/ \$1000/ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry of MCF and share in His plan for the SAF. (Cheque make in favour of **MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.**)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





To:  
**Military Christian Fellowship**  
1 Francis Thomas Drive #03-03  
Singapore 359340



