

# others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

■ **FEATURE**

*Saved at Sunday school ...  
at the age of 32!*

■ **OPINION**

*Pete Brookshaw asks:  
Can you handle the truth?*

■ **SALVATION STORY**

*How 'tough love' filled the  
void in Nigel's life*

HOMELESSNESS WEEK  
3-8 AUGUST



August  
2020

—  
Issue 08  
Volume 04  
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## HIDDEN PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS

Salvos serving those most vulnerable  
to pandemic

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- \* Caring for people
- \* Creating faith pathways
- \* Building healthy communities
- \* Working for justice

#### MISSION STATEMENT



#### WORDS

COMMISSIONER JANINE DONALDSON

## Looking fear in the face

Called as one body for the sake of the world

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY to greet you and give thanks for you. We continue to live in these unusual days and navigate uncharted waters as COVID-19 impacts us. Details about how to respond are constantly changing as we face challenges of nature we have not faced before.

As circumstances have evolved and we have heeded advice from government and health experts, we have sought to implement this advice and provide security and safety for those we work alongside and those we serve. Our focus is on the wellbeing and health of all. We would continue to ask that you act on advice given to you in your state.

Thank you very much for all you are involved in during these days. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all that is happening throughout this amazing territory. We encourage you to seek out the different and varied opportunities this time affords us for strengthening our discipleship and our expression of Christian community.

Over the past months, we have heard of and seen a number of communities of faith finding new ways of worshipping and keeping connected. For some, there is a new sense of finding what is essential in caring for and upholding each other, and new ways have evolved of keeping in touch with each other as communities of faith. Some communities are finding new connections, especially with our most vulnerable.

We continue to need to set time aside (time not spent in gathered worship or meetings) to connect with other people in our community and to pray and grow. The realities of social isolation, the impacts on health and all the other factors pertaining to these times add much extra stress. As a community of faith we have an opportunity to witness to an alternative way of living and bear witness to each other.

We are called to be light and salt in this world. This call and hope are what lie at the heart of life: the love of God and the love of neighbours as ourselves. We are called now, more than ever, to be prayerful, supportive, encouraging, caring and to continue to work with one another as one body for a common goal 'for the sake of the world'.

When individuals are focused on the wellbeing of the wider community and when communities hold together for the sake of the wider community, every person is valued and upheld. Perhaps this in is indeed the true spirit of Australia.

God is with us, God walks with us, God is one with us, in all the realities of our lives. In God we find hope and new ways of being. As Acts 17:28 reminds us, "In him we live and move and have our being."

Please know you are prayed for constantly. We give thanks for you, we are grateful to you for your hearts for others and your ministry stretched across this great land. It's at times like this we wonder how best to express our gratitude to you and how best to encourage you.

Eleanor Roosevelt penned these words: "We gain strength, and courage and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face ... we must do that which we think we cannot."

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you! Don't be frightened for I am your God! I'll strengthen you – yes, I'll help you – yes, I'll uphold you with my saving right hand" (Isaiah 41:10 NET) \*

Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson are Territorial Leaders, Australia Territory.





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Auxiliary-Lieutenant James Singer became a Christian at the age of 32, while attending Sunday school with his pre-school-aged children. Now married to Taryn (pictured), he is the Corps Officer at Kyabram in country Victoria. Read his remarkable story of transformation on pages 22-24. Photo courtesy of Kyabram Free Press

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# TAKING A STAND

Exploring The Salvation Army International Positional Statements

## EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE – STATEMENT OF POSITION

The Salvation Army believes strongly that all people deserve compassion and care in their suffering and dying. Euthanasia and assisted suicide should not, however, be considered acceptable responses. They undermine human dignity and are morally wrong. The Salvation Army believes therefore that euthanasia and assisted suicide should be illegal.

Download the complete International Positional Statement on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide at [salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)

## THE SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

**T**he Salvation Army's official statement of position on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide is brief and unequivocal. At one time, such a statement may have been unnecessary. There was a time when few people thought it was ever right to cause the death of an innocent person on purpose. But times have changed. In Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand, laws protecting the sanctity of human life have been overturned or are on the verge of being overturned.

For example, the law in Switzerland permits assisted suicide but not euthanasia. That means that under certain

conditions, it is legal for a person to help another person drink a drug that will end their lives, but not legal for anyone to put a needle in another person's arm and inject a killing dose. The same is true in several states in the United States. At present, Canada's law permits both assisted suicide and euthanasia so long as the person is mentally alert at the time, a Canadian resident and an adult. By contrast, the law permits patients as young as 12 to be euthanised in the Netherlands if the parents concur. And so on.

Legal differences aside, allowing for the acts of assisted suicide and euthanasia



sends a message about the sanctity and dignity of human life. The Salvation Army International Positional Statement says we must not judge anyone's life to be not worth living – even those who are suffering horribly or are in the final stages of an incurable disease. It says we must not value people differentially on the basis of their age, gender, social status or ability to be social contributors. Equal dignity and sanctity of all human life are for The Salvation Army bedrock biblical principles.

Yet, as we articulate strong moral principles that oppose euthanasia, we should not ignore the social histories that have led to the acceptance of what the positional statement says is wrong. Why, we should ask, do people in very affluent countries with excellent health services ask to have their lives ended? And, why do citizens in peaceful democratic countries find causing the death of fellow citizens appealing? What better alternative have we to offer?

Any 'no' we utter needs to be coupled with an equally principled, caring 'yes'. We need to show that The Salvation Army is not only against bad practices, but it is for good ones. When it comes to end-of-life matters, what are the

individual and social positives we advocate?

The International Positional Statement includes several positive 'Practical Responses'. The first three are:

1. It is important to communicate by word and deed to the sick, the elderly and the dying that they remain worthy of respect, that they are loved and will not be abandoned to their suffering.
2. Respect for the dignity of human life demands quality care for all persons at the end of their lives. The Salvation Army, therefore, promotes access to palliative services that provide holistic care (physical, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual) when there is no longer medical hope for a cure. Optimal pain control and the overall comfort of the individual should be the primary goals of this care.
3. Human beings exist in social relationships; what happens to one person has a deep impact on others too. It is important that support is extended to meet the complex needs of family, direct care providers and the wider social community who will grieve the loss of their loved one and friend.

### FOR REFLECTION

The International Positional Statement lists more ideas than the three we have published, but what is called for is deeper understanding and then action, not just longer lists. The personal reflections below begin to show what that might mean.

- How can we meet people in our institutions in an appropriate way when, contrary to our convictions, they decide to end their lives through euthanasia or assisted suicide?
- How can those who are vulnerable because of age, disability or illness be assured that they will not be abandoned?
- What is it that people are afraid of when they fear loss of dignity?
- How can we educate ourselves better about death and dying? \*

This series of articles was first published in *The Officer* magazine.

**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](http://others.org.au/viewpoint)

## WORDS

BELINDA CASSIE

## Pasta and a box of beanies

Loving our neighbours on the street

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO PUT YOUR imagination to use. It's a crisp Wednesday night in the city. It's been raining on and off throughout the day, the streets are damp and the wind cuts through the multiple layers you're wearing.

It's already been a long day, before you even started loading up the van. That Zoom meeting went a good half-hour longer than it should have. Of the three urgent replies you needed not one got back to you, and you ended up having to do all the washing up in the staffroom kitchen – again.

But here you are. Plastic takeaway dishes filled with pasta casserole, some fruit, a box full of beanies and all the clean blankets that could be found. Because your day was long, but for some the night ahead is longer.

As part of my role as a chaplain, I've been working in the inner-city of Sydney for a few years now with both people at risk of homelessness, or experiencing homelessness. Recently, I watched the series on SBS, *Filthy Rich and Homeless*.

I spotted the faces of people that I knew – people I've spoken with and served meals

to; people I've made phone calls on behalf of, and sat in the gutter with. Some I've only met once; some I am fortunate enough to call my friends.

Every week, the community worker based at one of our churches takes a team of us out to different places in the city. There is Mary in the first park. Depending on the day, Mary can be articulate and jovial. She has a dry sense of humour and tells me that the KitKat I offered her will rot her teeth. On other days Mary has no idea who we are and is afraid of any of us getting too close to her.

Bob sleeps in the covered walkway nearby. He welcomes us each time with, "Wipe your feet on the mat", and each time we wipe our feet on the imagined mat before we walk over to offer him this week's pasta dish – but only if it isn't a spicy one.

At the next park, some of the team rush ahead. They are eager to catch up with Jim. Jim might sleep on a mattress under a bridge, but he has been a wise sounding board for some of the team over the last couple of years. We'll run into Rosa and Michael later on, and Ivor isn't in his usual spot so one of the team will swing by tomorrow night to check and see if he is okay.

The wind is still biting and the concrete damp. It's late already but the whole night still lies ahead for our friends on the street as they try to find places to stay warm. We've passed out all the meals we have, and the beanies ran out long ago. But the conversations have been warm and heartfelt. I don't know that we are doing anything that is going to radically change life for anyone who is homeless. But tonight, like every week, a few friends met and talked and laughed and shared, and it mattered. And it made a difference in the lives of those who too often go ignored and unseen.



In the Bible, in the book of Mark, some scholarly folk were quizzing Jesus on what the most important commandment was. Jesus' answer was pretty concise. He simply said that the most important thing is to love God with all your heart and mind. Then love your neighbour as yourself. That's it. No bells or whistles – love God, love your neighbour, love yourself.

We aren't changing the world with pasta and a box of beanies, but we will keep loving our neighbours on the streets as best we can, for as long as we can.\*

\* All names have been changed.

**Captain Belinda Cassie** is a Salvation Army chaplain, Inner City Social Mission, Sydney.

## Bible Words

**A labour of love.** Work undertaken for the pleasure of it or for the benefit of a loved one, the phrase is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 and Hebrews 6:10.

