

■ NEWS FEATURE

Donaldsons to succeed Tidds as Australia Territory leaders

■ OPINION

A sombre spiritual journey from Anzac Cove to Calvary

■ MISSION UPDATE

Local Mission Delivery is in The Salvation Army's DNA

■ SALVATION STORY

The drug raid that put Cassie Cooper on the road to faith

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION



APRIL
2019

ISSUE 04
VOLUME 03
AUD \$2.00

The General's Easter message

Do not be afraid

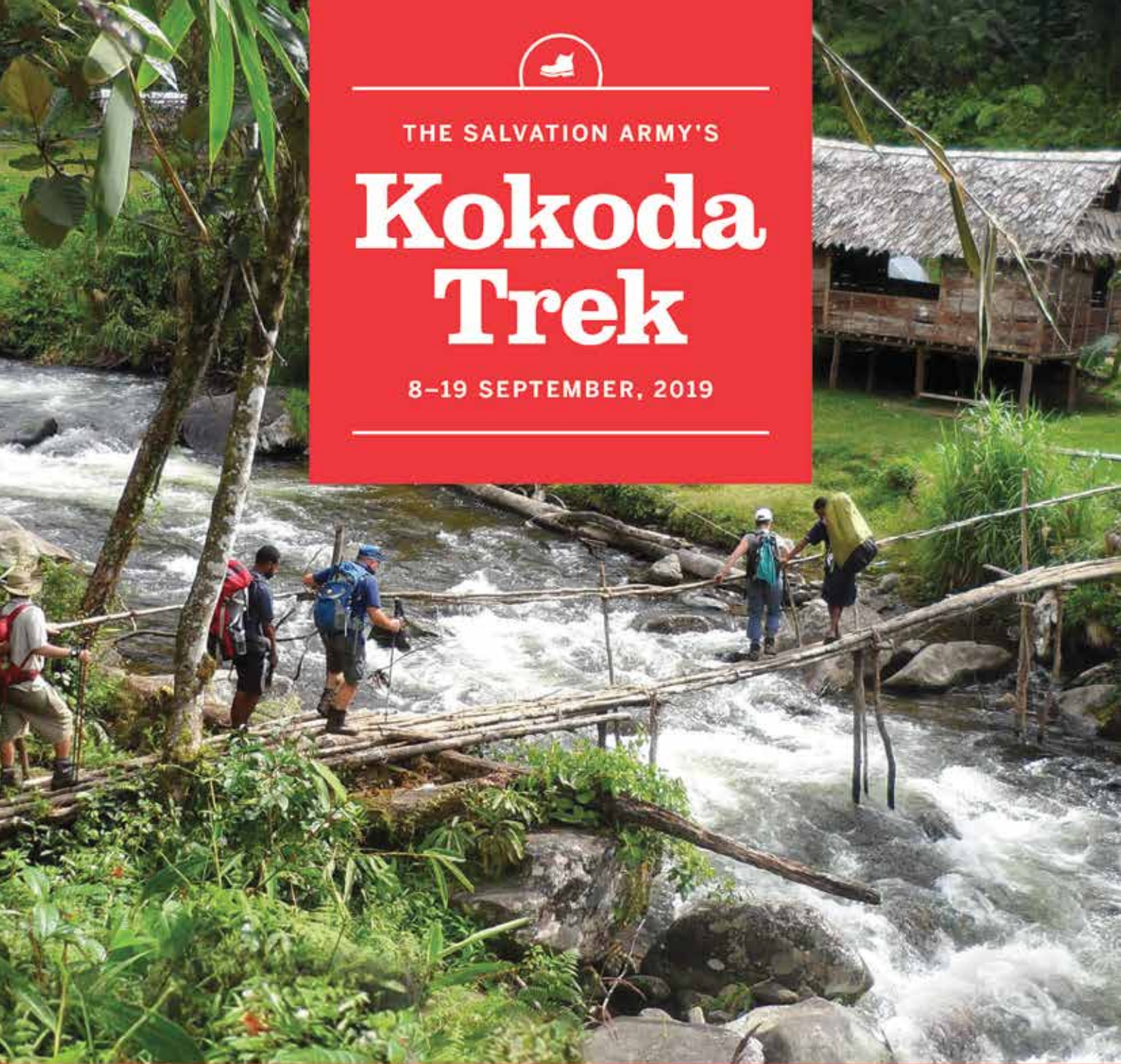
SHARING IN CHRIST'S VICTORY



THE SALVATION ARMY'S

Kokoda Trek

8-19 SEPTEMBER, 2019



Raise vital funds to support vulnerable women, children and families.

DATE

8-19 September, 2019

FUNDRAISING TARGET

\$3,750

TRAVEL COSTS

\$5,295 (dep. Sydney)

\$5,095 (dep. Brisbane)

\$4,095 (land only)

INC. FLIGHTS, ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, TRANSFERS

REGISTRATION FEE

\$770

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

salvos.org.au/adventure

God's phenomenal act of sacrificial love.

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON

MANY CHRISTIANS WOULD RECOGNISE Oswald Chambers for his classic daily devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*. It's certainly a book that has had a profound impact on my life.

Having sold more than 13 million copies worldwide since its release in 1927, *My Utmost for His Highest* remains one of the most popular Christian devotionals even today. What many Christians are unaware of, however, is that Chambers authored almost 50 books, most of which have been published posthumously from verbatim notes of his teaching made by his stenographer wife.

Among his many writings, the Scottish preacher had much to say on the subject of Christ's death and resurrection. Over recent weeks, I have been refamiliarising myself with these writings, with the intention of translating some of his insights into an editorial for this issue of *Others*. Flicking through *My Utmost for His Highest*, I found myself reading and then re-reading the entry for 6 April. So superb, so profound is Chambers' insight into the Easter story found in this entry, that it deserves reproducing here in full:

THE COLLISION OF GOD AND SIN

The Cross of Jesus is the revelation of God's judgment on sin. Never tolerate the idea of martyrdom about the Cross of Jesus Christ. The Cross was a superb triumph in which the foundations of hell were shaken. There is nothing more certain in Time or Eternity than what Jesus Christ did on the Cross: He switched the whole of the human race back into a right relationship with God. He made Redemption the basis of human life, that is, He made a way for every son of man to get into communion with God.

The Cross did not happen to Jesus: He came on purpose for it. He is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". The whole meaning of the Incarnation is the Cross. Beware of separating God manifest in the flesh from the Son becoming sin. The Incarnation was for the purpose of Redemption. God became incarnate for the purpose of putting away sin; not for the purpose of self-realisation. The Cross is the centre of Time and of Eternity, the answer to the enigmas of both.

The Cross is not the cross of a man but the Cross of God, and the Cross of God can never be realised in human experience. The Cross is the exhibition of the nature of God, the gateway whereby any individual of the human race can enter into union with God. When we get to the Cross, we do not go through it; we abide in the life to which the Cross is the gateway.

The centre of salvation is the Cross of Jesus, and the reason it is so easy to obtain salvation is because it cost God so much. The Cross is the point where God and sinful man merge with a crash and the way to life is opened – but the crash is on the heart of God.

– Oswald Chambers

These, indeed, are powerful words to express God's phenomenal act of sacrificial love in redeeming lost humanity – words which convey the triumph of the cross far more poignantly than anything I could muster.●

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.





24

In his youth, Robert Seymour tried to burn down a Salvation Army hall. He spent much of the rest of his life as a Salvation Army officer. Read Bob's remarkable story in this issue of *Others*. Photo: Lena Pobjie



Issue 04
April 2019

General
BRIAN PEDDLE

Territorial Commander
COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

Secretary for
Communications
LIEUT-COLONEL
NEIL VENABLES

Editor-In-Chief
LIEUT-COLONEL
LAURIE ROBERTSON

Assistant Editor-in-Chief
SCOTT SIMPSON

Proofreader
DAWN VOLZ

Sub-Editor
DEAN SIMPSON

International Editor
and Staff Writer
SIMONE WORTHING

Online Editor and
Staff Writer
ANNE HALLIDAY

Social Media Coordinator
and Staff Writer
LAUREN MARTIN

Staff Writer
JESSICA MORRIS

Contributors
BILL SIMPSON
MARK HADLEY

Graphic Designers
CRISTINA BARON
JAMES ALGEO

Subscriptions enquiries
SUE ALLENSBY

Others is a monthly publication of The Salvation Army in Australia. *Others* is printed by Focus Print Group, 25 Arctic Court, Keysborough, VIC 3173, Australia. Print post approved PP236902/00023

Member, Australasian Religious Press Association.
All Bible references are quoted from the *New International Version* unless otherwise stated.

Subscriptions
Annual: \$24 (includes GST). Available from:
subscriptionsothers@aus.salvationarmy.org phone (03) 8541 4562 or
post to The Salvation Army, National Editorial Department, Level 1
Building 2, Brandon Office Park, 530 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley,
VIC 3150

Advertising
By email to: advertisingothers@aus.salvationarmy.org

General Enquiries
By email to: others@aus.salvationarmy.org

others.org.au



**NATIONAL
VISION
STATEMENT**

Wherever there is hardship or injustice,
Salvos will live, love and fight,
alongside others,
to transform Australia one life at a time
with the love of Jesus.

Contents

Cover story

18

Do not be afraid

General Brian Peddle's Easter message to the international Salvation Army

News Feature

6

Tidds to farewell Australia

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd get new appointments, with Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson to assume territorial leadership in Australia

Features

20

Who is this man?

Jesus has been depicted in every culture and corner of the Earth. But who is he?

28

Rekindling 'blood and fire' passion

Rachal Mills reconnects with the Army's mission and core values

Regulars

9

TC@Others

10

Global Focus

12

Viewpoint

15

Mailbox

17

Mission Update

32

The Big Picture

36

News

46

Salvation Story

Tidds grateful for ‘dynamic’ Australian experience.

Donaldsons to assume territorial leadership in Australia as Tidds wait on new appointment

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON

The new Australia Territory of The Salvation Army will spend the next few months preparing itself for another significant change, following the news that Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd (below) will farewell the country in late June.

The Army’s International Headquarters (IHQ) has announced that the Tidds, who over the past few years have led The Salvation Army in Australia through one of its most significant periods, will commence new appointments on 1 July. When the April issue of *Others* went to print, the detail of those appointments had still to be announced.

The IHQ announcement also included who the new territorial leaders in Australia will be. Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson

will take up their new appointments on 1 July; Commissioner Robert Donaldson as Territorial Commander and Commissioner Janine Donaldson as Territorial President of Women’s Ministries.

“As our appointment as territorial leaders for the Australia Territory comes to a conclusion and we leave for new international appointments yet to be announced, we are grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside such a dynamic Army of Salvos over these last six years,” said the Tidds.

“We commend to all, Commissioner Janine and Robert Donaldson as leaders who love God, love people and are committed to seeing lives transformed by the love of Jesus. They are passionate about serving others and the importance of driving a clear mission strategy.”

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd arrived in Melbourne from their home territory of Canada and Bermuda in June 2013, to take command of the then-Australia Southern Territory, Floyd as Territorial Commander and Tracey as President of Women’s Ministries.

After almost three years as Southern Territory leaders, the Tidds were appointed as national leaders to oversee the merger of the Australia Eastern and Australia Southern territories into one Australia Territory. That process came to its climax in December last year when the new Australia Territory was officially launched, with the Tidds becoming its first territorial leaders.

Commissioners Donaldson, meantime, say they feel “privileged” to be appointed to lead The Salvation Army in Australia.

Robert is a first-generation Salvationist who lists among his interests playing his euphonium and watching rugby and cricket. Janine is a fifth-generation Salvationist who is the daughter of officer parents. She describes herself as an avid reader and loves Jack Russell terriers.

“We are grateful to the General [Brian Peddle] for his trust and we are excited at the privilege and prospects associated with these appointments,” said the Donaldsons. “We trust our faithful God for his grace and leading.

“To succeed Floyd and Tracey, and to work with the senior leaders [in Australia] will be an immense honour and privilege. We will work hard ... to assist the Australia Territory to move forward in alignment with the plans so carefully and prayerfully agreed.”

Commissioners Donaldson have extensive experience of The Salvation Army in this part of the world. They are New Zealanders, but have a strong connection to Australia. Two of their sons live in Melbourne and have done so for several years. One of those sons is married to an Australian and the other has an Australian fiancée. A third son lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

“We have been privileged to observe, and to a small degree accompany, the leadership of the Australia Territory as it has navigated the Australia One journey,” the Donaldsons said.

“We readily embrace the Vision, Mission and Values statements that have been developed and are convinced these will guide the territory to positive mission outcomes. The vision is compelling, the mission is true to purpose of The Salvation Army, and the living to the values will create a culture that is God-honouring.

“Finally, on a personal level it will be simply wonderful to be back ‘down under’ and to live in a city that two of our sons have called home for many years. To be able to share life more closely with them and their wife and fiancé will be a rich blessing. Our prayer is that our contribution to Australia will be honouring to God and fruitful for his kingdom.” ●

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.



Donaldsons biography.

Originally from New Zealand, Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson have served in a variety of appointments in New Zealand, Zambia, South Africa, Fiji and London.

Since January 2017, they have served in appointments at the Army’s International Headquarters in London. Robert is the International Secretary for Accountability and Governance, while Janine is especially interested in promoting leadership opportunities for women and is the Zonal Secretary for Women’s Ministries in the South Pacific and East Asia Zone and editor of *Revive*, an international women’s magazine. In addition to serving as corps officers in New Zealand, their other appointment highlights include:

- New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory – Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women’s Ministries.
- Southern Africa Territory – Chief Secretary and Territorial President of Women’s Ministries.
- Southern Africa Territory – Territorial Secretary for Program and Field Program Secretary.
- New Zealand – Booth College of Mission and School for Officer Training Principal and Assistant Principal.
- New Zealand – Janine as the Territorial Candidates Secretary with a focus on recruiting future officer leaders including introducing the ‘Delve’ concept to help people explore God’s calling on their lives, resulting in the largest number of officer applications since the 1980s.
- Zambia Territory Officer Training College – Training Principal and Training Officer.
- The Salvation Army Chikankata Secondary School in Zambia – Teachers, with Robert also serving as the school’s business manager.

