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'My life would be boring if it wasn't for The Salvation Army'

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■ THE BIG PICTURE

The dangerous drift in Walt Disney Company's vision

others

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Being selfless in a selfish world.

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON

THERE'S A BELIEF AMONG MANY SOCIAL commentators that it began with the baby boomer 'me' generation and has subsequently only grown in intensity. What I'm referring to is a society that is increasingly obsessed with self.

You only have to look at the advertising industry to confirm that self-realisation and self-fulfilment are the cultural aspirations we are encouraged to pursue. 'You deserve it', 'Because you're worth it' and 'Follow your dreams' are just a few among many modern marketing slogans that promote 'self'.

This is not to suggest that we shouldn't be concerned with our own well-being. It was Jesus, after all, who commanded us to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31), the latter part of that statement implying there is a place in our lives for self-consideration. Long-held wisdom, however, suggests that contentment is only truly found in a philosophy that it is better to give than to receive and in putting others before yourself. This idea is a theme that flows through this issue of *Others*.

Our series of feature articles contends that, as successive generations in Australia become increasingly secular and self-focused, the way Christians approach mission in their communities has required a significant rethink. Our interactions with people in our communities must now be far more relational. This approach to mission also includes the reality that church can no longer be considered just a Sunday activity; it is something that now occurs seven days a week as followers

of Christ live out their faith in their communities.

Adopting this approach, however, comes at a cost. It takes courage and commitment, and directly challenges us to reject the 'me first' culture that pervades society. It demands a selfless approach to life in which we prioritise the needs of others above our own. But surely this should not surprise us. In fact, it is simply a return to the model of 'mission' created by Jesus – "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24) – and employed by the founders of The Salvation Army, William and Catherine Booth – "You are not here in the world for yourself. You have been sent here for others. The world is waiting for you!"

Jesus describes himself, in Matthew 20:28, as someone who "did not come to be served, but to serve". While humans tend to view each other very differently; through the lenses of power, wealth, status, and ascribe value thereupon, God does not. While such privileges give huge advantages in life, they singularly don't impress God. Jesus, remember, distinguished himself by washing people's feet.

Is your life a pursuit of 'self', or are you focused on others? Only one will, in the long term, truly satisfy. •

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.



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Major Bryce Davies is overseeing a group of people helping to build a 'community of hope' in the troubled Sydney suburb of Villawood. You can read this remarkable story, as part of our feature on '24/7 Church', in this issue of *Others*. Photo: Lena Pobjie



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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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Join the conversation

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

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

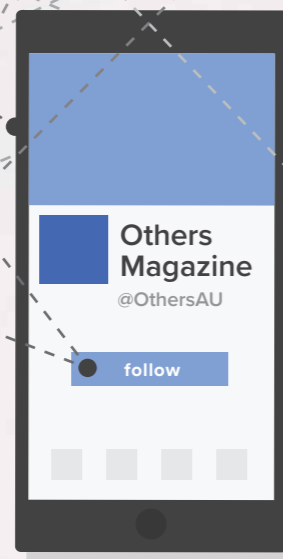
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"Awesome. God is doing a new thing in the hearts of people. Keep transforming lives in Jesus' Name." #livelovefight

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Prayerful, courageous, innovative and loving.

Living as Christ's people right where he has placed us

WORDS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE OVER THESE LAST few weeks to have had the opportunity to visit some of the divisions that make up the Australia Territory. Visits to frontline ministry, being able to listen, learn and meet many colleagues who are committed to the territory transforming lives with the love of Jesus has been incredible.

We have been to five states and enjoyed meeting many people in frontline mission. We have been warmly welcomed by all we have met. Thank you so much for wanting to minister together with us in bringing Jesus to everyone The Salvation Army interacts with.

For those sports lovers and especially rugby followers, we really enjoyed the friendly banter around the Bledisloe Cup games. For us this was even further evidence that Aussie Salvos are keen to get to know us and involve us in all that you are and do.

Sport is a wonderful example of people doing 'team' with a purpose that needs strong relationship, skills, abilities, determination and courage to achieve. Transforming Australia is a team effort and it definitely involves building strong relationships.

Society has changed dramatically in the past few decades. Many people are not aware that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. So how do we share the love of Jesus?

People are being saved in body, mind and spirit. Thousands of people contact The Salvation Army every week seeking help. Thousands more visit our Salvos, Family and Thrift stores.

How can we build relationships with all these people who are already willing to walk through our doors? What can we, Janine and Robert, along with you, do to engage with all those who not only come to us for help or for clothes or furniture, but want to come back to learn more about Jesus?