## WORDS

HOWARD WEBBER

## The necessity of words

What did St Francis of Assisi really say?

"PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES, and if necessary, use words." This saying, attributed to St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), is a favourite with many people. Yet the truth is that there is no evidence that he ever said or wrote such a thing. None of his disciples or early biographers record these words coming from his lips. In fact, the saying doesn't seem to have appeared anywhere until the 1980s, since when it has spread worldwide.

The implication in this saying is that using words is a last resort and rarely necessary, when the truth is that however impressive our deeds might be, for people to receive and respond to the Good News of Jesus, words are always necessary.

St Francis was an itinerant evangelist, known as much for his preaching as his lifestyle. Thomas of Celano, in the earliest biography of St Francis written three years after his death, states "for during the space of 18 years his body had little or no rest while he travelled through very large regions so that that spirit that dwelt within him might scatter everywhere the seeds of the word of God".

One recent biographer, Mark Galli, speaks of Francis preaching in up to five villages a day, frequently outdoors. In the country, Francis often spoke from a bale of straw or a granary doorway. In towns,

he would climb on a box or up steps in front of a public building. He preached to any who gathered to hear the "strange but fiery little preacher from Assisi".

Those who joined Francis were sent out on preaching missions too, with the clear understanding that their works needed to match their words, a principle in his original written expression of how his friars should live. "... let all the brothers preach by their works" (Order of the Friars Minor 1221 Rule XVII). Bartholomew of Pisa, (1385), tells us of the dominating place of preaching in the life of Friars Minor and how Francis sent the friars to spread the Gospel throughout Italy and beyond by word and deed.

**"... this saying isn't only inconsistent with what we know of St Francis. More importantly, it isn't consistent with what we find in the Bible or what Jesus said and did."**

Francis lived at a time when many clergy enjoyed opulent lives while the ordinary people they were meant to serve struggled in poverty. It was something he saw as inconsistent with the One who, though rich, became poor that through his poverty we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). Francis, a young man of considerable wealth, took quite literally the Lord's command to the rich young ruler in Luke 18:22. He parted with all that he had, and took a vow of poverty which provided a clear witness to the gospel he preached.

But this saying isn't only inconsistent with what we know of St Francis. More importantly, it isn't consistent with what we find in the Bible or what Jesus said

and did. Preaching was central to the ministry of Jesus. Mark 1:14-15 describes how he began his ministry in "Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God", calling on his listeners to "Repent and believe the good news!" Also, when "everyone" was looking for him one morning following an evening of him performing miracles, Jesus decided, "Let us go somewhere else – to nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come" (Mark 2:38).

Preaching was clearly central in the Early Church too. St Paul, having stated the promise that "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," goes on to ask, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" with the conclusion that "faith comes from hearing the message" (Romans 10:14-17). The early followers could not help but tell others of Jesus and what they had seen and heard, even when ordered by a court not to do so (Acts 4:18-20).

Without words our good works and fine example will point towards ourselves rather than our Saviour. While our good works should confirm the validity of our words, of themselves they do not communicate the good news of what Jesus has done and how a person may be saved. As Mark Mittelberg states in *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, "We must do more than hope that our friends notice the difference in our lives and figure out the reason on their own. For them to really get the message we need to explain it verbally."\*

**Major Howard Webber** is a retired UK Salvation Army officer. This article appeared in *Salvationist* (UK) magazine.

**Bible Words**

**A man after my own heart.** A kindred spirit or someone you can agree with, the phrase has its origins in Samuel 13:14.

**WORDS**

PETE BROOKSHAW

## Can you handle the truth?

Another view may be worth listening to

WE LIVE IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD. AND the crazy part is, what I just said doesn't need to be true, you just need to believe it.

Consider any argument – perhaps about racism, sexuality, social security payments, character assessments of rich people, taxing the billionaires or educational strategies for local schools – if the rhetoric is persuasive enough, we don't care if it's true, we'll run with it.

I'm not going to try to convince you what I'm saying is objectively true. Consider the facts for yourself. In the 1992 film, *A Few Good Men*, Daniel Kaffee (Tom Cruise), a US military lawyer, seeks to defend two US marines from being charged with murdering another marine. There's that powerful scene where the colonel (Jack Nicholson) is being drilled in the courtroom by the young lawyer on whether he ordered a 'code red'. The lawyer says forthrightly, "It's the truth!", and the colonel bellows in reply, "You can't handle the truth!"

I think Jack Nicholson is right. We can't handle the truth. Picture yourself on social media making an angry assertion about something, and then someone provides some evidence for you that shows you were wrong. Tell me right now – do you back down straight away and admit you were wrong? Most social media engagement I've seen says that your pride

is more important than the truth. We'd prefer to hold on to what we now know is false than admit we were wrong. We can't handle the truth.

The truth can cause a shake-up of what we think is right. Our pride can take a beating, and we're not often willing to humbly admit we got the facts wrong. Take, for example, someone who says, "Jesus Christ is just a fairytale, an absolute fairytale. What a load of rubbish!" Then someone replies with, "But Jesus Christ did in fact walk the earth. He's not a fairytale. You might not agree that he is who he says he is, but he did in fact live and breathe on earth." Do you think that person is going to alter their thoughts? Maybe. We can remain hopeful. I suggest this person prefers to live in a post-truth bubble than confront the inadequacies of their own thought processes.

**"For the Christian, we hold to the truth we understand about Christ and who he is and what he's done for humanity."**

Let me give you a scenario. A married couple are about to head off to an incredible evening of fine dining for the annual regional business function. After some time of waiting, the wife walks into the lounge room and asks her husband, "Do I look good in this dress?" If she looks stunning, the husband will simply reply, "You look amazing, darling." What if, however, the wife just doesn't look great in that dress?

I'm a firm believer in truth. If I didn't steal the cookie from the cookie jar, I don't like to be accused that I did. The struggle I have is living in a world where there seems to be an inclination to simply find thoughts/ideas/statements that

perpetuate someone's own preconceived ideas without a willingness to be challenged by alternative views. This post-truth world is difficult to navigate when an idea is held up as true if someone says it passionately enough. Give someone a megaphone for long enough and you're bound to find someone who will begin to follow.

For the Christian, we hold to the truth we understand about Christ and who he is and what he's done for humanity. These words from 2 Timothy 4:2-5 highlight the point: "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

This post-truth world means we will need to have great patience. We will need to humble ourselves, deal with our pride and learn to use careful instruction. We must keep our head in all situations. Because the reality is, we think we have the truth. We think we know the right path. And, granted, sometimes we might. But in this season, quite often I fear that some who think they have all their opinions down pat are actually unable to see beyond their own rigid ideological positions.

How about we stop for a minute and consider – the other side might just have something worth listening to.\*

**Pete Brookshaw** is Corps Officer of The Salvation Army Craigieburn. He blogs at [petebrookshaw.com](http://petebrookshaw.com)

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"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!"

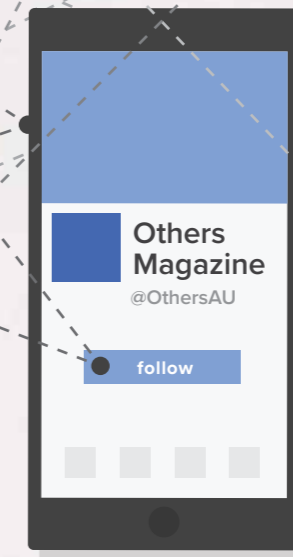
t Brian Peddle

"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

o Belinda Spicer



# THE FOUR FACTORS THAT DRIVE YOUTH MINISTRY

Effective leadership the key to making it happen

WORDS CLAIRE HILL

**F**ive years ago, Adam Purcell had a morning he will never forget. He was working for The Salvation Army Oasis Hunter youth service at the time. He and his wife, Mel, were also the volunteer youth pastors at nearby Northlakes Corps on the NSW Central Coast.

Adam phoned three high schools, offering to run a breakfast program for students. To his surprise, all three school principals said ‘yes’ without hesitation. “As a youth pastor in other churches I couldn’t even get a meeting with the local high school,” Adam explains. “Principals didn’t want the local church coming into their schools.” But these principals were jumping at the chance to work with The Salvation Army.

Adam and his team were soon connecting with 700 teenagers in schools every week. Students joined the corps’ youth ministry, made decisions to follow Jesus and joined small groups. “Schools and community groups kept opening up their doors for us and we’d just go in and tell young people about Jesus,” he says. It stirred Adam and Mel and they began to ask, “Why isn’t this happening everywhere?”

In January 2019, Adam and Mel stepped into a new role – Australia Territory Youth and Young Adults Secretaries – and brought this passion and vision into the job.

With their team of state-based youth and young adults secretaries, they are still dreaming big. They want to leverage the relationships The Salvation Army has in the community. “We want to see The Salvation Army in schools and out in the community, building relationships and letting young people know about Jesus,” says Adam.

## WHAT YOUTH OF TODAY NEED

Early in their role, the team immersed themselves in a listening project. Forty young people from around Australia were interviewed. “We looked for first-generation Salvos who embody the national vision [statement] and we really listened to their stories,” Mel says. “They were young people who had been in hardship or injustice, who then encountered the Salvos and had their lives transformed by the love of Jesus.”

When the team analysed the interviews, it found four common themes. All the young people said they had found:

- a place where their wellbeing was cared for;
- an atmosphere of fun;
- a sense of belonging and family; and
- opportunities to experience faith in Jesus.



Wellbeing. Fun. Family. Faith – the team now refers to these as ‘The Four Factors’. These factors frame everything the team does. Youth leaders have grabbed hold of it too. It’s a simple, but tremendously helpful question for anyone looking to reach this age group: “How are we going with The Four Factors?”