Will you change a life today?

For \$35 a month, you can be part of bringing an end to poverty, discrimination and injustice. It takes less than five minutes to sign up to Salvos Sponsorship.



Find out more:
salvos.org.au/international-development
 or call 02 9466 3105



**International
Development**
 AUSTRALIA

'Nothing' changes everything

The empty tomb changed everything then and still changes everything today

WORDS COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

THEY THOUGHT EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED when they saw Jesus taken down from the cross. His bruised, broken and lifeless body – laid in a tomb sealed with a stone – indicated everything had changed. All the hopes and dreams of this new Kingdom he had taught about were now fading into the confusion and grief that accompanied the darkened sky over Calvary on that Friday afternoon. Nothing would ever be the same again.

In the early hours of the third day, his followers went to the tomb. There they found nothing that they expected. His body wasn't there. The stone, rolled away, now revealed an empty tomb. It was this moment of finding 'nothing' expected that changed everything. It changed everything then and still changes everything today.

The empty tomb stands as a witness to the power and promise-keeping faithfulness of God! That changes everything. Jesus told his disciples he would rise from the dead. The empty tomb validates every teaching and promise of Jesus. The power of God, even over death, was clearly demonstrated when they found the tomb empty.

It was only when they found nothing, that the disciples began to realise everything had truly changed. This empty tomb discovery was the beginning of a journey into a new and deepening understanding of Jesus, his teaching and mission. The life-changing implications of finding nothing they had anticipated in that tomb would take a lifetime to understand. But it was the discovery of a resurrected Jesus that changed everything, in that moment and for the rest of their lives.

Christians around the globe will take the journey once again from Calvary and the remembrance of the sacrificial expression of the love of God as Jesus died upon a cross, through to the Sunday morning celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. The stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away, not so Jesus could escape the grave, but so that his disciples would find nothing.

In all of our abundance and ability to find what's needed in the moment, it is not until we find the 'nothing' of the empty tomb that we truly experience the heartfelt longing for deep change. As we gaze into the truth of the empty tomb once again this Easter, hear the invitation to embrace the deep change and transformation that finding the tomb empty offers. Know afresh that every promise God has made to you he is faithful to keep – the empty tomb is proof of his faithfulness to his promise (Psalm 119:89-90). Know afresh that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is the power that is available to you today through his Spirit (Ephesians 1:19-20). Those that found the tomb empty, even before they could fully understand all that it meant, knew that others needed to know that finding 'nothing' does change everything. Let's not wait until we have fully understood all that the empty tomb means. That will take a lifetime. There are others all around us waiting for the word of hope that change is possible, because the tomb is empty. Nothing still changes everything! •

Commissioner Floyd Tidd is
 Territorial Commander of The
 Salvation Army Australia Territory.



Aussie officers around the world - Canada and Bermuda Territory.

In Global Focus this year, *Others* is profiling the work of some of the Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we take a look at the Canada and Bermuda Territory where five Australians are serving. Major Alison Cowling is the Assistant Chief Secretary based in Toronto, Major Sharon Dannock and Captain Jason Dannock are the Corps and Community Officers at Temiskaming Community Church in New Liskeard, Ontario, and Captains Fiona and Matthew Kean are the Corps Officers at Chilliwack Corps, 100km south-west of Vancouver. For this Global Focus feature, Captain Fiona Kean shares her impressions of life and ministry in a foreign land.

Time has absolutely flown and we find ourselves eight months into our time in Canada. Chilliwack is a growing town of about 100,000 people, about an hour west of Vancouver. It is surrounded by mountains and is in a fairly mild part of the country, although as I type our car park is covered in snow. There are a lot of churches in town, but there are also a lot of problems, mainly homelessness and drug abuse.

Our appointment as the Corps Officers in Chilliwack means we oversee not only the corps, which has a congregation of about 120, but also a large community ministry unit. We have the Care and Share centre, where we provide food parcels and other assistance for clients. The Care and Share also operates a large food bank and a Monday to Friday lunch program. We also have a 68-bed shelter, an outreach team, Fireside Counselling services, and a thrift shop.



Our ministries are spread over three locations and we have about 70 employees and countless volunteers. We are blessed to have members of the corps employed in management positions and this helps keep us all focused on our common goal of seeing lives transformed in Jesus' name. Since our arrival we have seen a few souls saved. Some of these are employees from our shelter and outreach programs, which has been really exciting.

We arrived here at the beginning of (the northern) summer, which meant the beginning of nine weeks of school holidays. Not long after we arrived, the corps held its annual vacation Bible school called Kids Games. We were delighted to see around 50 kids, mostly from our community, involved in the week-long program. The corps donated enough money to enable us to present every child with a Bible. At least one family has been regularly attending the corps as a result of this program.

Regular programming at the corps includes seniors ministries, Bible studies, Ready to Serve (Junior Soldiers), youth Bible study and youth group. We have around 50 teenagers attending youth group, most of them not connected with the corps in any other way.

As a family, we have been thankful to see our extended family a lot more. All of our immediate family live in either Canada

or across the United States border in Seattle, just a three-hour drive away. This has been the biggest blessing of our move here. How nice it is to have grandparents living half an hour away!

Our older children, Samuel and Mackenzie, are still finding their place in their new school. We must admit, the vast differences in schooling were something we had not anticipated. This has been the most challenging aspect of our move. Our youngest, Eli, is fairly settled in his pre-school/day care and attends three days a week. One adjustment we're making as a family is living in the 'country'. Farm smells frequently invade Chilliwack, especially during the summer and autumn. We're all eagerly anticipating spring and summer after experiencing a long winter.

As I mentioned earlier, we are surrounded by mountains. It was our third Sunday here when in the morning I read, as part of my devotions, Psalm 121:1-2: "I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." That same morning in worship we sang 'Hear our Praises'. It includes the line, "From the mountains to the valleys, hear our praises rise to you". Later that day, as I was driving, I was suddenly struck by how much more meaning those words had now that we were living in the valley, with such beautiful mountains all around.



History of the territory.

There are newspaper reports of Salvation Army activity starting in Toronto, Ontario, in January 1882. Five months later, the Army was reported holding meetings in London, Ontario. On 15 July the same year, Major Thomas Moore was sent from USA Headquarters to establish official operations in Canada.

In 1884, Canada became a separate command. An Act to incorporate the Governing Council of The Salvation Army in Canada received Royal Assent on 19 May 1909.

Salvation Army work in Newfoundland started on 1 February 1886 under the leadership of Divisional Officer Arthur Young. On 12 January 1896, Adjutant [later Colonel] Lutie Desbrisay and two assistant officers unfurled the flag in Bermuda, a British overseas territory in the North Atlantic Ocean.

What an unexpected blessing that God really spoke to me in this way.

If you would like to pray for our corps, can you please pray for souls to be saved, for people to grow spiritually, to see our community transformed by Jesus and, for us, mostly that our children will feel at home! ●

Far left: Matt and Fiona Kean with their children, Samuel, Mackenzie and Eli, at a family outing at the Orthello Tunnels in British Columbia; **Left:** Major David Macpherson, Area Commander, installs Captains Fiona and Matthew Kean as Chilliwack Corps Officers.

Viewpoint.

BEEN THINKING? We bring you a selection of opinion, critical thought, and topical writing to get you engaging with the world around you. To read more go to: others.org.au/viewpoint



The silent epidemic.

Loneliness: A lost calling to the Church?

WORDS CATHERINE PHILPOT

THE AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL Society, on the back of recent research it conducted with Swinburne University of Technology, has suggested that loneliness is Australia's next epidemic. The 2018 survey of 1678 people found that one in four Australians report feeling lonely three or more days per week; one in three Australians never or only rarely feel like they belong to a group of friends; and half of all Australians report feeling lonely at least one day per week.

Loneliness hurts mentally and physically. The Australian Psychological Society's data shows that loneliness increases the likelihood of experiencing depression by 15 per cent and anxiety by 13 per cent. Loneliness also increases blood pressure, heightening the risk of stroke and heart disease. As an immune suppressant, loneliness increases susceptibility to disease and shortens lifespans.

Current psychological thought is dominated by evolutionary approaches that argue that social isolation is damaging and distressing simply because, historically, the isolated individual had less chance of surviving and passing on genes to the next generation. But what if we apply a theological lens to the problem of loneliness and its solution?

Our origin stories as Christians sow the seed that loneliness is not part of God's design. In a narrative where the phrase

"It was good" is echoed over each creative effort, the first declaration that "It was not good" is applied to the human living alone in the garden.

Importantly, God's answer to this 'not-goodness' is not an adaption to the human psyche, but the creation of more humans. In God's worldview it is a fellow human being that is the suitable help to the person living alone.

Fast forward through the millennia and a humble carpenter emerges in a climate where religious leaders already acknowledge that loving your neighbour as yourself is the second principle upon which a good life is based. Jesus, that humble Jew, pushes the concept further with his teaching that we remain in God when we love each other as he loves. Jesus then makes clear the extent of his love, by laying down his life for love.

The importance of love among his followers has been written about for centuries. But I wonder whether we can act upon it better. What effect could every Christian loving their neighbour as themselves have on an epidemic of loneliness?

If love for others is the second command, is it our second priority in our church services, church activities or individual actions as Christians? If speech in the tongues of men and angels without love is like a clanging gong, what are the noises that we are making in our worship services? If knowledge without love is nothing, what do we talk about in our messages? If giving to the poor without love is nothing, what is our main focus in our community welfare centres?

Little things, like prayer times for others' needs, encouragement and sharing times, and big morning teas, can transform church services into communions. Remembering a name can transform an



encounter into a meaningful connection. Celebrating a birthday at a Family Store can turn a customer into a friend.

Because loneliness is affected more by the quality of our relationships than by their quantity, sharing our own vulnerability can go a long way in communicating to others that they are not alone. Telling our own stories of loss can help us connect to another who is lost and hurting too.

We teach prayer and Bible study as pathways to connecting with God. Let us not forget that Jesus taught connecting with others in love as a pathway to remaining connected to love divine. The apostle John puts it this way: "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:12). •

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Catherine Philpot is the South Brisbane Community Project Officer and Corps Officer at Centenary Corps.



WORTH QUOTING.

"The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God's wrath to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers." - A.W. Tozer

From Anzac Cove to Calvary.

A sombre spiritual journey

WORDS SIMON SMART

A HANDFUL OF YEARS AGO, I STOOD IN THE early morning light of a brilliantly clear day above the aqua waters at Anzac Cove, the stillness and rugged beauty of the place somehow making a fitting contrast to the blood-soaked soil we all know it once to have been. Around me were scores of young Australians whose backpacking adventures had drawn them to the hostels of the Gallipoli peninsula.

On that sparkling morning a spell appeared to come over the crowd as all became silent before the memorials and graves carrying disturbingly familiar-sounding names in such a foreign and faraway place. Most found somewhere to wander silently on their own, swallowing hard and wiping away tears. It was an extraordinary thing to witness.

This year, due to a quirk of the calendar and moon, Anzac Day fittingly follows quickly after Easter Sunday. There is much that links these days and ties them together.

Both Anzac Day and Easter are rich in a deeply embedded symbolism, evoking the gravity of what is being remembered, and the tradition that it seeks to pass on. Both events have their sceptics and revisionist historians who scoff at what they see as lavish and contrived myths. And the truth is that many regard both these marks on the calendar as nothing more than a good excuse for a holiday.

The connections don't stop there. Both days emerge from a story and a past that, for many, has the power to tell us who we are. The Good Friday part of Easter shares with 25 April the darkness of political betrayal, treachery, dashed hopes, young life cut short; more of a sense of the absence of God than his presence. Soldiers who have known the hell of war can relate more than most to the desolate 'Good Friday' cry from the cross that the Gospels report Jesus to have exclaimed, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Anzac and Easter stories both have that much sought after quality that connects us to something larger and grander than ourselves. Both tell of the ultimate sacrifice – the giving of a life for another. War memorials are frequently adorned with the old *King James Version* of John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Also held in common is the fear especially among older generations that the story will be lost, that we somehow need to cling to it but don't know how. Yet strangely, the young seem not to have abandoned the commemoration of Anzac Day. Dawn services will again be filled with all ages this year, but will the same be true of churches this Easter?

Biblical scholar and former Bishop of Durham Tom Wright argues that hunger for spirituality remains a driver for Westerners, although these days it manifests itself in many and varied ways. He suggests that spirituality is like a hidden spring bubbling up from beneath and penetrating the materialism of the West that has dominated thinking for so long. Is this partly what we see played out on Anzac Day?

Australian social commentator Hugh

Mackay would agree with Wright. Mackay's book, *The Ten Desires That Drive Us*, identified the "desire for something to believe in" as key. "Regardless of debates about the possible meanings of 'God'," says Mackay, "and regardless of the ever-expanding range and variety of religious faith and practice, the underlying truth is inescapable: there is a powerful human desire to believe in something in the realm of the non-material."

It's this 'non-material' element of life that still has power to stop us in our tracks before something of tragic beauty like a sacred battlefield. It's the indefinable quality that can compel some of us to get out of bed before dawn to attend sunrise services.

And the claims of Easter Sunday, for those who still take them seriously, remain a powerful balm to the jolting finality of standing before a human grave – whether it be at Lone Pine, or Pozieres, or Fromelles, or closer to home.

