

## TFD#64 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 “Military Wives”

Thank you Mark, and good morning everyone. Last night Emma and I watched a really moving film, “Military Wives”<sup>1</sup>, starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan. You may be familiar with it, or may have seen the Gareth Malone TV series “The Choir” first aired in 2006 which inspired it.

It’s a story about the spouses of military personnel while their loved ones are deployed on duty in Afghanistan, and how they find support, and even an outlet for their emotion by joining an unlikely choir, of varying musical ability, who eventually get to perform their own song in the Royal Albert Hall.

Well as you can imagine, it’s very emotional viewing. There’s the young bride, who gets that devastating visit that no military service family wants to get, there’s the Colonel’s wife who has already lost her soldier son and whose husband is caught up in an explosion.

And yet it’s as funny as it is moving, thanks in part to the brilliant dialogues between chalk and cheese choir mistresses Kate and Lisa. Well in a week where Bagram airbase just north of Kabul was handed back to the Afghan government last Thursday, it felt close to home.

And when I looked closely at the credits at the end, I saw that Wyton and Brampton Airbases’ military choirs were featured in a final song at the end.

I don’t know if there are military families listening today. If there are, we now understand just a tiny bit more the different emotions that you must face whenever your loved ones go on military exercise. Thank you for what you and your families go through on a daily basis for us.

I think the main message that I got from the film was that we all need one another. People go through so much in their everyday lives, not least in the difficult last 16 months of Covid, and we need to support one another.

Is there someone in your community (whether in the military or not) who you could reach out to today- a phone call, a text message, just to see how they are doing? In the Bible it says “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God”.

We’re going to finish with a song performed by the Military Wives with Gareth Malone, with words taken from letters sent between the service people and their loved ones.

“Wherever you are ” by the Military Wives Choir.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_Wives\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Wives_(film))