In 2020, the team has been pouring energy into developing leaders. “More youth leaders mean more young people we can journey with and see disciplined,” explains Adam.

They are calling their team to be leaders of leaders. “Some people say that the youth and young adults secretaries need to be amazing at connecting with young people,” says Adam. “I would disagree with that. Yes, they need to understand youth culture, but their most important skill is leadership development.”

## DEVELOPING LEADERS

Youth and young adults secretaries will raise up leaders of leaders. Each of those leaders will then disciple young people. “This shift in focus will increase our reach exponentially,” says Adam.

The team also wants to increase leadership competency. One key strategy for this was ‘Leaders Lounge’, a Melbourne-based youth leader training event that was tracking for October. The COVID-19

crisis crushed their plans for the event, but Mel says the cancellation cleared the path for something more. “We launched ‘Leaders Lounge Online’ and it has been a huge success”, she says.

Each month, youth and young adult leaders across Australia connect online via the Zoom video conferencing platform. A guest speaker presents training, and then youth leaders (there were 70 at the last gathering) scatter into virtual ‘breakout rooms’ for discussions in smaller groups.

Mel felt the benefits immediately. “At the first one I was in a breakout room with a corps officer from Kalgoorlie and youth leaders from Perth and Sydney,” she says. “It blew me away. I would never have had this opportunity in the past.”

Unlike the annual event, Leaders Lounge Online is free, volunteers can attend, and it happens every month. The team is also producing a weekly podcast for leaders and has a Leaders Lounge Facebook page, with 250 youth leaders following. They use the page to share resources and tips.

“Even though COVID has interrupted our plans for this year, it’s made people creative and given us space to stop and plan well,” Mel says. “We are really excited for the future.”

Are you a youth leader? Head to the Leaders Lounge Facebook group for regular tips, updates and training: [Facebook.com/salvosleaderslounge](https://www.facebook.com/salvosleaderslounge)

**Claire Hill** is the Mission Program Development Coordinator



## HIDDEN PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS

Salvos serving those most vulnerable to pandemic

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

**T**he Salvation Army is the largest provider of homelessness services in Australia. As the COVID-19 pandemic hit earlier this year and case numbers across the country began to escalate, the Army quickly responded to adapt and help meet the growing and constantly changing needs of people experiencing homelessness, especially those for the first time.

Now, as Melbourne experiences a second lockdown and coronavirus cases in other parts of Australia rise, this flexible response is continuing.

“We were watching what was happening overseas early this year and knew that Australia would not be exempt from the pandemic,” says Livia Carusi, the Army’s General Manager for Homelessness. “We also knew that vulnerable people were at greater risk of coronavirus and would be hardest hit.”

The Salvation Army swung into action. Major Jenny Begent, Head of Social Mission, had daily meetings with Livia and the general managers of the three other social mission streams – Alcohol and Other Drugs, Family Violence, and Youth – as well as state managers

and a range of team leaders, to work on managing service response at different phases of the pandemic, and keeping the business continuity plan current.

“The Salvation Army around the country also liaised with external authorities around expectations of our organisation and collaboration,” says Livia. “Our teams continue to meet regularly to focus on the recovery process, although that is changing again now with the situation in Victoria.”

The pandemic has brought changes to the way the Army’s Homelessness Stream interacts with clients and community members, with many of these new ways of operating expected to remain into the future.

“We are adhering to all government guidelines, which include an increased level of cleaning at all sites, rostering staff to ensure our ability to be agile and mobile, increased consultation with other streams, and moving people between streams to continue services and connections,” explains Livia.

“We have also moved to increased contact via email, phone and use of technologies →





where possible, which is working well and will probably continue going forward. This also applies to services such as transition housing and support.”

**APPROPRIATE FACILITIES**

In Salvation Army residential settings, such as Pindari Crisis and Supported Accommodation in Brisbane, clients were moved to a new temporary accommodation, Atira student apartments (view from accommodation far right), as part of a government initiative to house some of the city’s most vulnerable people in one place and help combat the spread of COVID-19. The Salvation Army continues to provide support for the clients.

In the Northern Territory, Darwin’s Red Shield Hostel is undergoing a major redevelopment, now with COVID-19 guidelines being applied. Cultural considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are also a major feature of the redevelopment.

“Our buildings are no longer fit for purpose,” says Livia. “We need to make sure, with strict hygiene and social-distancing policies in place, that our facilities are appropriate. It’s time to move away from shared facilities. This won’t be the last public health

crisis, so we need to be prepared for what might come next. “This has impacted decisions around occupancy rates, as well as keeping staff updated with current changes, appropriate signage and industrial cleaning. We have also had to identify rooms that, should someone present with symptoms or need to self-isolate, that we could ensure their safety and that of other residents.

“Group activities have had to be suspended and residents given more access to TVs, books, jigsaw puzzles and the like, to keep them active and engaged. We are, of course, very mindful of the health and wellbeing of our staff and are ensuring they are doing well and getting the support they need.”

These changes have been consistent across the four streams of Social Mission.

**ROUGH SLEEPERS**

Work supporting rough sleepers has continued, as this group of people are particularly vulnerable and at risk. “We are responding appropriately, using personal protective equipment and social distancing,” says Livia. “In Victoria, under State Manager Shane Austin and together with other agencies, we are

getting people off the street and into hotels and motels, which provides them a level of independence with attached support. This is happening in other states as well.

“It’s hard to say what will happen in the future. I hope that the government, businesses and charities will get it right and we can assist the homeless into stable and permanent housing so they don’t come back onto the streets. We don’t want a new generation of homelessness – we want to respond through prevention.

“We are also working with people who have never been homeless or sought help before – people whose entire industry has been impacted by the pandemic. People will continue to hurt, and how they recover will to a degree depend on what we do as a community, and how we all respond.

“For The Salvation Army, we will, both now and into the future, respond with assistance to those who knock on our doors. We will keep engaging with governments, the business sector and other agencies – we have a long history of working with the homeless and bring a lot to the table.

“We will be there for the long haul with other like-minded organisations and we need to speak up around decision and policy recommendations to ensure people get the help and dignity they deserve. It’s as basic as William Booth’s ‘I’ll Fight’ message.”



**WATCH**

Throughout August, *Others* is sharing videos about The Salvation Army’s response to homelessness on our website. Keep an eye out for these videos from Salvos Studios:

**Testimonies:** People who experienced homelessness share how encountering The Salvation Army put them on a new path.

**Case studies:** A caseworker talks about supporting rough sleepers during the coronavirus pandemic.

**State strategy:** The manager for homelessness in each state and territory talks about what they are doing in their region to end homelessness.

Watch the videos throughout August by going to [others.org.au/videos](https://others.org.au/videos)

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

Livia says that stimulating and expanding social housing is critical to solving homelessness and giving people dignity and a permanent home. This includes using the private rental market where appropriate, as well as the increased use of serviced apartments taken ‘offline’ and used as a private rental.

“These ideas are becoming more established and are also more appropriate for other vulnerable people, such as women leaving situations of domestic violence, or First Nations peoples,” she says.

“The ideas are out there and homelessness can be eliminated. There has to be a strong political will, a collective desire to end street sleeping, a drive to building the necessary societal structures, and stimulating the economy in a way that allows for social and affordable housing, especially as we work through the pandemic and beyond.”\*

**Simone Worthing** is the Assistant Editor of *Salvos Magazine*.



## THE HUMAN FACE OF HOMELESSNESS

Pandemic adds new layer to a complex problem

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

**P**hilip\* is 75. He has a level of dementia, lived on his own and was experiencing several health and social issues. As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed, he was facing eviction – until The Salvation Army intervened. “We knew living on the street would have a bad outcome for David,” says Mark Dixon, The Salvation Army’s Program Manager for Homelessness Services in Gippsland, Eastern Victoria.

“We referred him into a residential support service, where he will have a better quality of life and his family can be part of his care. We’ll also organise for him to be assessed for a specialised residential service that provides housing and care to the elderly at risk of homelessness due to their addictions.”

Jeff\* is a rough sleeper who has an acquired brain injury. He is well known in the local region and was seen as having few options. Jeff was high functioning and now, due to his injuries, has complex needs. He is unable to commit to good decisions or follow through on arrangements aimed at getting him off the street.

“Jeff is a lovely gentleman with a wicked sense of humour,” says Mark. “We see his potential and won’t give up on him. We are working with mental health services, the local council and police to make sure he won’t have to sleep in a tent through the winter.”

Alex\* is a young man who has a mental health disorder. He lives in a caravan park and has limited problem-solving skills. “Local and regional services aren’t an

option for him, but again, we see his potential and will take him on as a client,” says Mark. “With the right care and in the right circumstances, he has a good future and won’t end up as a rough sleeper.”

Mark and his hard-working team are based in Leongatha, 130km south-east of Melbourne. Their clients include people of all ages and genders, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have high and complex needs which require creative and flexible service responses.

“Our focus is on social and spiritual support; on securing stable and permanent accommodation so people don’t have to come back needing a further crisis response,” Mark explains.

“We want to ‘turn off the tap’ to prevent harm and homelessness, which gives a much better result for everyone and also reduces the impact on our crisis resources and time so we are available to support others in need.

“We are doing preventative work, but largely at the moment we are reacting to daily crises based on a ‘triage’ system – looking at who is homeless today and not who will be homeless in a month’s time, and responding to that.

“Regardless of where our clients go, until we resolve the immediate crisis we stay in touch until they have safe landing or a safe option for the night. Clients can →

always re-engage with us again as needed.” Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as many as 10 clients would come into the service for assistance five days a week. Now, working under COVID-19 restrictions and according to government guidelines, limited face-to-face appointments occur. Most work is done by phone and/or electronically – finding crisis accommodation including motel stays, case management, providing rental assistance, managing client safety, and linking to other services.