Somewhere behind the chocolate eggs and hot cross buns remains the strange and ancient account of a resurrection; the glimmer of hope that death is not the end of the story. It's this hope that's easily seen on the ageing gravestones at Gallipoli: "Our dear son who lost his life to find it," says one. "Not goodbye but goodnight," suggests another. For millions around the world, it's the enduring hope of Easter morning that adds rich meaning to all our joys and sorrows, including whatever it is that brings a lump to our throat at the sound of the Last Post come Anzac Day morning. •

Simon Smart is Executive Director of the Centre for Public Christianity. This is an edited version of an article that also appeared in *The Weekend Australian*.



WORTH
QUOTING.

"I don't believe in any religion apart from doing the will of God."
- Catherine Booth

Persecution index.

World's toughest places to be a Christian

WORDS GAVIN MATTHEWS

OPEN DOORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED its annual World Watch List. It's the definitive list of the places where Christians face the most severe persecution. The 2019 list contains some familiar names, but also some surprises.

The fact that the roll call of shameful governments is once again headed by North Korea is a surprise to no one. It has occupied this position of notoriety for 18 years. Little of what goes on in the world's most systematically totalitarian regime is known in the outside world, other than the infamous repression of Kim Jong Un's regime. For the Christian minority, persecution is notoriously severe, but precise statistics about the numbers are hard to establish. Open Doors' best estimates suggest that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 Christians in North Korea, of whom between 50,000 and 70,000 are toiling in brutal labour camps.

Steven Pinker, known for his advocacy of evolutionary psychology, has pointed to global trends of health care, education, life expectancy and violence, to argue that the world is getting substantially better. While there are many reasons to celebrate widespread progress in many fields, this should be matched by concern that for many of the world's Christians, persecution is getting substantially worse.

"Our research uncovers a shocking increase in the persecution of Christians globally," says Henrietta Blyth of Open Doors. "In China our figures indicate persecution is the worst it's been in more

than a decade – alarmingly, some church leaders are saying it's the worst since the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976. Worldwide, our data reveals that 13.9 per cent more Christians are experiencing high levels of persecution than last year. That's 30 million more people."

Among this number are one-in-three Asian Christians facing a violation of their human rights simply on account of their faith. It's no wonder that late last year, the British Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, estimated that 80 per cent of religious persecution in the world is targeted at Christians (www.bbc.com/news/uk-46682411).

China, which was once thought to be liberalising in its approach to human rights, including the freedom of religion, has moved up 16 places to become the 27th worst country for Christians. And it is shocking to see India appearing in the top 10 of the World Watch List in 2019 for the first time. The Indian Constitution protects freedom of religion and belief, yet research demonstrates that Hindu extremists can act with impunity and that violent attacks on Christians and churches are on the rise. This is driven by growing ultra-nationalism, which has brought waves of violence against India's significant non-Hindu religious minorities. Rising nationalism is leading to similar persecution in other countries such as Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal where national identity is tied to religion. Formal commitments to freedom of religion are being sidelined, as religious conformity is seen as national loyalty and minority belief a form of treachery.

North Korea once held the unenviable record of being the only country whose persecution index was ranked in the 'severe' category. In recent years, it has been joined by Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen,

Iran, India and Syria. The global situation has deteriorated so much that Open Doors has had to recalibrate its 'points' system for offending regimes. Nigeria saw 3700 Christians martyred in 2018, but doesn't even reach the top 10 on this year's persecution index.

Gender-specific persecution is receiving new attention in Open Doors research, which shows that the persecution of men tends to be "focused, severe and visible" and that of women is "complex, violent and hidden". Men are more likely to face detention without trial, or summary execution; whereas the persecution of women more typically involves sexual violence, rape or forced marriage. Syria bucks the trend for worsening persecution, as the widespread collapse of the Islamic State regime has stemmed the tide of abuses coming from that context. Read the Open Doors World Watch List at: www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-listz •

Gavin Matthews is a freelance writer who blogs at thathideousman.blogspot.com

Persecution, is rated as 'extreme' in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, India and Syria. It is 'very high' in Nigeria, Iraq, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Central African Republic, Algeria, Turkmenistan, Mali, Mauritania, Turkey, China, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Brunei, Tunisia, Qatar, Mexico and Kenya. Countries that have 'high' levels of persecution include the Russian Federation, Malaysia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bangladesh, Palestinian Territories and Azerbaijan.

*The Salvation Army has an official presence in 15 of the top 50 worst countries on the World Watch List.

Mailbox.



LORD NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET

I was greatly encouraged by the article on Peter Barker of the Perth Fortress Corps in the February issue of *Others*. I also grew up with a very busy Sunday: three meetings, two Sunday schools and one open-air meeting before marching back to the hall.

My family moved to a small country town where a group of two or three made up the open-air ring and I became a lone corps cadet. I am a traditionalist but have learnt to adapt and change.

My wife and I became officers, which we enjoyed, then came retirement. The day after our retirement everything stopped. No more communication at all; even all the newsletters stopped. It was as if we never ever belonged to The Salvation Army. I was devastated at the suddenness of it all.

I was invited to join the Darwin Probus club, which I did. As time went on a few people got to know that I was Salvation Army (I never hide the fact) and the group began to give gifts to the Christmas Appeal. After a few years the secretary who invited me to join, began to go down in health and at one meeting spoke to me about conducting his funeral when his time came.

Several weeks before his time came, I was asked, in the very early hours of the morning, to rush to the hospital. Another Probus club member who had gone for a check-up had been given just a few hours to live. I spent time with the family and was asked to conduct his funeral. The gentleman's death was totally unexpected and came as a great surprise to us all. In the days that followed the floodgates were opened. The number of members that have approached me has been amazing and with that a variety of questions.

I also volunteer with the preparation and the running of the Darwin Show, and it has opened doors as well. I may have

retired but the Lord has not finished with me yet. I have been reminded of the chorus, "Just where he needs me my Lord has placed me".

- Major Ian Dawson



EMBLEM DEBATE

I refer to Lieutenant-Colonel David Kelly's article, "Crest or Shield?", that appeared in the February issue of *Others*. I certainly hope people are not getting caught up in making a decision about one versus the other! That would be tragic!

On a broader level, we live in a world that encourages us to take an 'either/or' view of things. We see the negative effect of this mindset in the world every day. Issues can take on a completely different flavour, however, when viewed with a 'both/and' mindset.

Certainly the shield is a symbol of branding, and highly recognisable. The crest is a statement of principles and foundation and certainly could also be used more externally, in a purposeful way, to open up the conversation of who The Salvation Army is and what it stands for.

I personally think there is a lot to do to shift the perception from The Salvation Army being a social services organisation only, to The Salvation Army firstly being a Christian church that has a mission and commitment to providing social services when and where needed.

The key question is, when The Salvation Army is at its very best, how does it 'show up' in the world on a day-to-day basis – then seize every opportunity to spread the Gospel through the most effective ministry channels.

- Susan Derby



THE MEANS, NOT THE GOAL

Captain Pete Brookshaw's article, "What if The Salvation Army died?" (February issue of *Others*) is a timely reminder that our mission is to build the Kingdom of God. The Salvation Army is the means to achieve that goal, not the goal in itself.

I regularly remind myself that there's no Salvation Army headquarters, corps, social centre or any other department in heaven. There are only those who love and serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

- Major Merv Holland



PASSION FOR GOD-GIVEN MISSION

Regarding Captain Pete Brookshaw's article, "What if The Salvation Army died?" (February issue of *Others*).

Dear brother in Christ, thank you for sharing your thoughts, they are extremely important. I disagree with you on one point, however. Very early in my officership I stopped believing that 'God raised up The Salvation Army', which you claim you still do. However, like yourself, I strongly believe that our mission is God-given, and I share the passion.

The danger with the credo, 'God raised up The Salvation Army', is that our minds start to think that our structures and ways of doing our mission have God's unlimited approval. I have witnessed this attitude many times stopping vibrant initiatives that are in line with the God-given mission. The God-given mission will never die as long as people like yourself have the passion.

- Colonel Jostein Nielsen

others

f OthersAU

🐦 @OthersAU

📷 @Others_AU

Join the conversation

"Great stories of lives being transformed and new ministry opportunities with a missional purpose."

f Tracey Tidd

"The Army must again live up to its call to be a mission-focused Army!"

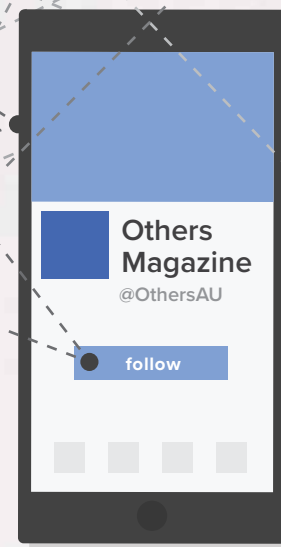
🐦 Brian Peddle

"Brilliant! Love the good news from around Australia."

f Peter Hobbs

"Awesome. God is doing a new thing in the hearts of people. Keep transforming lives in Jesus' Name." #livelovefight

📷 Belinda Spicer



Local Mission Delivery: it's in our DNA.

This is the first in a regular series looking at ways that The Salvation Army is engaging in mission across Australia. This will include initiatives in evangelism and discipleship, advocacy and social policy, community engagement and service provision. The intention is to offer ideas and stimulate action for holistic mission that expresses God's love for the individual, the community and all of creation.

WORDS LYN EDGE

A friend of mine came to The Salvation Army seeking help with his addiction to alcohol. The program he was attending brought him into contact with the local corps, and the Christian faith. Many years later he is flourishing in health, relationships and spirituality; intellectually stimulated and often found serving others. He came with one specific need in mind, and encountered a community that embraced and cared about his whole being. It expressed the good news of Jesus in both word and deed.

Holistic mission is a founding commitment of The Salvation Army. It's an essential part of our DNA. However, we've sometimes had an inconsistent approach to delivering our mission. At

times we've worked in silos, some parts focusing on the spiritual while others caring for physical needs. At other times, we have worked collaboratively and holistically. It was often ad hoc and dependent on the personal relationships between leaders of our different mission expressions in an area.

Local Mission Delivery brings together all our expressions in a geographical area to intentionally work holistically. This means that across Australia, the leaders of every mission expression in an area now meet every four to six weeks to collaborate on holistic mission. It's our new way of working together for the communities in which we serve. Our focus is not on ourselves, but reaching out in love to Australia and its people.

Themes of a broad and embracing holistic mission abound in the Scriptures. In the Hebrew Bible, 'salvation' is deliverance, from any and every circumstance and any negative power that prevents full, joyous life in community. Isaiah's vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25) has worship and prayer, along with a very concrete image of individuals and communities flourishing in every dimension of life – safe neighbourhoods, affordable housing, meaningful work, health care and equality.

Dualistic thinking [the separation of the sacred and the secular, the material and the spiritual] was imported from one strand of Greek philosophy by the Early Church. But when Jesus says, "Your faith has saved you", it accompanied physical healing and renewal of the economic, political and religious dimensions of life (Luke 7:50, 8:48, 17:19, 18:42). Jesus taught that God's kingdom is here now; it has broken into our world. He taught us to pray, "As above, so below" (Matt 6:9, *The Message*).

The Salvation Army founder, William Booth, understood this. His quote, "Making Heaven on Earth is our business" adorns the walls of our 614 Project community and worship hub in

Mission briefs.

- The Modern Slavery Act passed in Federal Parliament on 29 November 2018. The Senate acknowledged The Salvation Army contribution to the bill.
- The Salvation Army appeared before the Select Committee on Intergenerational Welfare Dependence. Final report due 12 April 2019.
- Major tenders awarded to The Salvation Army for: financial inclusion, drought and the Safer in Home program.
- The Senate Economics References Committee, Credit and Hardship: report of the Senate inquiry into credit and financial products targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship (February 2019) contains significant references to The Salvation Army through its submission and witness statements to the inquiry.

Melbourne, as true today as it was then. Faith and practice cannot be compartmentalised. The people of God are called to a mission not of fractions, but wholes. Local Mission Delivery continues The Salvation Army's incarnational, holistic tradition, faithful to our DNA and deeply in tune with God's intentions for the whole created order. ●

If you would like to know more, go to www.salvationarmy.org.au/lmd/resources/local-mission-delivery-animation

Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge is the Territorial Secretary for Mission.



WORDS GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

What causes you to be afraid? Is it the dark? Spiders? Illness, heights, confined spaces, money problems or the future? A myriad of things are understandable causes of fear, and often that fear is accompanied by anxiety. There is a recurring theme throughout Scripture where God tells us not to be afraid.

At Christmas we noted the words from the angel Gabriel to Mary as she was told she would be the mother of Jesus: “Do not be afraid” (Luke 1:30). Remember that, according to the Bible, angels are not quite the same as the helpless, beatific, tinsel-adorned young girls and boys who portray them in nativity plays. Psalm 103:20 describes them as “mighty”. The shepherds were comforted by the same phrase with the appearance of an angelic host (Luke 2:10). In Matthew’s account of the Resurrection morning, the first words of the angel at the tomb are: “Do not be afraid” (28:5). Just a few verses later, the women meet Jesus and his first words are: “Do not be afraid” (v.10).

The Old Testament addresses the same issue, when Joshua is about to succeed Moses. We read Moses’ encouraging words in Deuteronomy 31:8: “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” There is also the promise from God in Isaiah 43:1: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” And at the end of the New Testament, as John sees Jesus in his vision and falls at his feet, Jesus again says: “Do not be afraid” (Revelation 1:17).

So we see that throughout Scripture God says to us: “Do not be afraid.” In the life of Christ, even from the foretelling of his birth, to the announcement of the same, to that first Easter morning, we hear those same words: “Do not be afraid.” It seems clear to me that God is inviting us to move from a place of fear to a position where we implicitly trust this “immeasurably more” God who never fails. These words from

God are not just trite advice. For those who know God and share life with him, there is no need to be afraid because God has overcome the world (John 16:33), defeated sin on the Cross and conquered death – as revealed by the empty tomb! We need to remember this when fear takes hold of us.