Do we know how to identify the key connection points so we can start to show the love of Jesus in practical and effective ways? What are the connections we need to make that will reveal God's huge desire to bring peace, kindness, joy, forgiveness and so much more to people we meet?

Every time we speak with someone there is an opportunity to build a relationship. May we be prayerful, courageous, innovative, caring and loving as we live as Christ's people right where he has placed us. ●

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson are the territorial leaders of The Salvation Army Australia Territory.





Aussie officers around the world – United Kingdom

Global Focus is profiling the work of Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we take a look at the United Kingdom, where 13 of our officers are serving. Five of these officers have shared some reflections on their international service.

MAJORS ANNETTE AND MICHAEL COLEMAN

Annette and Michael are Corps Officers at Winton Corps.

Early this year, we arrived to a bustling corps that has hundreds of people coming through its doors every week, providing a curious mix of earthy, roll-your-sleeves-up, front-line social programs and formal band-and-songster-style Sunday worship. And here's the thing; it works wonderfully!

It is such a pleasure to be mixing with such a diverse group of people. On a typical day we shake hands with an asylum seeker or two, a person having recently escaped slavery, homeless people, highly accomplished Army musicians, retired officers, intellectually disabled persons, elderly people, and a wonderful bunch of volunteers who do all kinds of work.

Expecting the impact of culture shock, we were surprised how gentle that has turned out to be. That said, the British love of bureaucracy and their tendency to queue for everything still takes a little getting used to!

Although the corps is quite large when measured by the traditional yardsticks of attendance numbers and size of sections, our leadership team is taking an enlightened approach to the future. They recognise that the status quo cannot remain indefinitely and that now is the time to develop the means of

thinking and leading for the future. They recognise that the corps of tomorrow must be very different to that of today. It is a privilege to be working with such a forward-thinking group of people.

Six months into our appointment we feel really blessed to be where we are and we look forward with anticipation to what God has in store in the years ahead.

LIEUT-COLONEL BRUCE CARPENTER

Bruce is Assistant Project Director for the International Financial and Accounting Standards Implementation team with the Business Administration Department at The Salvation Army International Headquarters (IHQ) in London. He is married to Lieut-Colonel Cheryl Carpenter, who serves at IHQ as the International Program Coordinator within the Program Resources Department.

It is an incredible and humbling experience to serve outside of our home territory, and at IHQ in particular. To be here and supporting the ministry of the Army around the world is something that I never expected to be doing during my officership.

The more than six years we spent in the Caribbean, and now the year at IHQ has been an incredible education, giving me a worldwide perspective on life, ministry and The Salvation Army. Yes, we miss family and friends in Australia, but we thank God for Facebook and Messenger to keep in touch.

LIEUT-COLONEL KALIE WEBB

Kalie serves as an Assistant Chief Secretary – Personnel, International Personnel, Administration, at IHQ. She is married to Lieut-Colonel Geoff Webb, who also serves at IHQ with the same appointment.

This is my second appointment serving overseas, the first being to Pakistan about 10 years ago. You gain a different perspective of The Salvation Army working in a different country. You realise the magnitude and richness of the Army's work in a different culture and a different context. In saying that, there is also a familiarity that exists in that, whatever country you either visit or serve in, you have a sense of belonging and feeling 'at home' within The Salvation Army.

Geoff and I have been in our appointments at IHQ since January 2017. It is an amazing privilege to serve at IHQ; I have often reflected that we have a



mini-global Salvation Army represented from every (Salvation Army) zone on the building. The richness of experiences and the staff have become part of our 'international family'.

Our roles include the portfolios of training colleges and leader development across the world. We have been incredibly blessed by the opportunities to share with officers across the five zones where we have been able to encourage leaders in their ongoing development and equipping them for current and future appointments. Overseas service is also an opportunity to be part of something much larger than yourself. It's an immense privilege and I am grateful to be given this responsibility to influence and make a difference on an international scale.

Note: Since going to print, the Webbs have been appointed as Territorial Leaders of Pakistan.

MAJOR KAYLENE FYFE

Kaylene is the Assistant Under Secretary for the South Pacific and East Asia Zone (SPEA) and has been in her appointment at IHQ since July 2018.

A shared language and similar culture in the UK has made the adjustment to working outside Australia simpler. Yet there are aspects of life in

Australia that I miss. IHQ is truly international and I am surrounded by people of many nationalities, which has widened my understanding and appreciation of the global ministry of The Salvation Army. Being part of the South Pacific and East Asia Department allows me to maintain good links with Australia and to 'do my bit' in supporting ministry in the SPEA area of the Army world.