As demands increase on all Salvation Army homelessness services, finances to cover crisis clients’ immediate needs are an ongoing challenge and a daily balancing act for Mark and his team.

“They are passionate and mission-focused,” says Mark of his team of 14 people (including eight case-workers), most of whom are part-time. “They advocate for those who are in the ‘too hard’ basket. Today is the day for change and we don’t give up! Yes, we advocate for change, but in the meantime we walk the walk with the clients and are getting some great outcomes for them.”

**INCREASED DEMAND**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, homelessness services are seeing a huge increase in demand for crisis motel stays – more than 90 per cent in Gippsland. This is largely due to the loss of income, especially for casual workers, and families where one or both parents are no longer employed. This will most likely increase in the future as more businesses are unable to reopen.

As expanded government assistance packages end and accumulated expenses, such as rent relief, begin to impact, services are expecting the ‘next wave’ of homelessness to hit.

“We are encouraging people to talk to real estate agencies about arrears and renegotiating rental contracts, and proactively talking to government HEF [Housing Establishment Fund] support,” explains Mark. “We did get some additional HEF funding to assist, but it falls short of what we need, especially given the complexity of mental health issues with homeless rough sleepers and those directly impacted by COVID-19.

“The good thing for us in The Salvation Army is that, when there is a crisis of any kind, we are there. We can advocate on behalf of people and work to prevent them going back to bad situations, but we need the



brokerage to ensure we don’t put pressure on clients or send them into debt.

“I came back to work with The Salvation Army to help be a voice for those who don’t have a voice and to advocate where the system is broken. It’s always about the client, about the mission, and not leaving anyone behind.”\*

*\* Names have been changed*

**Simone Worthing** is the Assistant Editor of *Salvos Magazine*.

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**VALUES STATEMENT**





James Singer says he has always had a heart for the marginalised, which he can now utilise for God as part of The Salvation Army. Photo courtesy of Kyabram Free Press

## SAVED AT SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the age of 32, James Singer found his ‘special friend’

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

**A**ged 32 and sitting in Sunday school with his three small children, James Singer heard for the first time an invitation to have a special friend. The invitation was intriguing for James. He had never had a special friend. He had had a few friends, but wasn’t really close to anybody, in particular. He was raised in what he says was a dysfunctional family. His family moved seven times in James’ first 15 years. He didn’t have time to make friends. Nobody got close to him; he didn’t let them. It was his way of dealing with the life forced upon him.

“I don’t think I was a bad kid,” he says. “I did push the boundaries. I was unsettled. I was no angel. But, somehow, I was able to keep clear of the law, more by good luck than good management.”

Early adult life had its ‘moments’. James now prefers to dwell on the positives rather than the negatives of life. By the time he was 32, he was, he says, a “dry alcoholic”, had lost a business and was trying to pay off debts and back taxes.

“I wasn’t drinking anymore,” he says, “but I had all of the alcoholic tendencies and behaviours – anger, lying, cheating, selfishness. I wasn’t a nice person when I was drunk and I wasn’t a nice person when I was sober, either.”

James defines a dry alcoholic as a person who doesn’t drink alcohol, but displays the behaviours of an alcoholic. A recovering alcoholic, he says, is a person who is

recovering physically, mentally and spiritually from alcoholism, but has not yet fully recovered and may never be fully free of the grip of alcoholism.

Finding his ‘special friend’ at 32 changed his life, dramatically.

James has two adult sons and a granddaughter from a previous marriage. During that marriage, a step-daughter had a sleepover with a friend. The friend attended Sunday school at The Salvation Army at Queanbeyan, on the NSW-ACT border.

When his step-daughter returned from the sleepover, she asked her mother if she could go to the Sunday school. Her mother told her to ask her father (James). “I told her that I had never had anything to do with religion and that I didn’t care [whether she went or not],” James says .

“Anyway, I started dropping her off and picking her up at Sunday school. Next thing, I also took a second step-daughter and my son, who were then both pre-school age. Someone at the Salvos said it was okay for me to take them, but that I would have to stay to help look after them. So, there I was, sitting up the back in Sunday school looking after my little kids.

“After a few months of doing this, the Sunday school teacher asked the children if they would like to invite Jesus to come into their life and be their special friend. Well, I thought, ‘gee I could do with a special friend.’ →



James and his wife Taryn (left) with Kyabram District Health Services CEO Anne McEvoy during a Christmas toy drive.

“  
... I prayed  
the prayer of  
accepting Jesus  
as my special  
friend with all of  
the other kids,  
unbeknown  
to the Sunday  
school teacher.  
”



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My life was pretty rubbish. So, I prayed the prayer of accepting Jesus as my special friend with all of the other kids, unbeknown to the Sunday school teacher.

“A few weeks later, one of the women at church, a nice, little, traditional Salvo lady, in full uniform, asked me where I was up to in my walk with Jesus. Because I was a very rough bloke, at the time, I probably used a few swear words enquiring about what she meant by my ‘walk with Jesus’.

“I told her that I had prayed the prayer to accept Jesus as my friend, but that I must have got it wrong. She asked me why I had thought I got it wrong. I told her that I thought that because nothing had changed.” The “nice, little, traditional Salvo lady” took on the job of discipling James.

“She taught me about Jesus, showed me how to read the Bible and how to pray. She told me that I was actually saved. She taught me the absolute basics of being a Christian and the fact that, actually, somebody really, really loved and cared for me.”

From there, James got involved with the church and found the acceptance and friendships he hadn't known growing up and didn't feel he deserved. As he grew in his friendship with Christ, he considered Salvation Army officership. But it never quite worked out for a, by then, single father of two boys.

A few years ago, while serving as a soldier at Moonee Valley Corps in Melbourne, he found another friend in the Assistant Corps Officer, Lieutenant Taryn Castles. Taryn says she was initially attracted to James when she discovered that he was willing to surrender a good career in Canberra to move to Melbourne so that one of his sons could study at the National Institute of Circus Art. “James is a character – a character with integrity,” she says.

They married three years ago and James became an auxiliary-lieutenant 18 months ago. Now, he is Corps Officer at Kyabram Corps, in northern Victoria. Taryn is a Project Officer (Mission) at Territorial Headquarters in Melbourne, researching the effect of COVID-19 on Salvation Army social programs.

And James now has more friends than he ever imagined.

“No, I'm not surprised, in a way, that I am where I am today,” he says. “Yes, I had a tough life and I was a tough person. But I have always had a heart for the marginalised in society. They are the people The Salvation Army looks out for. It's who I am.” \*

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.



Graham Ashton forged a strong link with The Salvation Army during his five years serving as chief commissioner of Victoria Police.

## IN DARKEST MELBOURNE AND THE WAY OUT

Williams Booth's book impacts former police chief commissioner

WORDS BARRY GITTINS

**G**raham Leonard Ashton AM APM was just plain Graham over the phone. He'd kindly and casually taken the chance to talk about The Salvation Army and Melbourne during the last few days of his five years' service as chief commissioner of Victoria Police before retiring.

Graham explains he is a student of history. He is also a firm believer in expressing and modelling empathy, as shown in 2015 when he launched a review into the mental health and wellbeing of Victoria Police employees. It's one of many examples of a man who knows life can be tough for many of us.

It's also one of the things he has in common with The Salvation Army. Speaking of which, "I first met Brendan and Sandra Nottle [leaders of The Salvation Army's Project 614 in inner-Melbourne] about seven years ago, I suppose," Graham says. "I was the deputy commissioner at the time and we'd run into each other a few times at our local cafes and restaurants – I worked intensely with Brendan since becoming chief commissioner."

Looking back on his time in the service of his fellow Victorians, Graham says that "time has flown". "Our relationship with The Salvation Army at 69 Bourke Street [614] has been strong for many years and it has grown," he adds. "Both organisations see things from the ground, and we know the reality of dealing with family violence, with poverty, neglect, homelessness and violence.

"We both have experience in these fields, Victoria Police members and Salvo staff. And our members are close by 614 at 9 Bourke Street, and often drop by to see how things are going. We are used to the behaviours and issues the Salvos deal with, and on both fronts, the Salvos and our members, we act with professionalism, compassion and empathy." →



Major Brendan Nottle (centre) with Graham (to Brendan's left) and members of Victoria Police at a function at Project 614 last year.

### NEED FOR A SAFETY NET

It was after hearing Salvationist John Cleary speaking on William Booth's 19th century treatise *In Darkest England and the Way Out* that Graham was motivated to source a copy and tease out Booth's vision for a just, compassionate society. "I have an interest in historic texts," Graham explains, "and I found *In Darkest England* to be insightful, far-reaching and informative."

So much so, to Major Brendan Nottle's surprise and delight, that the chief commissioner name-dropped the opus and cited some of its views in an advisory committee that the major sits on. "Even viewed through today's lens, the book is powerful and provides a key commonality," Graham says. "We will always need to create a safety net, to avoid the 'worst' that living in a society can confront you with. And for a century and a half, The Salvation Army has helped provide that safety net for Melburnians." One thing that stays with Graham was how William Booth and his comrades called for – and provided – wrap-around services from right outside the prison gates, meeting newly released inmates and providing support services and accommodation to avoid recidivism.

"We need to do more of that today," Graham says. "Booth identified that homelessness is a major causal factor for crime and misery. It is still true today, and people need to

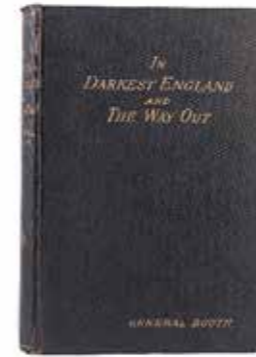
base themselves in a safe place, their home. Booth wrote that 'even foxes have lairs and birds have nests'; there are a lot of underlying issues that stem from not having a home."