God is not a distant, powerful deity; he is an ever-present God who seeks to live with and in his people. We need to couple the instruction of “Do not be afraid” with the recurring promise we read before: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” When fear takes hold, we should remember not only the omnipotence – all-powerfulness – of God; we should remember that he is right with us, beside us and in us. God’s perfect love “drives out fear” (1 John 4:18).

What is happening in your world and in your life this Easter?

Anyone who is struggling with sin and recurring cycles of behaviour that they feel unable to break can choose not to be afraid, but to trust in the God who broke the power of sin on the Cross. Anyone who is facing significant challenges in life within the family, at work or with health, for example, can choose not to be afraid, but to trust in the God for whom nothing is impossible. Anyone who is experiencing grief and loss can choose not to be afraid, but to trust in the God who conquered death and promises eternal life.

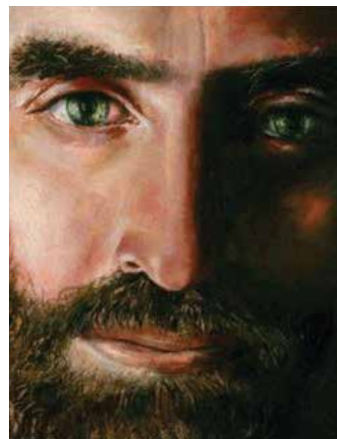
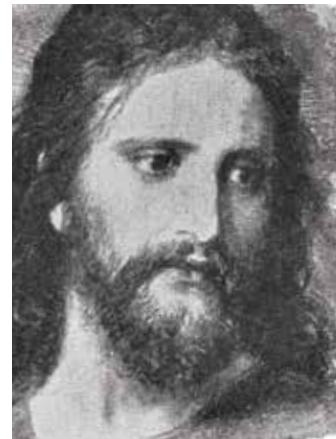
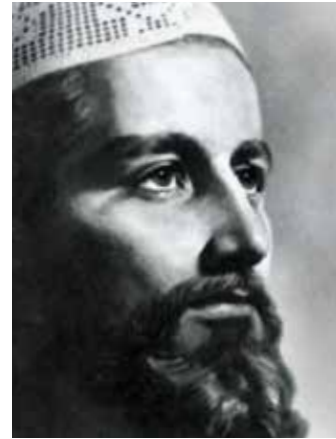
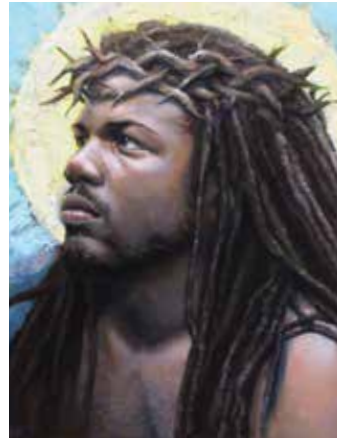
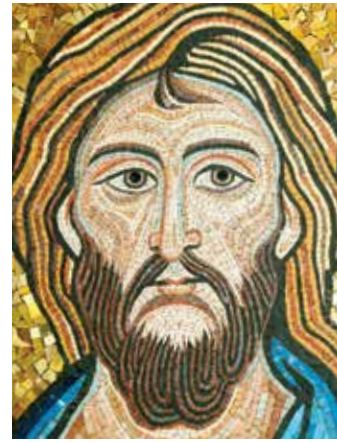
So, this Eastertide, do not be afraid. Remember – God is with you. Do not be afraid. Remember – God is bigger than the situation you are facing. Do not be afraid. Our God is victorious, and he invites us to share in his victory! •

.....
 General Brian Peddle is world leader of
 The Salvation Army.

The General’s Easter Message 2019

Do not be afraid.

Sharing in Christ’s victory



Who is this man?

Jesus has been depicted in every culture and corner of the Earth. But who is he?

WORDS INGRID BARRATT

Jesus is the most depicted person who ever lived. We all know what he looked like – the long hair, beard, tall slender frame, and calming demeanour. So when Richard Neave, a medical artist and expert in forensic anthropology, created a realistic depiction of what Jesus may have looked like, the results were shocking: Jesus seemed to resemble a New York taxi driver.

Jesus' facial features were gleaned from first-century Jewish skulls and other archaeological data. Neave reasoned that Jesus would have been about 1.7m (5ft 5ins). His lifestyle would have made him muscular but slight, probably with skin as tough as old leather.

In her book *What Did Jesus Look Like?* historian Joan Taylor says Jesus would have had Arabic-like features. "Judeans of this time were closest biologically to Iraqi Jews of the contemporary world," she says. According to cultural data, his black, curly hair would have been short, and his beard closely cropped using a knife. "I think what you would recognise Jesus as being, is just really someone who looked very poor," says Taylor.

All depictions of Jesus are imaginative, of course. Biblical accounts are stubbornly silent on what he actually looked like. The way we have depicted Jesus over the ages says a lot more about us than it says about him. It is telling that Neave's original depiction of Jesus was later modified to give him a more dignified expression and – dare we say it

– more attractive appearance. We do like our heroes handsome and powerful!

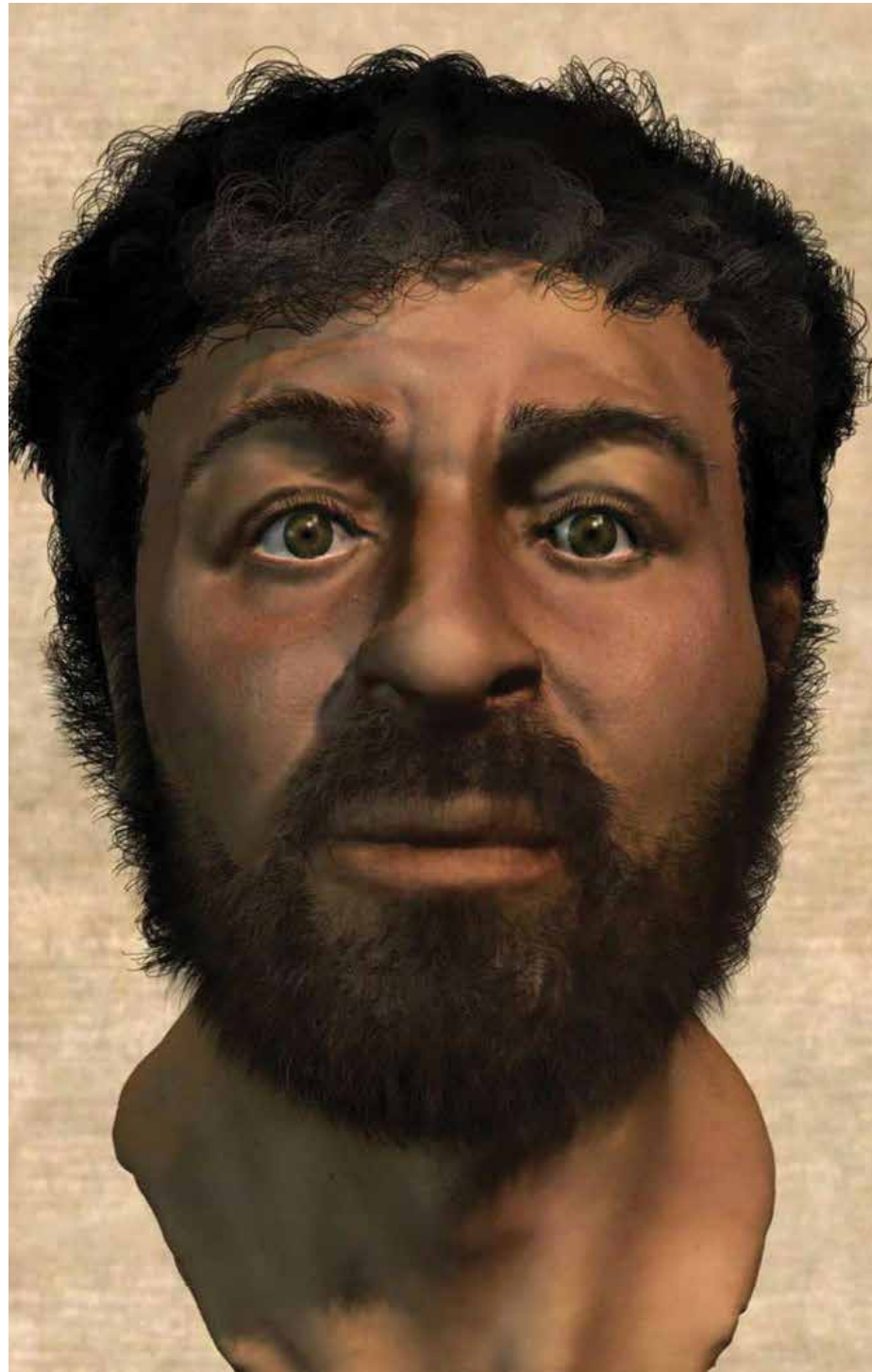
The fact that the Bible gives us no clue about what Jesus looked like is God's first clue to us: he does not judge by human standards. In Jesus, he was about to turn all our expectations about power, success and even divinity inside out.

KNOWING THE UNKNOWNABLE

Film depictions of Jesus often show him calm and emotionless, moving above the fray – the "Prozac Jesus", as author Philip Yancey calls him. But this is not the Jesus we find in the Bible. In fact, it's perhaps surprising to discover how much Jesus was a people person – he constantly allowed himself to get distracted by passers-by. Jesus seemed to build rapport almost instantly. He was easily moved by others. He was generous with his compliments – "Your faith has healed you!" he declared, deflecting credit away from himself.

But he also got angry and impatient. "Are you still so dull?" an exasperated Jesus snaps at the disciples (which, quite frankly, doesn't seem very 'Christian'). He cried openly and relished public displays of affection. He was an incredibly vulnerable man – would you ever face up to your friend and ask, "Do you love me?". Well, Jesus did!

He was not play-acting at being human. Jesus felt things fully, he lived life deeply. In many of our ▶



◉ Is this the 'real' face of Jesus? British medical artist Richard Neave created this image of the most famous face in human history, based on first-century Jewish skulls and other archaeological data.

depictions of Jesus, we seem to resist his humanness. It's as if we would rather he kept a dignified distance. But Jesus mucked in with our humanity.

In Jesus, the impenetrable distance between Heaven and Earth collapsed into nothing. Through Jesus, God is saying: "Here I am. I am with you." Because of Jesus, we can know the unknowable. We have seen the invisible God.

THE ARCHITECT

It's important we understand Jesus as a fully-fledged Jewish man, because there is no doubt that his followers believed he would be the Jewish King – the Messiah who had been prophesied. He would return Israel to freedom and prosperity. It was only a matter of time before an army would rise up to overturn the Roman Empire.

Then, just as Jesus was reaching the height of his fame and popularity, he presented his manifesto. This time he spoke plainly, not in parables. And quite frankly, it was confusing. Weird. Offensive even. "Blessed are you [more accurately translated as "Lucky you!"] when you are 'poor in spirit,'" says Jesus (see Matthew 5-7 for the full account). Lucky you! When you grieve, when you're humble, merciful, pure-hearted and love peace.

The people were expecting a declaration of war. Instead, they got a manifesto for meekness. "They were looking for a builder to construct the sort of home they thought they wanted, but [Jesus] was the architect, coming with a new plan that would give them everything they needed, but within quite a new framework," says Tom Wright, in *Simply Jesus*.

Many complex influences collided to culminate in Jesus' death. The Romans were determined to stamp out any threat to their rule. But Jesus also failed to meet the Jewish expectations of the Messiah – so they concluded he must be an imposter. He was crucified as a traitor to Rome and blasphemer before God.

“
*... the greatest miracle Jesus ever performed
 was being a white man in first-century Israel.*
 ”

But the Bible claims the impossible – that Jesus very thoroughly, and very bodily, came back to life again. Wright makes the point that this story was as strange then as it is today – it had never happened before; it has never happened since. "The stories don't fit ... they seem to be about a person who is equally at home 'on earth' and 'in heaven'. And that is, in fact, exactly what they are."

Jesus was revealed as the longed-for King; the Messiah. But not in any way we would recognise. He would not rule in time and space. Instead, he continues to rule through an unseen kingdom. He did not overcome with power, he infiltrated us with love. He did not stake out his greatness, he subverted us with grace. These truths continue to upend us today.

How different are we to those first-century followers who wanted a king of power? We try to fit Jesus into our self-built values of consumerism, wealth, power and success. And Jesus is still refusing to enter that building. He is still insisting on being the architect of a whole new way.

FOR ALL PEOPLE

There is a joke that the greatest miracle Jesus ever performed was being a white man in first-century Israel. As the dominant culture became European, images of Jesus became blue-eyed and pale-skinned. And so Jesus became yet another symbol of colonial oppression.

Yet every culture in the world has appropriated Jesus for themselves. Artists have portrayed Jesus as black, as Asian, with dreadlocks, and with Celtic red hair. There is even an image of Jesus as a woman – and why not? Why shouldn't I, as a woman, be able to relate to Jesus through my feminine identity?

In New Zealand, Sofia Minion has beautifully reimaged Jesus as Māori. He is a warrior, a chief – but instead of proving his greatness with war and utu (a Māori concept which covers both the reciprocation of kind deeds, and the seeking of revenge), Ihu (Māori name for Jesus) has shown us a new path. He proves he is the great Atua (God) by coming in forgiveness and peace.

The miracle of Jesus' life is that he lives on as part of every culture and every historical nuance. The ability of Jesus to transcend culture, and yet fit within every culture, shows us that God really is with us.