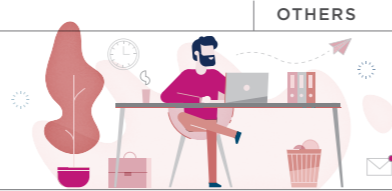
My perspective to working outside Australia was changed during my service in Kenya some years ago. It brought into sharper focus distinctions between disadvantage and advantage in a material sense, yet also richness of spirit. International service (then and now) causes me to be more reliant on God and helps me to be more open to other ways of thinking.

Handling the vast distance between the UK and Australia, and the resulting 'disconnect' from family, country and culture is a challenge, particularly as a single officer, and when it comes to family it is also a sacrifice. Technology does help to bridge the distance but sometimes the lack of physical presence is keenly felt.

The opportunities, though, are many. I am part of an international Salvation Army 'family', and I can expand my horizons through life and ministry in a different context.●

Viewpoint.

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Clearing the clutter.

The key to true contentment

WORDS LAURA VAN SCHAICK

IT WAS MID-JANUARY WHEN A LOCAL news outlet called our Salvation Army thrift store, wondering if we had seen an increase in donations. I wasn't surprised by the question. Just the night before, I had been reading about the global influx of donations to secondhand stores, thanks to the success of the Netflix series, *Tidying Up With Marie Kondo*.

Marie's message is not new in a world where minimalism is in vogue. But her Japanese-inspired method seems to have struck a chord with Westerners. She helps people tidy each area of their home systematically, starting with clothes and ending with sentimental items. Each piece is held and evaluated. Those that 'spark joy' are kept, those that don't are 'thanked' and given away.

The result is a less cluttered, more organised house. But the message seems to be that the real reward is a less chaotic, more contented life. While the process seems beautiful in its simplicity, its popularity raises an important question: Why do we feel the need to tidy up?

Writing for *The Guardian*, Oliver Burkeman suggests that we may be drawn to tidying up because it promises a sense of control over our lives in a world that so often feels out of control. If we can control the clutter in our closets, perhaps the rest of our lives will seem less chaotic.

The hazard with this type of thinking

is that we will simply never achieve it. That's not to say that tidying your house is a lost cause, though Burkeman does suggest that external elements in the form of toddlers, spouses and even our own heightened expectations for ourselves, will always rebel against our best efforts. But absolute control of our lives is not something we should seek, for we are not the ones in control in the first place. God is.

I get it. In light of all that is happening in the world, from mass shootings to natural disasters, it can be difficult to believe there is a sovereign God in control. Closer to home, when we journey through adversity, such as the loss of employment, miscarriage or cancer, we can sometimes wonder, Is God really in control? Where is God in all of this?

"In light of all that is happening in the world, from mass shootings to natural disasters, it can be difficult to believe there is a sovereign God in control."

It's true that God has given humans the gift of free will, and that we can control our emotions and actions. But when external forces weigh in on us, we wrestle with God's part in it. The writer of Lamentations, reflecting on the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586BC, asks, "Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?" (Lamentations 3:38). Jesus himself affirmed God's control in tragedy. When Pilate asked, "Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above" (see John 19:10-11).

Many find these Scripture passages challenging, or even offensive. There are many unanswered questions that follow a period of trial or tragedy. However, if we acknowledge that God is in control in times of success and in times of tragedy, and that in it all he works for our good and his glory, the result will not be control, but contentment. Even the writer of Lamentations declares in the midst of his chaos, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

We often seek contentment from the stuff around us. If we could just have a nice house, a reliable car, some pretty clothes, perhaps then we could be content. Marie's message mirrors this. During the tidying process, she is still advocating that our stuff be what sparks joy, just a smaller portion of it.

But true contentment does not come from material possessions. True contentment comes from trusting God in all circumstances, in times of plenty and in times of want. There is a peace and intimacy that comes from walking with the Lord through the dark and chaotic days of our lives, trusting that even when we cannot see how, he is in control.

Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, exhorts, "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Timothy 6:6-7). A tidy house will not make us content. Though I have to say, Marie's folding methods are making my dresser drawers look lovely these days. ●

Captain Laura Van Schaik is a corps officer in The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory. This article first appeared at salvationist.ca



Worth Quoting.

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." – John Piper

Time is ticking.

We must act now before it is too late

WORDS PETE BROOKSHAW

FORGIVE ME IF I CAN'T GIVE YOU A CLEAR answer. I'm just as confused as many of you. I can't keep up with the trends in society. I can't stay abreast of all the issues. And I surely can't stay on top of my opinions on every new hot topic that is trending on Twitter.