Asked what he meant by the 'worst' that a society can face from human disadvantage and marginalisation, Graham lists the hurts people suffer from, including poor mental health, which he explains "is the second most statistically significant issue we deal with after family violence".

"We [police] respond to a mental health issue every 10 minutes, and our members respond to a family violence issue every seven or eight minutes," Graham says, "and attending issues stemming from drug addiction or substance abuse follows on from that. Back in Booth's day, he was looking at alcoholism from a temperance lens. These days we see alcohol abuse and other substance abuse as an enabler to other negative behaviours."

### A METROPOLIS AT RISK

Whether it was responding to events in his younger days or setting policy in his latter years, Graham has come to grips with the human condition. I've caught him in a reflective mood, giving a historical perspective to Melbourne's state of play. "The city of Melbourne



grew from impressive immigration; people came from all over the world and established a multicultural community. With growth and development a lot of people can fall out of the frame, and there are social consequences."

Graham notes that Melbourne is currently going through another growth spurt, "from a city to a metropolis – we need to acknowledge that with significant infrastructural and economic growth comes significant opportunities but also significant risk. If we pretend the risk is not there, you face a possible growth of disadvantage that will put your entire community at risk," Graham cautions. "Systemic social disadvantage can grow a small cohort into a critical mass, which will destabilise everyone."

So how should we proactively avoid that kind of civil unrest? As with Booth, Graham is quick to call for a wider view of society, including the have-nots as well as the haves.

"If you want to live in a safe, stable community, then you have to offer support to those who are struggling," he says. That comes at a cost, but a much lesser cost than the ensuing class warfare and strife of unheeded disadvantage, fuelled by hunger and courted by neglect. "Looking back to Booth's book, there is what we today would call the 'no wrong door' policy, which we see demonstrated by the Melbourne Project 614 team," Graham says. "They say to people, 'We may not have an immediate solution to your crisis, but we will advocate on your part and we'll get there'. That has been one of the traits that Brendan and his team brings to bear. I value the view that Brendan brings, that we have to care for the whole spectrum of society."\*

**Barry Gittins** is the Marketplace Coordinator at Project 614 and is an occasional contributor to *Others*.

### MAN OF COMPASSION

words Brendan Nottle

It has been a privilege to work with and to learn from Graham Ashton, who as chief commissioner showed a great deal of compassion and wisdom in how he has directed his members to work with our clients.

Graham's interest in the seminal work of William Booth has been an inspiration to me – indeed, his knowledge of the work and its ethos, values, tactics and recommendations would put a lot of Salvationists to shame.

There are people we meet in our daily rounds who can be unpredictable and sometimes may lash out at others, and also hurt themselves. They have been deeply hurt by life. Graham's approach was always to ensure they received compassionate, humane treatment.

I am reminded of Booth's *In Darkest England* writings about justice and compassion. He even covered the hardest cohort of people to reach; those whom would be diagnosed these days as psychologically troubled: "... I would have every possible means tried to effect their reclamation. Let Justice punish them, and Mercy put her arms around them; let them be appealed to by penalty and by reason, and by every influence, human and Divine, that can possibly be brought to bear upon them. Then, if all alike failed, their ability to further curse their fellows and themselves should be stayed ...

"They will still remain objects worthy of infinite compassion. They should lead as human a life as is possible to those who have fallen under so terrible a judgment. They should have their own little cottages in their own little gardens, under the blue sky, and, if possible, amid the green fields. I would deny them none of the advantages, moral, mental, and religious which might minister to their diseased minds, and tend to restore them to a better state. Not until the breath leaves their bodies should we cease to labour and wrestle for their salvation."

I would offer a hearty "Amen", as I believe would Graham Ashton.

**Major Brendan Nottle** is the Corps Officer at Melbourne Project 614.

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## Read

ROBERT STREET

**HEAD, HANDS AND FEET. WHAT PETER AND JESUS DID NEXT**



*Head, Hands and Feet – What Peter and Jesus Did Next* is a devotional book consisting of 10 short reflections on the life of

Jesus. Commissioner Robert Street is a well-known leader and author within The Salvation Army, and while he has retired to his home corps in Stotfold, England, his passion for drawing others into a deeper relationship with Jesus has not waned. This little book continues his desire to stimulate thought about the depth of love found in Jesus.

Each instalment reveals some of the very human failings, faults and foibles of the disciples. From Peter's over-zealousness to Judas' dark deliberations, we are encouraged, as modern-day disciples, to consider how we reflect those same traits and tendencies.

Alongside these reflections, we are shown that Jesus' quiet acceptance of the disciples' faults and his love for them regardless is exactly the same way he treats us.

Helpfully, the Scripture reference for each story told and related Bible readings are included for study. Also included are some well-chosen verses from The Salvation Army songbook to aid in reflection and prayer.

This is a beautiful reminder of the steadfast love of God. Available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies ([thetrade.salvos.org.au](https://thetrade.salvos.org.au)) and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies ([commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](https://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au)).

– Phil Inglis

## Read

DAVID KINNAMAN AND MARK MATLOCK

**FAITH FOR EXILES. 5 WAYS FOR A NEW GENERATION TO FOLLOW JESUS IN DIGITAL BABYLON**



*Faith for Exiles* provides practical, research-based methods for pastors and spiritual leaders to effectively disciple a new

generation of young people they describe as 'exiles'. So who are the 'exiles'? They are categorised into these groups: ex-Christians, the unchurched, habitual churchgoers and resilient disciples.

The authors identify a new era of young people growing up between the metaphorical Jerusalem of traditional faith – sweet and simple with a sense of religious pride; contrasted against a digital Babylon, a “pagan but spiritual, hyper-stimulated, multicultural, imperial crossroads that is the virtual home of every person with Wi-Fi”.

Rather than focusing on where the Church has veered off course with millennials, this book manages to strike a balance of owning the errors while illustrating what has gone right. This creates practical action steps to grow and multiply this experience for the current and upcoming generation.

This is not a 'feel-good' before bed read, as I found it very personally challenging. But I would highly recommend this as essential to any spiritual leader, mentor or significant person in a young person's life. My takeaway is that we must not shelter this generation from the world but equip them to live as confident followers of Christ.

Available at Koorong ([koorong.com](https://koorong.com)).  
– Anna Howlett

## Read

DEAN PALLANT

**TO BE LIKE JESUS! CHRISTIAN ETHICS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY SALVATION ARMY**



Published by The Salvation Army Historical and Philatelic Association (S.A.H.P.A.) and

touted to be “a fascinating collection of Salvation Army historical pieces ...” the 160-page *From the Archives – Historical Salvation Army anecdotes from the archives of the S.A.H.P.A.* is indeed a fascinating potpourri of 21 attention-grabbing stories by as many authors.

David Miller has assembled stories as disparate as 'The Brides of Christ' and 'The Salvation Army and Corporal William Clamp VC' to 'Dublin's Hallelujah Lasses' and 'The Lost Tribe?' There are also stories of Salvation Army struggles and victories at individual, corps and organisational levels. This is a good read, marred a little for me by its lack of Antipodean content.

The S.A.H.P.A. holds a wealth of knowledge in its archives and in the collective knowledge of its some 2200 members scattered around the world. The association was launched in July 2005, with the merger of the Christian Mission Historical Society and The Salvation Army Philatelic Circle.

*From the Archives – Historical Salvation Army anecdotes from the archives of the S.A.H.P.A.* is available at Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or [commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](https://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au)  
– Lindsay Cox

More reviews at [others.org.au](https://others.org.au)



## Mates raise \$10,000 for new aged care centre

KUBIRRI, THE NEW Salvation Army aged care facility in Far North Queensland, has received a \$10,000 donation from an unexpected source.

Kubirri (pronounced koo-boo-ree), will be officially opened on 25 August.

Good friends Peter Cleary and Lloyd Valentine spent two years raising the \$10,000. “We knew this project was going on and we decided it would be a good idea to [do some fundraising],” Peter said.

The Mossman District Nursing Home Committee is ‘over the moon’ with what the men raised and plans to match their donation. Committee



◆ The recently completed Kubirri Aged Care Centre in Mossman, Far North Queensland, looking out over the mountains of the Mount Lewis National Park. Inset: The kitchen area of the new centre.

President Marjorie Norris said the donation was “touching” and the money would be used to benefit residents at the 42-bed residential facility in Mossman.

“We’re very thankful for the support. The community has been wonderfully generous,” Marjorie said. “We have a couple of suggestions on what this donation could be used for and we will be discussing ideas

with the project manager.”

Marjorie described the new facility as “exhilarating”, saying the project had been a “huge part of my life” so to see it take shape was “really special”.

“I’m so relieved to have it up and nearly operating,” Marjorie said. “Aged care is an absolute necessity here. We’ve needed it for so long. Douglas Shire Council, The Salvation Army

and our committee worked closely together.”

The Mossman District Nursing Home committee had campaigned for an aged care facility for more than 20 years.

Douglas Shire Council invested heavily in the project, including securing more than \$500,000 in funding and waiving about \$250,000 in fees. – **Darryl Whitecross**

## Celebrity chef Manu Feildel serves up gratitude at Maroubra

SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEERS from Maroubra Salvos in Sydney have been treated to dinner cooked by a celebrity chef.

Six volunteers – Jack, Connie, Dwayne, Dianne, Paul and Lauren – were six unsuspecting but deserving diners invited to a special night at Maroubra Salvos.

Unbeknown to them, their dinner was being prepared by popular TV chef Manu Feildel.