The idea that Jesus can "be my best friend" is often mocked. But, actually, isn't that the miracle of Easter? The divide between us and God was shattered. We can know God, and even call him friend. God and humanity were never meant to be separate. In Jesus, we were brought back into intimate relationship with each other.

JESUS IS EVERYTHING

But that was just the beginning. The reverberations of Jesus' life and death and

life again, can be felt through the cosmos. "Heaven' and 'earth' are not like oil and water, resisting each other and separating themselves out," says Wright. He argues that the Bible sees Heaven and Earth not as separate, but as interlocking and connecting.

During his lifetime, Jesus' constant refrain was, "The kingdom of heaven is near!" In truth, it's so close, we can almost touch it! When Jesus taught us to pray, he said: "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." He showed us heaven – through his miracles, his healing, his compassion and grace. "A new power is let loose on the world, the power to remake what was broken, to heal what was diseased, to restore what was lost," sums up Wright.

The defining moment in history, when Jesus rose from the dead, was the beginning of a whole new creation that is still revealing itself today. Within three decades of Jesus' death and resurrection, Paul – who had been an orthodox Jew until he discovered Jesus – described how "God placed all things under [Jesus'] feet and appointed him to be head over everything ... who fills everything in every way" (Ephesians 1:23).

This vision of Jesus is not just as a personal saviour, although that is important. It goes further. He brings salvation to the universe – he is restoring the whole world to its original and perfect creation. Whenever we act according to the Kingdom of Jesus – when we bring healing, love, grace and peace – we become active participants in this new creation.

Who is Jesus? He is everything.●

.....
 Ingrid Barratt is the Editor of *WarCry* (New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory).



Robert Seymour lived a rebellious life until 6 March 1976 when he gave his life to the Lord. Photo: Lena Pobjie.

‘He just loved me and prayed for me’.

Sunday school teacher never gave up on ‘wild’ Bob

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

This is the story of a battered, abused and rebellious park Sunday school kid who ‘went wild’ for a while but returned 60 years later to personally pastor his dying teacher.

The story starts in a small park at Fernhill (now Tarrawanna), a northern suburb of Wollongong, on the NSW South Coast, in 1956. Ken and Joy Pittard, then newly-married soldiers of Wollongong Corps, accepted a challenge to take over a sizeable park Sunday school started in a predominantly public housing area by a church lady a few years earlier. They soon increased weekly attendance to 120.

Among the children attending the park Sunday school were brother and sister Robert and Lyn Seymour. Robert was then six; Lyn was eight. Lyn (now Mather) stayed with the Sunday school, became a teacher and was enrolled as a Salvation Army soldier when Tarrawanna became its own corps in 1966. She remains an influential leader within the corps. Ken and Joy returned to Wollongong Corps and continued teaching there. But for Robert ... well, Salvation Army life wasn’t for him as he moved into his teens.

Life at home was not happy. Robert and Lyn were often harshly punished by their mother. Robert was sexually abused by a family friend. “I became defiant,” Robert tells *Others* magazine. “When Mum bashed me, I would say, ‘Is that the best you can do?’ But it wasn’t just the physical beatings. It was also the words of humiliation. I was made to feel worthless. I became very aggressive toward God.”

Robert was expelled from two primary schools and a high school because of bad behaviour. He tried to start a fire in one school. He broke into the Tarrawanna Salvation Army hall and tried to burn it down. ▶

REMAINING DEFIANT

After he was expelled from high school at 15, he left home and got a job at a local hotel, where he started drinking alcohol – a lot of alcohol. By 17, he was pretty well entrenched in the local illegal activity industry, driving his bosses – and a magistrate – to gambling establishments. “I was full of fear, rage, anger and resentment, blaming everybody else for my life, which was pretty much a dense fog,” he says.

“By this stage I was 26 but still acting like that 12-year-old who hated the world and everybody in it. But the real saints of this world didn’t give up on me. I was living just five houses from the Wollongong Salvation Army citadel. After a long Sunday at the pub or club, I would walk past the citadel on a Sunday night. Ken Pittard would be standing on the steps of the citadel. Every Sunday night I walked past, Ken was there. He would say, ‘Will you come in tonight, Bob?’ I never did. I was working at a local pub. Another Salvo, Albert Shaw, came in with the

Robert with his sister Lyn, who became a senior soldier of Tarrawanna Corps in 1966 and prayed for her brother’s conversion for the next 10 years.



Warcry. Like Ken, Albert kept inviting me to church. One day, Albert introduced a young man preparing for Salvation Army ministry. His name was Paddy Mullan. Albert told me Paddy would look after me. Paddy had a word with me every week after that.” But Robert remained defiant.

“One Sunday afternoon, I was driving home from a big drinking day, when I saw Mrs Phyllis Sampson [a then elderly Tarrawanna soldier] hosing her garden in her uniform,” Robert says. “I stopped to say hello. She asked me to drive her to the Tarrawanna Sunday night meeting. I knew what she was up to. She wanted me to go to church with her. When we got to the church, she asked me to go in. I said, ‘no’. ‘Well,’ she said, ‘if you won’t come in here, at least go to Wollongong because it’s Paddy’s farewell meeting tonight.’”

Robert went to the Wollongong meeting. He chose to sit alone. “I couldn’t handle it. So, I left and went home. I had planned to kill myself that night. I had a loaded shotgun in the house. But I also had thoughts of how I hadn’t given God a go and I should, at least, say goodbye to Paddy. I went back to The Salvation Army in Wollongong. The meeting was over. People were attending a farewell supper in the church hall. I found Paddy and told him that I wanted to give God a go. He took me into the church and led me in the Penitent’s Prayer. We prayed a few more prayers because Paddy said I needed to apologise to God.

“When I stood up and turned around, there were all these people standing behind me. They had been there praying for me. There was Ken and Joy. There was Albert. As I looked around, I could see teachers who had taught me at the Tarrawanna park Sunday school. It was the sixth of March, 1976.”

Next morning, Robert drove to his sister Lyn’s home to tell her about his life-changing decision. He and Lyn had not been in contact for several years.



Robert with his Sunday school teacher Joy Pittard, and a photo of Joy’s late husband Ken, who ‘never gave up’ on Robert.

Robert became a Salvation Army officer and last November conducted the funeral of his old Sunday school teacher, Ken Pittard. Photos: Lena Pobjie



“I knocked on the door. Lyn answered, got a shock and asked me what I was doing there. I told her about my decision. She buckled over and started to cry. I thought, well that didn’t go well. And I left. I called in to see Mrs Sampson. She was waiting for me and invited me in. She said Lyn was on the way. Lyn had already been on the phone to Mrs Sampson. They showed me an exercise book. In it were the names of the kids from the Tarrawanna park Sunday school. ‘Look,’ she said and pointed to the name Robert Seymour.” Mrs Sampson told Bob that she and Lyn had been praying for him and the other kids every Tuesday for years.

FULL CIRCLE

Twelve months after his commitment, Robert was accepted to train for Salvation Army officership. His early appointments included managing a Salvation Army childcare centre in Sydney and commanding Mt Isa Corps and men’s and women’s refuges with his wife, Geanette, also an officer.

He returned to Sydney to work in street outreach at Kings Cross and inner-city welfare. He and Geanette separated after 15 years of marriage. They have remained

‘good friends’. Due to the marriage separation, Robert was out of officership for nine years, but continued working for The Salvation Army. He married his second wife, Robyn Black, who was not a Salvationist at the time. Robyn became a soldier and then an officer. Robert returned to officership, with an appointment as manager of Foster House men’s hostel in Sydney and later William Booth House Recovery Services Centre, from where he retired almost three years ago.

Robyn held several separate positions in Sydney, but, close to Robert’s retirement, she was appointed Corps Officer at Tarrawanna. At first, Robert was reticent about Robyn’s Tarrawanna appointment because of the memories it would bring back for him. But he reconciled the appointment on the basis that it was Robyn’s appointment and he needed to support her.

Early last year, Ken Pittard had surgery for a heart condition. Complications followed. He was kept in hospital and then a nursing home for a total of nine months. Ken’s family contacted Robert and asked if he could visit his old Sunday school teacher. Robert visited Ken every week for seven months, reading the Bible

to him, sharing notes he had purposely prepared, and praying.

“I felt an incredible affection for this man [Ken],” Robert says. “Ken Pittard represented the start of my spiritual journey ... he was there at the beginning. He never gave up on me, he supported me right through and was there at the end. I had the opportunity to do for Ken and Joy what they did for me and many other Tarrawanna kids at the park Sunday school 60 years or so ago.

“On one of the last visits to Ken, as I was leaving I kissed him on the cheek. I loved this man. Not once – despite the lifestyle I led in my younger days and the many times I let him down – did Ken ever judge me. He just loved me and prayed for me.”

Robert Seymour conducted the Celebration of Ken Pittard’s Life at Wollongong on 20 November 2018. He proudly introduced himself: “I’m Robert Seymour,” he said, “friend of Ken and an officer of The Salvation Army.”

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for Others.



➤ Rachal Mills has rekindled a passion for Jesus and The Salvation Army after walking away from both in her early 20s. Photo: Lena Pobjie

Rekindling a passion for 'Blood and Fire'.

Rachal reconnects with Army's mission and core values

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

Approaching the front door of Rachal Mills' house, you can hear the faint sound of music coming from inside the 38-year-old single mother's home. It's not pop music, or a popular radio station, it's The Salvation Army's classic hymn, *O Boundless Salvation*. It's one of Rachal's favourites.

"Bring back the band! Bring back the timbrels!" she enthuses, when asked about her love of what most other Salvos her age would describe as 'old-fashioned' Army music. "You have to have the band. People minister through the band and ... music is an incredibly important part of who we are and what we do. We have to bring it all back, but bring it back and make it relevant."

Her taste in Army music isn't the only thing that makes Rachal stand out from the crowd. Her home is filled with Army history and memorabilia, with a whole wall dedicated to The Salvation Army that greets visitors as soon as they walk in.

"We have the 'Blood and Fire' all over our house," she says. "People can't miss it!" The mother of three young children says while she didn't intentionally set her home up as a witness for The Salvation Army,

it has become a great talking point for anyone who visits.

"They come and as they walk in, they stop, and they look ... and I say, 'It's okay, you can stand there, just have a look', and they're like, 'Oh wow!' And they start to ask questions."

A senior soldier of Macquarie Fields Mission in NSW, Rachal may be one of the most passionate Salvationists in Australia, but she hasn't always lived like this. Growing up in The Salvation Army, she says her connection to the mission wasn't strong.

"I didn't fully appreciate as a child why we were Salvationists and why we had our holiness meeting and our two meetings a day and why we marched around the street and why we had congresses, I didn't understand any of that – I just did it because Mum and Dad did it and that's what we had to do."

ABANDONING FAITH

That lack of connection, and a falling out with the Army, led to her walking out of her corps and abandoning her faith in her early 20s. Her life spiralled downwards ▶



and more than a decade of drink, drugs and abuse followed. By the time she had hit her early 30s she was homeless and self-harming. But her family and The Salvation Army never stopped praying for her and one day, in 2015, she walked into The Salvation Army in Parramatta, swallowed her pride and asked for help. It was the start of a revival of her heart and soul, and in July 2016, Rachal was re-enrolled as a soldier. This time, she says, things are different.

“Now I understand our mission and our purpose,” she says. “And that’s what sparks the passion inside of me.”

That passion has led her to study a double Diploma in Community Services and Case Management in just one year, all while being a sole parent to her three children, one of whom hasn’t started primary school yet. She says she’s better for her time outside the Army, which helped her to truly experience and understand its purpose and mission. And while she wouldn’t recommend others make the same life choices that she did, she believes many Salvationists who have grown up in the Army also need a reawakening. “Generational Salvationists grow up learning

about Jesus, but sometimes we forget to teach our kids about the history of why we are Salvationists and why we are part of this mission,” she says.

“You lose passion for something if you don’t know why you’ve joined. If you join an organisation and you don’t know what it stands for, you’re not going to fight for it, are you? So, we need to understand why William Booth and Catherine Booth created The Salvation Army and understand its mission and core values before we can fully and wholeheartedly fight for it.”

PREPARED FOR BATTLE

Her favourite pieces in her collection of Salvation Army historical memorabilia are her packet of ‘Darkest England’ matches and her framed ‘Darkest England and the Way Out’ poster: “I stare at it all the time,” she says. “The Army was built on the lost and the drowning. The lost souls, we were built on that, we’re made up of that. We started with these people and I think, respectfully, we forget where we came from as an Army.”

Rachal is grateful to her uncle, noted Army historian



Far left: Rachal proudly stands in front of her Salvation Army memorabilia at home; Third left: One of her favourite pieces, the ‘Darkest England’ poster; Second left: Many of the books in her collection were gifted by her uncle, Envoy George Hazell; Above: Reading up on Salvation Army history is a favourite pastime. Photos: Lena Pobje

Envoy George Hazell, for gifting her many pieces in her collection. She says reading his books, including the letters of Catherine Booth, added to her passion for The Salvation Army to gain new life and fully embrace its mission to bring the Kingdom to earth.

“We are all commissioned,” she says. “I think we forget that. We are all commissioned and you don’t need permission to go out and commission others. Salvationists need to step up, we need to get our bottoms off our seats and we need to get out and we need to walk the streets again! The uniform we wear is not just to look pretty, it’s a battle uniform. It’s meant to get dirty, we’re meant to take it out on the battlefield – the streets of our neighbourhoods – not keep it inside the Army hall.”

• To read Bill Simpson’s feature story on Rachal Mills’ testimony, go to (issuu.com/salvos/docs/pipeline-sep-2016/13)

“*We need to understand why William Booth and Catherine Booth created The Salvation Army and understand its mission and core value before we can fully and wholeheartedly fight for it.*”

Lauren Martin is a writer and social media coordinator for Others.



words Mark Hadley

01.