A supporter of The Salvation Army, Manu decided to show his appreciation through what he loves doing – cooking! As he puts it, “It’s a terrible time at the

moment and where we can help [we] should be helping. That’s why I’m happy to say thanks to these guys because they’re doing a fantastic job ... they’ve been doing it for a long time.”

Manu cooked the meals in his own kitchen and then drove to Maroubra Corps where he was taken through a back entrance to the kitchen to put the final touches on the meals.

Captain Joanne and Cadet Keven Williams (Maroubra Corps Officers) joined the volunteers for the dinner.

– **Pallavi Singhal**



◆ Celebrity chef Manu Feildel cooked a surprise meal for six Salvo volunteers to show his support for The Salvation Army.

## Bikes and lives turned around in recycling venture

IT HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE: THE Salvation Army is an organisation of second chances – the addicted on the road to recovery, the prodigals restored to faith, and bric-a-brac given a new lease on life.

Bicycles have now become part of that with the wheels of a new Brisbane Streetlevel program having been set in motion officially in Brisbane, where bikes are being given a second chance at life.

The Salvos Re-cycle Bikes program was officially opened recently by Lieutenant-Colonel David Godkin, Queensland Divisional Commander.

Program coordinator Andy Steele said that, with the help of some Brisbane City Council and Salvation Army grants, the centre was fully operational.

The containers have been painted and signs put up, and the centre has been fitted out



◆ Left: Salvos Re-Cycle Bikes initiative volunteer mechanics Wes Thompson (left) and Damien Saal with centre coordinator Andy Steele. Right: Lieut-Colonel David Godkin officially opens the program.



with shelving, tools, equipment, parts and two all-important maintenance poles.

Andy said the centre was struggling to keep up with demand – “a nice problem to have”. He said that, as fast as the team could recondition a bike, it would sell.

The centre is in the grounds of Salvos Stores at Red Hill and is part of the Moonyah rehabilitation complex.

Chief bike mechanics Wes Thompson and Damien ‘Damo’ Saal said they were grateful for the opportunity to work at Salvos Re-cycle Bikes.

“It gives me a sense of purpose; some direction,” Damien said. “I like giving back to the Salvos. They have done a lot for me ... saved my life. I was heavily involved in drugs [so] without these guys, who knows where I would be.”

– **Darryl Whitecross**

## More financial counsellors hit the road thanks to Transurban

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR a unique scholarship program that assists five Salvation Army officers or employees to study a Diploma of Financial Counselling.

The scholarship program began in 2019 as a result of a Salvation Army-Transurban partnership. Transurban runs Linkt toll roads in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Transurban approached The Salvation Army to invite a Moneycare financial counsellor to sit on a steering committee that was looking at how to assist



◆ Transurban’s Jane Calvert (left) with Bonnie Phimester, one of the 2019 recipients of a Transurban scholarship.

customers in financial hardship who experienced tolling debt.

“We wanted to better understand how the business could

detect and support customers going through difficult times,” said Jane Calvert, Transurban Customer and Communities Advocate. “We were so impressed by the breadth and scope of the work that financial counsellors do and how critical it is.”

The work of the steering committee led to Transurban establishing its own dedicated financial hardship team, called Linkt Assist. During that process, the company engaged a Salvation Army financial counsellor to help co-design a series

of educational videos on tolling, aimed at financial intervention.

The first Transurban Financial Counselling scholarships were offered last year and resulted in four employees and one Salvation Army officer undertaking Diplomas of Financial Counselling at Eva Burrows College in Melbourne.

Applications close on 12 August. For more information, head to: [evaburrowscollege.edu.au/students/scholarships/transurban-financial-counselling-scholarship](http://evaburrowscollege.edu.au/students/scholarships/transurban-financial-counselling-scholarship)

– **Lauren Martin**

## Bushfire victims at home with housing pods



◆ The Salvation Army is partnering with the NSW Government and the Minderoo Foundation to provide temporary housing pods, like this one recently installed for a bushfire-affected family. Inset: The interior of one of the pods. Photos courtesy of the NSW Government.

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS entered into an initiative with the New South Wales Government and the Minderoo Foundation to provide bushfire-affected families with a temporary home while they rebuild after the 'Black Summer' disaster.

"There are people still living under tarps, living in all sorts of displacement," said Martin Boyle, leader of The Salvation Army Bushfire Recovery Workers team, which has been working in local communities remotely since February.

Under the initiative, to which The Salvation Army contributed \$1.5 million, temporary accommodation 'pods', with built-in electricity, water and

sewer systems, are being set up on people's properties for a period of up to two years. The pods are different sizes, depending on the needs of the property owner or size of the family being assisted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge, Secretary for Mission, said the Army assisted more than 8000 NSW households during the bushfire response. "We know those who lost

their homes will face a particularly hard road to recovery and that having the stability of a recovery pod will make the journey more manageable.

"We are pleased to be working with the NSW Government and Minderoo Foundation and look forward to stepping further into the provision of additional long-term recovery accommodation."

More than 100 pods have

already been allocated to families across NSW. Another 70 are being constructed.

Once a pod is delivered, Salvation Army workers journey with individuals and families, providing wrap-around services through its Doorways and Moneycare counselling and relief services, referrals to other agencies for mental health, and other support.

— **Lauren Martin**

## Just Brass celebrates a decade of hitting all the right notes

THE SALVATION ARMY JUST Brass program is celebrating a decade of making music and coming alongside young people.

Just Brass was started 10 years ago by Salvationist brothers John and David Collinson, who love music and playing their brass instruments.

John, who plays the trumpet, is a music teacher and has been part of many orchestras and bands. David also taught music before becoming a Salvation Army officer.



◆ Just Brass consultant Britteny Ling.

They wanted to share their love of music with primary

school-aged kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. They started their first Just Brass program at a school in Geelong. Now there are Just Brass programs run by The Salvation Army in many primary schools around Australia and even overseas.

Just Brass consultant Britteny Ling said, due to the coronavirus pandemic, plans to mark the anniversary with celebrations couldn't go ahead.

"Sadly, we had to cancel plans to visit every state and have a combined Fun Day with all the Just Brass bands, but we are still working towards a big gathering of Just Brass musicians next year."

Just Brass has continued to operate during the pandemic, with online lessons and band practices.

"It's been amazing to see how creative the teachers have been," Britteny said.

— **Faye Michelson**

## Carnival Online connecting youth across the nation

"SHOUT OUT TO YOUR MATES from other states!" The coronavirus pandemic may be keeping people from gathering, but that hasn't stopped the Territorial Youth and Young Adults team from keeping people connected through technology.

The catchcry 'mates from other states' has become a rallying call on the youth team's monthly one-hour variety show – Carnival Online. Through it, more than 4000 viewers have engaged in the mission and ministry of the Salvos.

"Everything we do should be about what an individual youth ministry can't achieve on their own," said Auxiliary-Lieutenant Adam Purcell, Territorial Youth and Young Adults Secretary. "We should fill those gaps for them, and that became the foundation for Carnival Online. It wasn't actually a response to COVID-19 – this is what we do now to strengthen local youth ministries and it has become part of the function of our team permanently."



◆ Isaac Mead and Cate Grace host the June live stream of Carnival Online, run by the Territorial Youth and Young Adults Department.

Streamed on YouTube, the show embraces all the fun and connection of the popular annual Summer Carnival event (formerly Youth Councils). Online challenges are set, devotions and studies are available, and there's even a pre-show item from a local youth ministry – already led by the Carindale and Hobart youth teams.

"Connecting young people across the country was a

really important part," said Auxiliary-Lieutenant Melissa Purcell, who shares the youth and young adults secretary role with Adam.

"A young person in Perth can connect with a young person in Cairns. They are seeing and experiencing the same thing; they feel part of something bigger than their local context, but also connecting in their local context."

The beauty of Carnival

Online is that it can be viewed in large or small groups, or individually. But what about people who can't access the internet? Thankfully, the youth and young adults team have been able to fill the gap.

In partnership with the territory's Innovation Team, they sourced a grant through the Salvos IDEAS Platform. Each youth ministry across the nation was encouraged to submit an idea that would help them better connect with their youth during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"We wanted to help youth ministries stay connected during this time, whether that's buying headphones or paying for a premium account on Zoom so they can do youth group online," said Adam. "The Innovation Team jumped at the idea to help youth ministries stay connected without the restriction of what they can afford."

Carnival Online Facebook page has more information.

— **Jessica Morris**

## Bellarine team to 'coach' Parks Victoria

A RELATIONSHIP WITH PARKS VICTORIA has enabled Bellarine Peninsula Salvos to reach people experiencing homelessness in the You Yangs Regional Park.

After realising multiple people were living from their cars in the area just north of Geelong, Parks Victoria invited Captain Peter Hobbs to 'coach' staff on how to best treat homeless people.

"That's where we are in The Salvation Army now. We have to be in a relational space. The programs are nice, but they're

are not going to transform people. Only relationships do that," said Peter.

The relationship with Parks Victoria has expanded to include interaction with people across Bacchus Marsh and Queenscliff, and the Bellarine Peninsula Salvos continue to facilitate relationships with local authorities to best support people experiencing homelessness. "We meet the vulnerable and build trust, and help heal them, and do whatever they need," said Peter.

— **Jessica Morris**



◆ Captain Peter Hobbs (right) with his team (left) and a Parks Victoria representative.

## Beacon of Hope lights up Pakenham community

WHEN THE SALVATION ARMY Doorways relief and counselling service opened in Pakenham late last year, the team was tasked with supporting some of south-east Melbourne's most vulnerable people.

It's been an eventful nine months for the team, opening just before the Christmas rush and now stepping up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But they couldn't have done it without support from sections of the community, in particular the nearby Beaconhills College.