GOOD OMENS

Rating: M
Channel: Amazon prime



IMAGINE: SOMEONE SAYS TO YOU, WITH 100 per cent certainty, the world will end tomorrow. How good or bad that sounds depends very much on your perspective. For believers, it's news you're finally going home. For unbelievers, it's a horrific affair, best avoided. No surprise, then, that a new television series suggests if you don't like the outcome, best change the script. Welcome to *Good Omens*.

This six-part series is based on the hugely successful novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, which centres on an angel called Aziraphale and the demon Crowley. They have been the physical representations of Heaven and Hell on Earth for thousands of years. They've also got quite comfortable, and more than a little fond of humanity. When news arrives that Armageddon is on the way, they decide it's time to combine their strengths and stop it. This involves finding the Antichrist and preventing him from making the choice between Good and Evil, which will precipitate that fateful day. A fair enough plan – until they realise they've misplaced him.

Good Omens generally makes light of the Bible, and uses it more for inspiration than information. It begins by suggesting the only truly accurate prophecies ever written were contained in another book by a good-willed witch called Agnes. But buried in this absurdist comedy are at least one truth and one lie worth noting.

The first is that "The Devil made me do

it' is no real excuse. The world isn't in the state it is today because God fails to do something. As the original novel puts it, human beings are the engines of our own demise: "Hell wasn't a major reservoir of evil, any more than Heaven, in Crowley's opinion, was a fountain of goodness; they were just sides in the great cosmic chess game. Where you found the ... real heart-stopping evil, was right inside the human mind."

So, the suggestion humanity would be better off left alone seems more than a little optimistic.

Good Omens' lie, though, is that God is playing his cards very close to his chest, and no one can really know if he's going to do anything about humanity's mess: "He plays an ineffable game of his own devising, which might be compared, from the perspective of any of the other players to being involved in an obscure and complex variant of poker in a pitch-dark room, with blank cards, for infinite stakes, with a Dealer who won't tell you the rules, and who smiles all the time" (T. Pratchett and N. Gaiman, *ibid*).

However, the Bible makes it clear God is neither distant from the world's pain, nor without a plan. His intention has always been to create children who will bring praise to his name by enjoying him forever. And better than a cracked piece of parchment, he sent his son, Jesus, to speak clearly on his behalf: "In these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Good Omens will be good for a laugh this month, but don't let the giggles blind you to the good that God has in store for those who lean on his son. Like Pratchett and Gaiman suggest, we may actually be the source of all that's truly wrong with the world, but the solution is well beyond us. ●



Words Mark Hadley

02.

THE LEGO MOVIE 2:
THE SECOND PART

Rating: PG
Release date: 21 March



THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART is a carefully constructed tower of comedy, commercialism and pop culture references, much like its predecessor. However, this time heroes Emmet and Lucy are learning about the sorts of 'sins' that will bring about the end of the world. *The Second Part* picks up where the first left off, with Emmet and his blocky friends confronting the startling

effort he's poured into his creations. Finn responds with a petulant rage that leads to the smashing of her own constructions. Neither can see their determination to have things their own way is actually destroying their happiness.

The film's second 'sin', though, is going to be a little harder for Christians to condemn. Emmet is mocked by others for not having a tougher approach to the world around him. It leads him to beg the film's anti-hero to help him become a 'Master Breaker': "Teach me to be like you, and I'll finally be someone that Lucy can be proud of!"

But by the end of the film it becomes clear what we're actually being asked to condemn is requiring someone to be anything other than what their heart tells them to be.

The Lego Movie 2 is a fun frolic that will have kids singing and laughing all the way to the car. But 'change' makes a poor villain. We certainly want to equally value Emmet's meekness and Lucy's courage. However, parents *should* be in the business of change. Otherwise, we'd just satisfy ourselves with finding Finn and Bianca separate Lego sets so they'd never have to surrender their childlike selfishness.

Thankfully, our Heavenly Father takes a different tack. He's not satisfied with leaving us the way we are, because he knows that when we change to become more like him, we approach the best version of ourselves: "We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness" (Hebrews 12:9-10).

.....
Mark Hadley is the culture writer for Others and is one of Australia's leading Christian communicators.
.....

01.

PETER MCGUIGAN

THE LEADERSHIP OF JESUS

Review: Stuart Glover



It is often quipped, “Everything rises or falls on leadership”, and it is no more especially true than in our current context of The Salvation Army in Australia. Peter

McGuigan’s book, *The Leadership of Jesus*, is a timely reminder for all who would lead, at all levels, in this season to centre our leadership style and practice on Jesus himself.

Peter’s writing style outlines these leadership principles simply and allows for immediate application by all who have been called to lead in our movement, whether it be an officer serving in a headquarters, a social mission expression leader, or a soldier or corps member leading a ministry in a small corps in regional Queensland.

Particularly insightful to Peter’s presentation of Jesus’ leadership principles, is the commencement of each chapter with a prayer of personal challenge and a conclusion with reflection activities – two integral components of spiritual leadership. Not only does this help the reader gain insight, but it assists them to develop a pattern of prayerful and

reflective leadership. The format of the book lends itself to a personal leadership journey but also to groups wanting to sharpen their leadership ‘iron’ together.

Leading like Jesus will be instrumental if we are to see the vision of transforming Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus. Peter’s book is a great resource to help us do just that.

02.

DERICK KANE AND THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND

MY JOURNEY



My Journey is a compilation of recordings released to mark the retirement of Derick Kane from the solo euphonium position after 42 years of loyal service

with The Salvation Army International Staff Band.

Kane joined the ISB in 1976 as principal euphonium and over the four decades since has featured as concert soloist and recording artist, with many solos written specially for him. He has also served as the ISB’s deputy bandmaster since 2000. Featured on *My Journey* are 14 memorable tracks charting his journey, recorded between 1982 and the present day, including a bonus track, *The Flower Duet*, a duet with his son Stephen.

03.

DAVID ARMISTEAD

ALL GLORY TAE GOD

Review: Laurie Robertson



I have a direct bloodline with Scotland through my father who migrated to Australia 94 years ago. So it is exciting for me to have had the opportunity

to read *All Glory Tae God*, which provides fabulous insights into The Salvation Army in Scotland from 1879-2005.

There are wonderful stories of spiritual and physical transformation, rapid growth, wartime service and struggles, innovation and ongoing, relevant practical ministry to the vulnerable. The Salvationist Scots are a hardy, resilient, creative, sleeves-rolled-up people and author David Armistead reveals this over and over again. The past can inform and assist present and future ministry – this book helps us learn.

Even if you don’t have a drop of Scottish blood running through your veins there is much to praise God for in *All Glory Tae God*.

The above books are available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).

“Generosity to those in need matters to me...

and it is a core value in our family.”



With a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army, your generosity can transform the lives of individuals, families and communities for generations to come.

When writing or updating your Will, please consider leaving a gift to The Salvation Army.

Contact The Salvation Army’s Wills and Bequests team to find out how you can start or continue a lasting legacy of generosity.

Partner with us to continue God’s work and, together, we can give hope where it’s needed most long into the future.



For more information, please call 1800 337 082.

To see more new releases or to watch video reviews of new movies and TV shows go to:

others.org.au/reviews



Malawi officer graduates in Australia

A SALVATION ARMY OFFICER from the south-eastern African country of Malawi has fulfilled a lifelong dream by receiving a Diploma of Ministry from Australia.

Major Doricah Tulombolombo graduated from Eva Burrows College last year, but only just received her certificate on a recent three-week visit to Australia.

The senior trainer at the Officer Training College in Malawi Territory, Major Tulombolombo was presented with her diploma by Captain Mark Townsend at a special ceremony in Sydney, having missed the college's official graduation ceremony last May due to other commitments.

"It has been my dream all of my life," she said of the honour.

Major Tulombolombo began long-distance education with the college in 2014 after receiving a scholarship.

The degree took Major



^ Major Doricah Tulombolombo with her graduation certificate.

Tulombolombo four years to complete, and she was assisted by Narelle Gurney, who is an Australian project officer working with the Army in Malawi.

Narelle met Doricah almost nine years ago and they have formed a close friendship.

"Doricah always had a dream of doing further study because

she was unwell as a child so couldn't go to university," said Narelle. "It really means an enormous amount to her."

Entering training college at 20, Major Tulombolombo has been an officer for 22 years and is passionate about raising up the next generation of officers in the Malawi Territory.

— Jessica Morris

SAES teams assist at Victorian fires

SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY Services (SAES) teams were activated last month to respond to immediate needs of local communities impacted by bush-fires in Victoria's south-east.

SAES teams were initially directed to areas including Cranbourne Pakenham, Berwick, Warragul and Leongatha, assisting at four evacuation centres by providing food, water and other essentials.

SAES volunteers also delivered bedding and blankets for 320 people, along with toiletries, shoes and clothing to people at evacuation centres in Drouin, Pakenham, Morwell and Sale.

"Out of tragic circumstances, it's quite wonderful to see the good – the community rallying and working together to help each other," said Major Gary Grant, Area Officer, Victoria South East.

— Simone Worthing

Macarthur Corps launched in Sydney's growing west

THE NEW MACARTHUR CORPS in Sydney's expanding west was launched on Sunday 24 February, a coming together of congregations from Narellan Corps and Campbelltown Corps.

The corps, under the leadership of Lieutenant Nicola Poore, is meeting at The Salvation Army building in Narellan until a permanent location is found.

Captain Robyn Black, Area Officer, said the feeling was one of excitement as new relationships were being forged at the united corps.

"It's an exciting time for the south-west," she said. "The meeting on that Sunday was significant and poignant and it was good to mark endings and beginnings."

Macarthur Corps is just



^ Area Officer, Captain Robyn Black, affirms Lieutenant Nicola Poore as the new Macarthur Corps Officer.

about to launch a new ministry as a 'connect site', and has expanded its street outreach.

"Things like this are exciting because we get to start this new ministry together," said Lieut Poore.

Lieut Poore, alongside Lieutenant-Colonels Jan and Peter Laws (Transition Officers), has also been focusing on pastoral care and encouraging people from both Narellan and Campbelltown

Corps to be involved in existing or new ministries.

"The best way for people to feel involved, and to feel part of their local corps is by serving together," Lieut Poore said.

— Lauren Martin

Moneycare financial counsellor named Goulburn woman of the year

SALVATION ARMY MONEYCARE Financial Counsellor Sarah Baines has been named the NSW Government's Goulburn Woman of the Year.

The announcement was made in lead-up to International Women's Day on 8 March in a surprise meeting at the office of the State Member for Goulburn, Pru Goward, who later posted on Facebook: "Sarah's work as a financial counsellor with The Salvation Army Goulburn to vulnerable people in our community is legendary and powerful."



^ Sarah Baines (left) receives her award from Pru Goward.

Sarah has been a Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counsellor for the past eight

years, providing free financial counselling and support for individuals, couples and families. She is passionate about advocating for people within the financial system who are burdened by debt and unable to navigate a way through their situation.

During that time, she has assisted hundreds of people, helping to negotiate settlements with banks, creditors and lift the heavy burden of debt from families and individuals. The result has been described by her participants as "miraculous",

with people experiencing better mental health outcomes, less family stress and a more hopeful outlook on life.

Earlier this year, another Salvation Army financial support worker was recognised, this time for her service to the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS). The Salvation Army's Leigh-Anne Simpson, from Tasmania's Doorways office in New Norfolk, was awarded a distinguished service award for her administration of the NILS scheme in her area.

— Lauren Martin

Commissioners install new leaders for Tasmania

AUSTRALIA'S TERRITORIAL leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, have installed Captains Kim and Steven Haworth as leaders of the Tasmania Division during a tour of the state.

The Welcome and Installation meeting was held at Hobart Corps, where Commissioner Floyd spoke about the new season for The Salvation Army in Australia and the Tasmania Division.

"We are excited to be leading the Tasmania Division in this new season for The Salvation Army Australia Territory,"

said Captain Kim. "We look forward to joining with God and others in this beautiful place, to continue the great work being done to transform lives with the love of Jesus."

Captain Kim then preached on Paul's 'glorious obsession' with the Gospel, encouraging all Salvationists to embrace the mission of the Army with the same vigour as the apostle.

"As Salvationists [we are called] to have that same glorious obsession with our new national vision and mission that God invites us into every day ... to live, love and fight alongside



^ Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd (left), Captains Di and Tim Size, and Captains Kim and Steve Haworth at Derwent Valley Corps.

others, transforming lives with the love of Jesus," she said.

The commissioners also visited Derwent Valley Corps for Sunday morning worship, accompanied by Captains

Kim and Steven. The Derwent Valley Corps Officers, Captains Di and Tim Size, said the visit was timely as the state entered a new national era.

— Jessica Morris

Women of Queensland 'captivated' by the vision

ABOUT 300 WOMEN FROM ACROSS Queensland and Northern NSW attended the Captivated women's conference in Brisbane on 22-23 February.

'Live, Love, Fight' was the theme of the annual conference.

There were two guest speakers – Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge, National Secretary for Mission, who spoke on 'live' and 'love'; and Casey O'Brien Machado, from the Policy, Research and Social Justice Department, who spoke on fighting for social justice.

"This theme comes from our National Vision Statement and the biblical call is to live for a world in which all can flourish, a world where life is lived as God intended," said Lieut-Colonel Edge.

"Our call to love is one which embraces all of people and all of communities. It is holistic and integrated. Pure love shapes how we live, so that we can partner with God to see God's will done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Other highlights of the event included Jeanette Fabila's 'Acknowledgement of Country' featuring Aboriginal dancing, times of sharing and worship, and vibrant fellowship



^ Above: Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge (left) and Casey O'Brien Machado were the guest speakers at Captivated.

Left: Jeanette Fabila (centre) and her Aboriginal dancing team performed the Acknowledgement of Country at Captivated.

between women of all ages and backgrounds.

Three women also shared powerful testimonies. Major Lauriee Arthur spoke about her ministry as a Red Shield Defence Services chaplain and how she connects with soldiers and their families; Michelle Kingston-Kerr, from North Brisbane Corps, shared her struggle with mental health and the challenges of being a parent of a child with multiple complex needs; and Christina Hassam, from Bayside Community Corps, spoke on her challenging

childhood, which has led her to want to share the love of Jesus through her ministry of catering to people in the community who connect with Bayside Corps for assistance.

Major Rowena Smith announced that Queensland had raised \$40,820 for the 2018 Women's Ministries territorial project – the Simba Project. This project, based in Kenya, is a collaboration with local partners, schools, government and law enforcement to raise awareness of the dangers of trafficking.

"A special aspect [of Captivated] was that we were able to sponsor four ladies from Townsville to attend the conference," said Major Smith.

"It was a delight to see so many women coming together to enjoy all that the conference offered them and we pray that they return to their corps feeling uplifted and inspired to flourish in the communities they live, love and fight in."

The Townsville conference scheduled the weekend before had to be cancelled due to the floods. – Simone Worthing

First national chaplaincy workshop focuses on rural ministry

'TAKE TIME TO CONNECT' WAS the theme for the first national Rural Chaplains and Flying Padres Workshop in Dubbo last month.

Twenty-eight participants from across the country attended the workshop in the NSW Central West city.

"It really was a time to be inspired, refreshed and renewed, to connect and network as part of the national team, to learn from each other and to discuss our national and local strategic development going forward," said Heather Craig, Chaplaincy Services

Manager – Sydney. "We also reviewed geographical boundaries and how we can work together over those boundaries in all states and territories. Pastoral care, training, networking and collaboration are all priority areas, especially as our rural chaplains work in

isolation, and in remote areas."

Major Graeme Craig, Assistant Divisional Commander NSW and ACT, said: "The feedback from the workshop certainly reflects that people feel more connected, supported and equipped to work as part of a national team."

Seniors urged to 'dream big' at territorial rally

ALMOST 500 SALVATIONISTS and members of local churches and the general public gathered for the first Salvation Army Seniors Rally under the banner of the Australia Territory.

'Imagine the Possibilities' was the theme of the day of ministry and fellowship at Melbourne's Crossway Centre, with delegates encouraged to 'dream big' and consider how they can personally and corporately fulfil their calling.

"It's all about imagining the possibilities in people, and in The Salvation Army," said Major Jennie Cloke, Seniors Ministry leader in the former Southern Territory for 14 years.

"The 'Imagine' theme comes from Joel 2:28, 'Old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions', and Psalm 92:14, that says, 'They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'"

The event was live-streamed to many corps throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, territorial leaders, were guests during the afternoon session, where Commissioner Floyd spoke on Ephesians 3:14-31, encouraging delegates to imagine what their communities and families would look like if they were obedient to God's call in the 'second stage' of life.

The Isabel Gale Memorial Award was presented to Lieutenant-Colonel Rusty Adams at the rally, recognising his many years of ministry, particularly to seniors.

– Jessica Morris

Divisional celebration a hit with youth



^ Worship aimed at youth was a vibrant part of the Celebrate Community event in Adelaide.

"WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE culture, and we have to start with us," said Major Barry Casey, South Australia and Northern Territory Divisional Commander, describing the recent divisional Celebrate Community event in Adelaide.

The annual event, which traditionally focuses on welcoming new officers to the division and senior appointment installations, this year took on a new focus to clearly and intentionally welcome, include and celebrate people of all ages and backgrounds.

Major Casey and his team had been aware that each year the celebration attracted only between 200-250 people, with very few youth and young families attending.

After discussions with the divisional youth and children's leaders, Captain Simon Pickens and Renee Pickens, on how to make the celebration more attractive to younger generations, the 2019 event began with an hour of children's activities, food vans, a coffee



^ Majors Rosslyn and Barry Casey install the new leaders.

cart and opportunities to get together and have some fun.

More than 340 people attended the celebration from across the division, with 50 per cent being under 40, including many children.

Simon and Renee, their team, and many of the youth involved with Summer Carnival [the annual youth event] led the opening of the celebration meeting, with a story of transformation, loud and vibrant worship music, dancing, and even an inflatable dinosaur!

"This really set the tone for the rest of the evening," said

Major Casey.

During the service, Majors Barry and Rosslyn Casey installed Majors Dean and Vicki Clark as Area Officers for Central and Southern South Australia; Major Elizabeth Garland as Divisional Social and Community Services Coordinator and Manager Homelessness and Alcohol, Drugs and Other Addictions; Captain Erica Jones as Area Officer – Northern Territory; and Major Susan Wallace as Area Officer – Northern South Australia.

– Simone Worthing

Self Denial Appeal an opportunity to 'be the change'

THE 2019 SELF DENIAL APPEAL Altar Service will be held in every corps around Australia on Sunday 7 April.

The appeal is The Salvation Army's largest contributor to both international community development and mission support. It is based on Salvation Army founder William Booth's understanding that God's love is to be offered to others; that people in real despair need real hope, and real hope is released through love-filled, practical action.

'Be the Change' is the theme for the 2019 appeal, based on 2 Corinthians 9:11: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

"As God has blessed us greatly we want to help others, and start a positive cycle that will change the world,"



^ Educational opportunities for women in India is one of several projects being funded from this year's Self Denial Appeal.

explained Leigh O'Donoghue, International Fundraising Manager, Fundraising Department.

"Donations to the Self Denial Appeal will not just change one life but equip people to change communities – clean water, helping refugees, evangelism and educating women."

Lieutenant-Colonel Simone

Robertson, Territorial Head of Salvation Army International Development (SAID), said the Self Denial Appeal gave hope and dignity to people.

"All funds donated to the Self Denial Appeal go either to Salvation Army community development or mission support projects across the world," said Lieut-Colonel Robertson.

"Both are needed, and neither is more important than the other." Every command and territory around the world contributes to the Self Denial Appeal, including developing and recipient nations. Non-tax deductible donations go towards The Salvation Army's Evangelical/Mission Support projects via International Headquarters and SAID.

"A percentage of the Mission Support funds raised in Australia stays in Australia for 'over and above' needs that may arise throughout the year," said Lieut-Colonel Robertson.

"These needs may include mission support and evangelical work run by our Partners in Mission territories [Hong Kong, India North, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda/Burundi and Tanzania] or places in Africa and Asia where we have a particular focus."

– Simone Worthing

South Barwon Corps celebrates 15 years of Mainly Music

THE SOUTH BARWON CORPS recently celebrated 15 years of Mainly Music, a ministry that teaches motor skills and socialisation to children and their caregivers.

It has been estimated that more than 900 children have participated in the Wednesday morning program at the Victorian corps since 2003.

Program coordinator Kath Davey paid tribute to the many volunteers who have helped keep Mainly Music running.

"Fifteen years ago Lyndel Berris responded to the call from God to set up Mainly



^ Mainly Music leader Kath Davey and a volunteer worker at the 15th anniversary event.

Music at South Barwon," Kath said. "[The program] has been a huge part of our corps

mission outreach. It is all really about connecting with families, sharing their journey and sharing the love of God."

South Barwon was one of the first corps in Australia to facilitate the program, founded in New Zealand in 1990.

Major Mal Davies, the South Barwon Corps Officer, said Mainly Music was a great way to connect young families with the mission of the Army.

"It gives members of the corps an opportunity for service, and I'm thrilled that we have volunteers aged from 20 to 70 helping out," he said.

More than 80 past and present volunteers and attendees came together to celebrate the 15-year anniversary.

The celebration included an animal farm, jumping castle, face painting, craft and a coffee van. They also came together for a singalong, of course, proving that the 'Hokey Pokey' never goes out of style.

Recognising past and present leaders, Kath honoured Lyndel and former leader Sue Smith, as well as Kath Hart and Sharon Schmidtke, who were unable to attend.

– Jessica Morris

Erica goes the distance serving in Australia's Top End

AS AREA OFFICER FOR THE Northern Territory, Captain Erica Jones has 1.4 million square kilometres to cover, one of the largest areas in the world.

The Northern Territory, often referred to as the 'Top End', is part of the South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

Captain Jones, who also serves as Emergency Services Coordinator for the Northern Territory, is based in Darwin and travels regularly by car to Katherine, 300km to the south. She also flies every month to Alice Springs, 1500km from Darwin.

"My role is to support the officers and leaders of our corps and centres as they support the community and what God is doing there," she said. "I encourage them to work with other agencies as well and build on what is already happening."

"I have the amazing privilege of journeying with people, caring for them pastorally and talking mission with them to help put their plans into action."

Youth is a major focus area in the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin and Alice Springs.

"For example, we have around 50 children whose families are part of our Towards Independence housing



^ Captain Erica Jones with Shirley and Priscilla at a painting class in Katherine.

program, and we are working on programs to link them back to the Darwin Corps," Captain Jones explained.

"My daughter Michellie and her fiancé Sam are starting a youth group at the Darwin Corps where my husband (Captain Peter) is the Corps Officer. It will be different than the usual youth group, to fit in with the culture in our community."

"Captains Stuart and Nari McGifford (Alice Springs Corps Officers) are also running an expanding youth and children's program, with more than 20 at a recent event."

Indigenous outreach is also an integral part of ministry in the Northern Territory, with extensive work being done in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs, including ministry in camps outside the major towns.

Other ministries developing in the Top End include new



^ Captain Erica Jones (centre) in Katherine with Flying Padre Captain Greg Howard and Katherine Corps Officer Captain Julie Howard during a recent visit to the town. Photos: Amelia Harvey.

programs to assist those experiencing addictions and homelessness, a pilot program for young mothers experiencing family violence, a Sunday night meeting at the Palmerston Corps (Darwin), and ongoing growth of the Katherine Doorways Hub.

In May, Captain Erica, with

Captain Stuart McGifford, will travel to the town of Tennant Creek, 500km north of Alice Springs, as part of the corps Mission Action plan to explore ministry opportunities there.

"I think I have the most awesome job in the NT," Captain Jones said.

– Simone Worthing

Salvationists respond to Christchurch mosque attacks

THE SALVATION ARMY IN Christchurch, New Zealand, provided comfort, support and transport in the wake of the mass shootings at two mosques in the South Island city on 15 March, which claimed at least 50 lives.

A number of corps across the city opened their doors the next day, with Salvation Army personnel making themselves available to anyone needing to connect in order to process personal reactions to the tragedy.

Salvationists from Linwood Corps, situated very close to the mosque where the second attacks took place, maintained a presence outside their building

and connected with members of the public who were entering the restricted zone to pay respects.

Sydenham, Rolleston and Christchurch North corps members offered support from within their buildings. Rolleston also made available a room to support the response of the local school counsellor.

Australian officers and Southern Division leaders, Majors Earle and Chris Ivers, together Christchurch City Corps Officers, Lieutenant-Colonels Gordon and Susan Daly, also attended the location close to the Christchurch mosque where public expressions of loss were made via

floral tribute. This informal expression, simply providing a 'presence of The Salvation Army', was well received as numerous people chose to engage in conversation and reflection.

Some limited radio and print media engagement with the divisional leaders also occurred due to the high presence of media outlets at that location.

Christchurch City Corps members stationed themselves at the hospital where many of the injured people were treated and distressed family members gathered.

In his official statement, Commissioner Andy Westrupp, Territorial Commander of The

Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory, said: "The Salvation Army stands with our Muslim brothers and sisters today, and totally condemns this unprecedented act of violence in Christchurch towards people who were peacefully at worship.

"The horror of these attacks reminds us of our shared humanity and the urgent need to stand for love and peace. Everyone will do that in their own way, some by praying, as we will. The response of caring for others is another way – this is also the path that our faith calls us to. But regardless of religious belief, caring is a response that we can all share."

Go deeper
in your faith
Serve God
more effectively

Eva Burrows College, part of the University of Divinity, offers flexible undergraduate and post graduate options:

- Online and face to face learning
- FEE help available

The University of Divinity was highest-ranked of all Australian Universities for both the undergraduate and postgraduate student educational experience (2017 Student Experience Survey)

w: <http://evaburrowscollege.edu.au/>
e: registrar@ebc.edu.au
p: (03) 9847 5400

Eva Burrows College | UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

African leaders meet

SALVATION ARMY LEADERS from across Africa have met in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss leading the work there into a healthy future – spiritually, financially and socially.

Thirty-four delegates representing the 26 African countries in which The Salvation Army is officially at work, attended the conference.

Delegates examined the dynamics of discipleship, mission, leadership, projects, finance and self-sustainability/income-generation initiatives and opportunity for formal education.

Beckham funds field

FOOTBALL LEGEND DAVID Beckham and a number of other benefactors have funded the replacement of a well-worn football field at The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Centre in Los Angeles.

The David Beckham LA Galaxy Community Field will give 2000 young people from the under-served neighbourhood of Pico Union a safe place to play.

Beckham joined in a football clinic at the dedication of the new field on 1 March.

Sport building bridges

THE SALVATION ARMY AND Joan Kroc Corps Community Centre in Norfolk, Virginia, has recently welcomed a dodgeball league of over 250 LGBTQ athletes, run by Stonewall Sports. The partnership has made it possible for bridges to be built between the Army and LGBTQ community.



^ Captains Nesan (arm raised) and Cheryl Kistan (far right) and dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

Ribbon cut at homelessness shelter

AUSTRALIAN SALVATION ARMY officers, Captains Nesan and Cheryl Kistan, Corps Officers of Tustin Ranch Corps, have officially opened a temporary homelessness shelter in Orange County, Southern California, which is stage one of a large-scale Salvation Army response

to combatting the issue.