When Pakenham Doorways opened, the Christmas season was looming and a fact was clear: if the Doorways team couldn't source enough food and gifts by 25 December, many needy people in the area would be left without Christmas cheer.



● Pakenham Doorways emergency relief worker Amanda Fleming and co-worker John Cooper with food and fresh produce donated by Beaconhills College.

The answer to their prayers came in the form of Clare Tuohy, a teacher at Beaconhills College, who offered assistance through the college's Citizenship and Service program, 'Beacon of Hope'.

"Clare called and said her school was running a food and toy drive," said Doorways worker Amanda Fleming.

After more than 1000 donations of toys and food from Beacon of Hope, Doorways was

fully stocked for Christmas.

A partnership emerged that has since blossomed during the COVID-19 crisis.

"From there we kept in touch," Amanda said. "Clare had fantastic ideas – like their community garden that often is filled with extra produce – we said we'd love that!"

When schools were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Clare and her team of volunteers took advantage of the

college's commercial kitchen and began organising chef-made meals. Soon, 50 meals a week were being sent out to the community – the college even offering to loan its truck to the Army to transport meals.

"We don't always know who the people are who have the most need, but the Salvos do," Clare said. "One of the great ways to support our community is to help the Salvos."

– Jessica Morris

## Churches unite to shelter Shepparton's homeless

A WARM BED AND A HEALTHY BREAKFAST are something most people take for granted, but for people experiencing homelessness in northern Victoria, this isn't always the case.

That will change this time next year when the Winter Night Shelter Initiative gets underway in the Shepparton-Mooroopna region, the result of a partnership between local churches including The Salvation Army. The initiative will involve members of more than a dozen churches across the region who will welcome rough sleepers

– providing security and belonging through a bed and breakfast – until they find more permanent shelter.

"We've got 13 churches across Shepparton and Mooroopna that have been engaged in the initiative, which will allow us to journey with people holistically until housing opens up," said Captain Karyn Wishart, Shepparton Corps Officer (pictured).



"We have four churches [including the Salvos] who have so far committed to their space being used overnight on a rotating basis when we open in 2021. The other churches will support through volunteering in the project – hands and feet on the floor – as we try to make sure it is successful.

"We've received \$10,000 in grants ... and churches have committed funds, but it's exciting that the churches want to work together [to fix] this need for our region."

– Jessica Morris

## Young captains bringing new life to Busselton

WHEN CAPTAINS MARK AND Zoe Schatz received a change of appointment to Bunbury Corps in south-west Western Australia in 2018, the role included not just the corps, but the oversight of a crisis accommodation service, a Doorways service and an additional appointment as the local Employment Plus Chaplains. Oh, and then there was Busselton Corps and Thrift Shop (just down the road) without any officer oversight.

"So, we picked it up as an additional appointment," Mark laughed in a 'you-must-think-I'm-crazy' kind of way when asked about this new appointment about six months after arriving.

Busselton is a seaside tourist town, about a two-and-a-half-hour drive south of Perth. The Thrift Shop there was thriving, but corps attendance had declined over the years. The first thing Mark and Zoe did when they took on the additional appointment of corps officers was to shut down the corps – but only temporarily.

"We closed it down for about six weeks," said Mark. "We just wanted to pray about it, and said, 'God, what do you want us to do about it?'"

"I am doing a new thing," said the Lord to Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) and that's what the Schatzes and their Bunbury leadership team felt he was saying to them about Busselton as well.

"We just felt like we needed to treat it as a brand-new plant, a replant from Bunbury," said Mark. "And we just started inviting people from our



● Captain Mark Schatz is excited that God is stirring a revival in south-west Western Australia.



● Mark and Zoe Schatz oversee The Salvation Army's work in Bunbury and Busselton.

Busselton Doorways [emergency relief and financial counselling] service."

One of the first to attend was Edith – and her six children – who had recently relocated

to Busselton to escape an unhealthy relationship. "I didn't even know The Salvation Army was a church," she said, "but since we starting going there we haven't looked back!"

She said she loves the inclusive way the children are embraced during the service and the way that 'the pastors' (as she calls Mark and Zoe) explain the Bible.

"The people in the Bible stories – you would think they would always be perfect ... it's helped me so much the way they explain some of the stories in the Bible."

According to Mark, there hasn't been any 'secret formula' used in the replanting of Busselton Corps. "It's just all about relationship," he said, plus a dose of old-fashioned pastoral care, which has

included hospital visits and phone calls.

That care has certainly touched Edith. Struggling late one night with past trauma, she said, "Mark and his wife stayed on the phone and prayed for me and helped me a lot ... I've never met pastors like them; they're really awesome."

For Mark and Zoe, the additional corps appointment of Busselton is much more a blessing than a burden: "Busselton is just coming alive!" said Mark. "The community is starting to recognise The Salvation Army is not dead. We're not done and God's not finished with us. We still have life in us and because of that we're going to keep marching forward to try to win the world for Jesus!"

– Lauren Martin

## Australian musicians pay tribute to composer

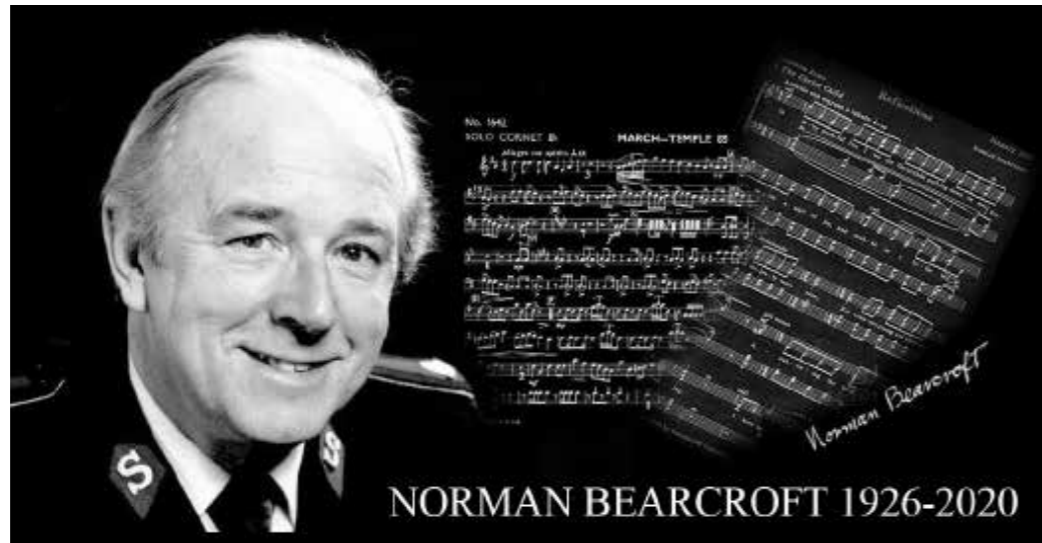
COMPOSERS AND MUSICIANS from across The Salvation Army in Australia have paid tribute to Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Bearcroft, who has passed away at his home in New Jersey, in the United States, aged 94.

Norman was considered one of the Army's most prolific and respected music writers. Many Salvationists will have a favourite Norman Bearcroft piece, whether vocal or brass, and a title will immediately spring to mind.

Born on 24 January 1926 in Wallsend-on-Tyne, England, Norman was promoted to glory on 26 June.

Melbourne Staff Bandmaster Ken Waterworth said Norman's music had a "sparky sort of edge" that brought energy to Army music in his heyday in the 1970s and 1980s.

Ken said many of Norman's



Norman Bearcroft's music 'touched the lives of countless thousands'. Artwork: Darryl Whitecross

compositions were written for soloists, in many cases writing pieces for specific bandmen which put them 'on the map' in world brass band circles.

Sydney Congress Hall Bandmaster Barrie Gott said Norman's eternal reward would be "well deserved". Barrie, who also conducts the Sydney Veterans Band, described him as "very engaging and very humorous ... he could communicate with bandmen and audiences extremely comfortably".

Colin Woods, who served as Melbourne Staff Bandmaster

from the late 1960s to the mid-1990s, remembers inviting the then-Major Norman Bearcroft to be the first 'famous' international Army musician/composer to take part in a biennial series of visits to Australia.

"Norman was a big name in Salvation Army banding circles," Colin said. "His music was popular, easy to listen to and a joy to play, particularly for euphonium players who liked playing in the upper register."

Colin said Norman proved to be "even more popular" due to his wit and friendliness.

"Over the years, I was privileged to remain in contact with him. I was very fond of him as a man as well as a composer, finding his music to be ideal for Salvation Army purposes."

Rod Reeve, the Melbourne Staff Songsters (MSS) leader from 1989-2003, met Norman in 1990 when the MSS attended the International Congress.

"His music has touched the lives of countless thousands all around the world, including those who have performed it, and will continue to do so."

— Darryl Whitecross

## Founder's 'I'll Fight' speech still inspiring Salvationists around the world

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE YEARS since Founder William Booth preached in an outdoor meeting in East London – making the first step in forming the movement that became The Salvation Army – an international group of Salvationists, employees and volunteers has been brought together to share an adapted version of Booth's most famous speech.

Released on 2 July to coincide with Founders' Day, the video, *I'll Fight 2020*, takes the thinking behind the 'I'll Fight!' cry for social justice that General Booth



gave in 1912, and reimagines it for 2020, as COVID-19 and the renewed fight for racial equality dominate the headlines and have a bearing on people across the

world. The final version features input from people linked with The Salvation Army in 20 countries, with the last word given by General Brian Peddle, the world leader of The Salvation Army.

Countries featured include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guyana, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Zambia.

The video can be viewed and downloaded from [sar.my/fight2020](http://sar.my/fight2020).