The Salvation Army and the city of Anaheim held a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently for the temporary 224-bed homeless shelter on the property of The Salvation Army Anaheim Adult Rehabilitation Centre.

The temporary shelter is a response to the homeless "emergency" in the city of Anaheim, and the start of The Salvation Army's proposed response to further combat homelessness in Orange County through its forthcoming Centre of Hope campus.

Vital supply line aids refugees in the Congo

THE SALVATION ARMY IS providing practical, emotional and spiritual support to approximately 7000 refugees who have crossed the Congo River into the border settlements of Bétou and Makotipoko in Africa.

Recent conflict between ethnic groups has resulted in this large migration of people from the Maï-Ndombe region of the Democratic Republic of Congo into neighbouring Republic of Congo.

The Salvation Army is working with village elders,



^ A Salvation Army barge on the Congo River, supplying emergency aid to refugees fleeing violence in the DRC into Congo.

local government officials and other non-governmental agencies. The priority is on providing emergency food, bedding and protection against disease to the most vulnerable

refugees. Due to the remote geography of the settlements, the supply route has involved a lengthy boat transit along the river that defines the border between the two countries.

KEITH EARL



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Keith Earl was promoted to glory on 5 February, aged 92. His funeral service was conducted on 14 February at Geelong Corps. Keith was born in Box Hill, Melbourne, to Alfred and Margaret, the middle child of five. He attended the Box Hill Salvation Army and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour just before his 17th birthday. On leaving school, Keith completed an apprenticeship as a carriage builder with Victorian Railways.

In response to God's call, Keith left his job and entered officer training college in 1947 in the *Warriors* session. He commenced his ministry on 15 January 1948 at Daylesford (Victoria) as Assistant Corps Officer. He was then appointed to Natimuk (Victoria) before moving to the Wagin Corps (Western Australia). On Christmas eve of 1949, Keith married Lieutenant Margaret Rosenow.

Keith and Margaret served at Narrogin and York corps (Western Australia), then Quorn (South Australia) and Maidstone (Victoria). During this time they were blessed with two sons – William and Edwin. Keith and Margaret offered for missionary service in Africa and were appointed to the Bradley Institute, Southern Rhodesia, on 21 November 1953. After a short term they were appointed to the Chikankata Hospital and Institute in Northern Rhodesia, where their daughter Sylvia was born.

On returning to Australia in 1964, they were appointed to Springvale Corps (Victoria) then to the finance department at Territorial Headquarters. In 1977, they were transferred to the Japan Territory where Keith was the finance and property secretary. From there they moved to the Caribbean Territory in 1981, where again Keith served as the finance secretary.

In 1987, after a term of service in the UK in social services work, the Earls returned

to Australia where Keith was appointed as the finance secretary for the Southern Territory. It was from this appointment that Keith and Margaret retired to Hepburn Springs, Victoria, on 1 February 1992.

In retirement, in Hepburn Springs, then later in Bell Post Hill, Geelong, Keith was actively involved in community activities, whether it was Heart Support Australia, Hepburn Golf Club or the Geelong Croquet Association. Keith was always willing to be involved in office-bearing positions. The croquet mallet was finally retired in 2015!

After Margaret's passing in 2014, Keith remained in their family home until illness necessitated a move into an aged care facility in Belmont, his home for his final three years.

Keith will be remembered as a loyal and likeable man, with a great sense of humour and a beautiful smile. He was highly skilled, practical and used that ability throughout his life. He had high expectations of himself and others.

MARGARET JONES

MAJOR MARGARET ROSAMOND JONES was promoted to glory on 11 January, aged 86. Major Winton Knop conducted her funeral service at Lilydale Memorial Park, Victoria, on 22 January.

Margaret was born in Bedale, Yorkshire, UK, to Robert and Ada Bulmer, being one of eight children. The family attended the local Methodist Church. In November 1955, Margaret married Welshman Arfon Jones in her home town. They moved to Caernarvon in North Wales and started attending The Salvation Army, which was one of only two churches in the town that held services in English.

Margaret and Arfon had two daughters during this time – Margaret Elizabeth (Liz) and Katherine. The family immigrated to Tasmania in 1967 where

their third child, David, was born. In 1969, while attending Howrah Corps in Hobart, Margaret and Arfon answered God's call to become full-time ministers of the Gospel, starting their ministry as auxiliary-captains. They were appointed to Scottsdale and Huonville (Tasmania), then Richmond (Victoria) before joining *The Lightbringers* session in 1972 to undertake the second year of studies at officer training college.

Following their commissioning in January 1973, they undertook corps appointments at Ararat and Kensington (Victoria), during which time their son Stephen was born. In subsequent years, Margaret and Arfon served as corps officers at Lalor, Chilwell, Norlane and Colac (all Victoria); and Port Pirie, Tea Tree Gully and Millicent (all South Australia).

The next appointments were to the Army's social services, where they ministered to the disadvantaged at the Anchorage Hostel, the Gill Memorial Home for Men (both Victoria) and the William Booth Hostel (South Australia). Margaret's appointment at William Booth was as personal care coordinator.

A return to Victoria saw Margaret serve at Territorial Headquarters in the program department and in business administration before she and Arfon retired on 1 June 1998.

Margaret and Arfon enjoyed family life during retirement. Margaret also enjoyed travelling, going to Salvation Army functions, helping at Companion Club, gardening and was an avid collector of royal family memorabilia. Arfon was promoted to glory in 2014, and Margaret moved to Millward Aged Care Home in 2015.

Margaret will be remembered for her love of family, her listening skills and her support of people of different backgrounds that she met in many places through her Salvation Army work. There were also a number of home leagues that flourished under Margaret's leadership over the years.

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 1 February

Lieutenant Alexis **McKeand**, Chaplain (Flight Lieutenant), RAAF – Williams **Base**, Laverton, Community Engagement Department (additional appointment).

Effective 1 March

Major Kevin **Lumb**, Officer Personnel Secretary, Tasmania Officer Personnel Department (concurrent to appointment as Area Officer, Tasmania North) and Second-In-Command to Divisional Commander Tasmania Division; Major Dianne **Jarvey**, Territorial NextLevel Affiliate, Office of the Territorial President of Women's Ministries (additional appointment).

Effective 6 March

Major Bruce **Harmer**, Public Relations Secretary, Victoria, Office of the Secretary for Communications; Major Carolyn **Harmer**, Territorial Honoured Friends Coordinator (Vic, SA, NT, WA), Office of the Secretary for Communications.

Effective 15 March

Captain Robyn **Lorimer**, Adults and Seniors Coordinator, Australia Mission Support Department.

Effective 21 March

Lieut Simone **Smalley**, Corps Officer, Heathridge, Western Australia Division.

Effective 1 April

Major Christine **Ellis**, Adults and Seniors Secretary, Victoria Mission Support Department; Major Ric **Ellis**, Mission Engagement Officer, Mission Enterprises; Captain Paul **Lorimer**, Officer Recruitment Secretary, Australia Officer Formation, Eva Burrows College.

Effective 8 April

Captain Carolyn **O'Brien**, Adults and Seniors Secretary, NSW/ACT, Mission Support Department.

Effective 1 May

Captain Clare **Reeve**, Corps Officer, Sydney Congress Hall, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Matt **Reeve**, Corps Officer, Sydney Congress Hall, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 20 May

Colonel Mark **Watts**, Executive Officer, Office of the Territorial Commander.

Effective 28 June

Captain Natalie **Norman**, Corps Officer, Geraldton, Western Australia Division; Captain Scott **Norman**, Corps Officer, Geraldton, Western Australia Division.

Effective 1 July

Commissioners Peter and Jennifer **Walker**, Corps Officers, Perth Fortress, Western Australia Division; Major Paul **Hateley**, Territorial Communications Consultant, Pro-tem,

Office of the Secretary for Communications; Major Wendy **Hateley**, Chaplain, Neighbourhood Justice Centre Collingwood, Victoria, Community Engagement.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Effective 1 May

Major Tamotsu and Captain Kazue **Nishimura**, officers of the Japan Territory, are appointed as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries, Japan Territory.

Effective 1 July

Commissioners Robert and Janine **Donaldson** (New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory) appointed as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, Australia Territory; Lieut-Colonels Herve and Deborah **Cacheline** (Switzerland, Austria and Hungary) appointed as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, Germany, Lithuania and Poland Territory; Major Hartmut **Leisinger** (Germany, Lithuania and Poland) appointed as Chief Secretary, Germany, Lithuania and Poland Territory; Lieut-Colonels Yusak and Widiawati **Tampai** (Indonesia) appointed as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, Indonesia Territory; Lieut-Colonels Cedric and Lyn **Hills** (United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland) appointed as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries, Indonesia Territory; Captain Saga **Lippo** (Finland and Estonia) appointed as Chief Secretary, Finland and Estonia Territory.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Dorothy **Beard**, on 20 February; Major Kathleen **Berry**, on 1 March; Major John **McGuigan**, on 10 March; Colonel Margaret **Martin**, on 11 March.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD

(TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

Perth Wed 3-Thur 4 April – Territorial Board meeting.
 Horsham Sat 6-Sun 7 April – Corps visit.
 Melbourne Fri 12 April – Spiritual Day, Eva Burrows College.
 Townsville Thur 18- Sun 21 April – Maundy Thursday Service at Riverway; Good Friday service at Faithworks; Easter dawn service on Castle Hill; Easter Sunday service at Riverway.

COLONELS MARK (CHIEF SECRETARY) AND JULIE CAMPBELL (TSWM/GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE)

Perth Sun 14 April – Western Australia Division Palm Sunday Gathering, Mossman Park.
 Singapore Thur 18 April-Mon 22 April – Easter meetings with Melbourne Staff Songsters at Singapore Central Corps.
 Myanmar Tues 23 April-Wed 24 April – Yangon.
 Myanmar Thur 25 April-Mon 29 April – Kalay (music camps).

Drug raid that led to faith.

WORDS CASSIE COOPER

This Easter will be a year since Cassie Cooper first walked into church, after her daughter asked her where the Easter Bunny came from. It was a turning point in her journey to faith through The Salvation Army.

MY HOUSE WAS RAIDED BY POLICE ON 10 February 2018. It was a rude awakening from a 16-year stint in and out of drug abuse. I was addicted to smoking the drug ice, an addiction unknown to anyone in my family until the police raid. They actually raided my mother's house because I was living in the shed. My life had become that bad.

When I woke up the next morning in a prison cell I was gobsmacked. Heartbroken. I just thought about my mum's heart, whether it was still beating, because I knew what it would have done to her. I would not be here without my mother. She's still kept that door open for me after her home was raided and the embarrassment of that. That feeling I had that morning in the cell, it was gut-wrenching. And then I realised that I'd been caught, and the time had come to learn the really hard part of living, so that I wouldn't do this ever again. It was time to change.

Brian Rennie, a Salvation Army court chaplain, was my godsend. I came into contact with Brian at the courthouse on one of my court dates (I eventually received a suspended sentence). My



📍 Cassie Cooper at Northlakes Salvos with her 'godsend', Salvation Army chaplain Brian Rennie.

“
I now want more and more of God. It's a feeling that I can't get anywhere else – not even from drugs!
”

solicitor suggested that I see him and do the Positive Lifestyle Program (PLP), run by The Salvation Army. Brian opened doors that I didn't think could open; he showed me things about myself I didn't know existed.

I left every PLP session with a new tool that I could understand, that I could apply and that I was ready to use. I still use every module, every day. The program has changed my way of thinking. And Brian is a really great facilitator; he's really understanding. He's put up with me, from being a rude drug addict at the beginning, to what I am now. He has seen quite a transformation!

Last Easter, my daughter asked me where

the Easter Bunny came from. I said, "I don't know." So I asked my mum if we could go to church at Easter because I really wanted to answer that question correctly. My daughter just loved it. It was the first time in a long time that I felt I had a faith. So, it was all for my daughter initially, but in the end, I sort of started to go to church (for myself).

I've now made Northlakes Salvation Army my church. I started volunteering at Westlakes Salvation Army Family Store and the local Northlakes Salvation Army in Kids Church and Streetsafe Salvos, a Northlakes initiative in the city of Newcastle.

Northlakes Salvation Army is my 'home away from home'. I feel really welcomed, not just by Brian but by everyone else. It's a place of peace for me from my anxiety. God is working miracles. Brian gave me a Bible ... I really love that Bible; I read it every day, I take it everywhere, I do Bible studies every day just by choice because I now want more and more of God. It's a feeling that I can't get anywhere else – not even from drugs!

As told to Lauren Martin

THE SALVATION ARMY **SALVOS** stores

Offers and specials

Half-price coloured tags

Every week, selected clothing is 50% off. Just ask which colour tag is 50% off that week.

\$2 Monday madness

On Mondays, a rack of clothing at the front of the store will be on sale for just \$2.

Seniors discount day

Come into store on Thursday, show your health care, pension, veterans or seniors card to save 20%.

Student discount day

Every Wednesday, show your student card to save 20%.

www.salvosstores.com.au



Promotions available in Salvos Stores across Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory only.

THE SALVATION ARMY
ISRAEL
OBERAMMERGAU
With Majors Graeme & Helen McCilmont

Once in a Decade Experience

Selah 10 May 2020 16 Days From \$7,649
👉 myselah.com.au/salvos

others

want to be the first one to see the latest issue of *Others*? then subscribe online at:

others.org.au



BE THE CHANGE

Self Denial Appeal 2019



General William Booth launched the first Self Denial Appeal in 1886. Please give one week's salary to support the appeal.

Watch stories from India, Malaysia, Ecuador and South Africa during the 2019 Self Denial Appeal. Catch up on videos and give your Altar Service gift at:

WWW.SELFDENIAL.INFO