## US war veteran strides past 100 with honour

WORLD WAR TWO VETERAN Mickey Nelson, of the United States, is two-thirds done with an impressive trifecta.

To celebrate his 100th birthday, he has set himself a goal of walking 100 miles over the American summer to raise \$100,000 for The Salvation Army. He had achieved two of the three goals (as *Others* went to print) – celebrating his 100th birthday in Clarks Grove, Minnesota, on 27 June, and accumulating \$US107,500 in donations to his online fundraising page – but he has walked 86 miles and intends to reach 100 by continuing to walk a few miles each day around streets of his hometown before the end of summer.

"My daughters challenged me to raise money to feed the hungry during the COVID-19 crisis," Mickey said. "I am walking each day with a cumulative goal of 100 miles. We chose The Salvation Army as our fundraising avenue because they are doing the most good."

Dan Fury, The Salvation



Mickey Nelson with his 100th birthday cake, and (inset) out for a walk on his way to 100 miles to raise \$US100,000 for The Salvation Army to celebrate his 100th birthday. Photos: Craig Dirkes

Army US Northern Division Communications Director, said Mickey's story has been "quite a phenomenon". "He's a fixture in Clarks Grove; often seen walking down Main Street, past the hardware store and the post office and The Salvation Army clothing donation box," Dan said. "Just about everybody in town knows Mickey and

waves while he's out walking. In fact, he still lives in the house in which he was born in 1920. Even when he hits the goal, I know he'll keep walking."

Mickey said when he started out he thought he would raise about \$5000, but a flurry of donations followed after his story aired in May. National coverage came next, with each

story bringing additional attention to his quest.

Mickey's fundraiser is being directed to provide food assistance during COVID-19.

So will Mickey reach his 100-mile goal? "Oh yeah. We'll make it," Mickey said confidently, "It's all downhill now."

— Darryl Whitecross and US media outlets

## Cool idea helps Texans chill out

WITH TEMPERATURES SOARING across the United States, The Salvation Army in Lubbock, Texas, has come up with an idea to help the community beat the heat – 'Pop Drop' trucks.

The corps deployed two trucks in the city to distribute freeze pops (icy poles).

One truck set up in a static location for two hours and the other was driven about the city in the style of what Australians

see as a Mr Whippy van.

Lubbock Corps Officer Major David Worthy said the Pop Drop initiative was an extension of a program the corps ran throughout the year, mostly for the vulnerable and homeless, where services are taken "directly to people" in their neighbourhoods – on the streets and away from "Salvation Army-hardened facilities".



Salvation Army workers from Lubbock Corps in Texas with the freeze pops they have been handing out during the heatwave.

STAN PILLINGER



**CAPTAIN STAN PILLINGER** was promoted to glory on 29 May, aged 85.

Stan, with his wife Denise, came to Salvation Army officership later in life as mature-age entrants. In 1982, Stan took up an appointment as a territorial envoy in the Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) as the representative at Holsworthy Barracks (NSW).

In December 1984, Stan was commissioned an auxiliary-captain and, in 1985, became the corps officer of Newcastle City Corps and then Umina Corps. In 1987, Stan went back to RSDS, this time as the representative at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera (Qld), a position he

held for five years, while also taking on other appointments, including as coordinator for Emergency Services South Queensland between 1987-91.

In January 1992, Stan became the commissioner for RSDS in Queensland, based at Gallipoli Barracks, and then in January 1993, the commissioner for RSDS in Northern Territory, based in Darwin (1993-95). This finished an honourable 12 years of service with RSDS.

In January 1996, Stan started a new journey as associate chaplain with the NSW Fire Brigades in Sydney, while also working as the travel officer in Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters (1996-97). Stan then moved into an administrative role with the Office of the Chief Secretary (1998) before his honourable retirement in January 2000. In retirement, Stan continued to volunteer his

time, working at Divisional Headquarters in Brisbane, and with the Cystic Fibrosis Association. He enjoyed walking to keep fit, gardening, and spending time with his family.

Our love, sympathy and prayers continue to be with David, Lianne and Janine, their families, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as the many friends honouring Stan's life.

**Tribute reports**

To have a Tribute included in an issue of *Others*, please email your report of no more than 250 words and accompanied by a high-resolution (no smaller than 1mb) head-and-shoulders photograph of the individual, to [others@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:others@salvationarmy.org.au)

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

*Effective 13 July 2020*

Lieut-Colonel Laurie **Robertson**, Internal Communications Transition Consultant, Internal Communications Department, Office of the Secretary for Communications (Pro Tem).

Major Bruce **Harmer**, Public Relations Secretary, Australia, Office of the Secretary for Communications (Concurrent Appointment).

Captain Adrian **Hammond**, Chaplain to Employment Plus National Service Centre, Community Engagement Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (Additional Appointment).

Major Susan **May**, Corps Officer, Palmerston and Top End Ministry Team Leader, NT, South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

Cadet Wayne **Collyer**, Cadet in Appointment, Corps Officer, Palmerston and Top End Ministry Team Member, NT, South Australia/Northern Territory Division and Assistant to Social Coordinator, NT Social Mission Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (Concurrent Appointments).

*Effective 14 July 2020*

Captain Andrew **Walton**, Coordinator of Education and Theological Formation, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

Captain Sonia **Jeffrey**, Coursework Coordinator, Higher Education, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

*Effective 20 July 2020*

Major Jo-Anne **Chant**, Retired Officers Chaplain, Queensland Officer Personnel Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

*Effective 3 August 2020*

Major Karen **Masters**, Communications Portfolio Chaplain/Donor Care Services Support Officer, Fundraising Department, Office of the Secretary for Communications.

*Effective 1 September 2020*

Major Elizabeth **Garland**, Specialist (Clinical Practice), AOD Services, Social Mission Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

*Effective 1 August*

Lieut-Colonel Beauty **Zipingani**, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries, Zambia Territory.

*Effective 1 September 2020*

Major Agripina **Góchez**, Chief Secretary, Latin America North Territory, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

*Effective 1 November 2020*

Commissioners Merle and Dawn **Heatwole**, Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries (respectively), Latin America North Territory.

Lieut-Colonels Paul and Jenine **Main**, Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Leader Development (respectively), United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, with the rank of colonel.

Colonels Gabriel and Indumati **Christian**, Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries (respectively), India South Western Territory.

Colonels John **Kumar Dasari** and Mani **Kumar Dasari**, Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries (respectively), India South Eastern Territory.

Lieut-Colonels Lalhmingliana **Hmar** and Lalhlimpui **Chawngthu**, National Executive Officer and Secretary for Women's Development (respectively), India National Office, with the rank of colonel.

Lieut-Colonels Chawnglut **Vanlalfela** and Khupchawng **Ropari**, Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries (respectively), India Western Territory, with the rank of colonel.

Majors John **William** and Ratna Sundari **Polimetla**, Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries (respectively), India Western Territory, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

*Effective 3 November*

Colonel Lee **Graves** and Colonel Debbie **Graves**, International Secretary for Business Administration, and IHQ Chaplain and City of London Liaison Officer (respectively), International Headquarters, with the rank of commissioner.

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'TOUGH LOVE'  
FILLED THE VOID  
IN MY LIFE

WORDS NIGEL



Nigel has come a long way since walking into William Booth House in 2012 asking for help.

I GREW UP IN A MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY IN Melbourne, went to private schools and was successful in sports, schooling and work. I joined the Australian Army at 18 and was introduced to alcohol.

I immediately knew I had a problem. I didn't drink like others drank. I drank to change the way I felt. I drank to excess. I made poor choices when I drank, which affected my career, friendships and finances. I stopped drinking after I left the army and I thought my addiction was cured.

I completed an economics degree and went to work in Canberra. I enjoyed the fast-paced, work-obsessed environment of the government's Treasury Department. This suited my addictive nature and I was quickly consumed by a work obsession. In 2007, I was introduced to cocaine. I again knew straight away that I was in serious trouble. My addiction had reawakened.

Within five years, I went from owning an apartment in Melbourne, having a good career and a strong network of family and friends, to being homeless, broke, spiritually bankrupt and alone. I went into a 'self-destruct phase' after being

fired from my job in March 2011. This nearly cost me my life.

I cannot recall all the details that led me to The Salvation Army, but I am sure God intervened. I walked into William Booth House [addiction recovery centre] in Sydney in 2012 and asked for help. I couldn't live like this anymore. My first impression was a feeling of safety, being valued and surrounded by people who cared.

I stayed there for nine months and completed the Bridge Program. This transformed my life. I gained a deep understanding of myself and how my addiction had impacted my life and the choices I made.

I learnt that I had a void within and I was using drugs to fill it. I attended an Alpha course, where I was introduced to Jesus. I found that Jesus filled this void perfectly and removed all urges to use drugs, providing me with purpose and direction in life.

I recalibrated my life with the support, encouragement and 'tough love' from the management and staff at William

Booth House. I identified a new set of values and behaviours that would support my recovery. I took a strong interest in helping and supporting others, gaining a deep satisfaction from seeing others recover from addiction.

After graduating, I was offered a job. This provided me with the opportunity to 'give back' and help others in a professional capacity. I worked at William Booth House for about five years in a range of roles, including as program director.

In 2018, I left the centre to focus on the next stage of my journey. I used this time to learn new skills and set new goals. I decided to study at university, earning a master's degree in supply-chain management, with the goal of working in a procurement role with The Salvation Army.

In January, I moved to Melbourne to take up an opportunity in the Finance Department at Territorial Headquarters. I gain a great sense of fulfilment in helping front-line staff help people in need. God, through The Salvation Army, has given me a new life and for that I am eternally grateful.\*

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“

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.

”

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VISION STATEMENT