One minute we're talking about religious freedom, then it's peace deals with Iran, or whether high schools should ban mobile phones. Someone then cracks open the abortion debate, then we're back to whether the climate has already undergone irreparable damage. Another conversation and we're talking about the rich helping the poor, multi-nationals paying their fair share of tax and whether we should have more stringent frameworks around genetic engineering; I mean, who wants to create a designer baby?

Facebook might be starting to implode. Immigration is still causing our Navy headaches. Nursing homes are the subject of a royal commission. The banks *and* the Church are still reeling from their royal commissions. Baby formula, obesity, Papal authority, the credibility of the local church, rising sea levels ... you name it, we're talking about it.

And I can't help but wonder, what time is it right now?

I'm not sure it's time to be opinionated. Attempting to take a position

on anything makes me feel like I'm attempting to swim blindfolded through a jellyfish-infested ocean while trying not to get stung. Actually, it's like trying to walk slowly through a minefield of ideas while attempting to chew on the truth. But it's hard to walk and chew at the same time.

In some circumstances I find myself bombarded with opinions and strongly held views, while readying myself to be swiftly lambasted when any of my particular views are expressed. But I'm going to be bold and say something in a moment, because I feel like I have a sense that I know what time it is. And what I'm about to say, I don't say timidly. I think, through prayer and consideration, I have a good grasp right now of what time it is, so let me give it to you. *It's time for salvation.*

"In the splurge of populism and the frequency of argumentative behaviour, we've coiled up in our little cocoons and forgotten the time."

Irrespective of your theological leanings, your level of 'Christian' understanding (whatever that even is), and notwithstanding your own potential inhibitions or otherwise towards what I'm saying, it's time for what I like to call 'full salvation'. It's time for some good news that leads people to hope and fullness of life, beyond their current circumstances, that speaks to the very heart of their existence. It's time for salvation in Christ.

Let me explain.

This full salvation (being wholly set free and fully redeemed) is found in God's son, Jesus Christ. There's no other name under heaven by which we can be saved.

If you have the Son, you have life; you have salvation; you have hope and joy and purpose. We call it good news for a reason, that in Jesus we can turn from our sin, be forgiven and start afresh with him at the centre of our lives.

The problem is we've forgotten what time it is. We've let ourselves get consumed by the immediacy of the issues and forgotten the long-term importance of the gift of salvation. It hit me recently, in 2 Corinthians 6:2b, where Paul writes that, "Today is the day of salvation." The day when salvation is important is not tomorrow. The Bible doesn't say, "Once you've all agreed on your positions on A, B and C, we can get on with calling people to follow Jesus." No, today is the day of salvation.

We've been drowning in our pre-conceived opinions of someone's perception of our uncommunicated truth. We must speak up and live out the incredible truth and grace that is found in God's son, Jesus Christ. If people misunderstand that; then so be it. If people put you in a particular box, then so be it. If people want to tell you which way you lean (left, right and everything in between), then tell them you simply lean towards Jesus.

The hours and the minutes have been ticking, and we've forgotten what time it is. In the splurge of populism and the frequency of argumentative behaviour, we've coiled up in our little cocoons and forgotten the time. It's time for salvation. And we must pray and act now, for Jesus' sake. ●

Captain Pete Brookshaw is the Corps Officer of The Salvation Army Craigieburn. He blogs at www.petebrookshaw.com


Worth Quoting.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – **Mother Teresa**

Bringing life to the table.

The missional opportunities of sharing a meal

WORDS SANDRA PAWAR

I HAVE AN IDEA. IT'S NOT A NEW IDEA, mind you, but it comes straight from Scripture. It's an idea that started with Jesus, really. It is the idea that eating together is the new (yet old) mission field. You see, eating meals with others truly matters.

Jesus loved to host parties. He loved being with people and gathering them around the table. And he didn't care who was there! He invited and ate with prostitutes, tax collectors, men, women, young, old, white, black. Everyone had an invitation.

In our family, we love hosting people, but it hasn't always been that way. When my husband, Ashish, and I got married, I didn't like people coming to my house, and I certainly didn't like cooking for them. It was hard work for me. I didn't know how to cook and when I did, it was a disaster.

These days, though, it's a different story. On most Friday evenings you will see us gathered around the table with family, friends and neighbours. It's our 'neighbours evening' and we have made the commitment to have people over for a meal. I still don't like to cook; I find it nerve-racking and I still consider myself a learner. My husband, on the other hand, is the master chef and makes some amazing food. So we have a deal: I invite people and he cooks (and cleans). Pretty good deal, isn't it?

I am learning that our dining room table needs to be open to others. It can't be just reserved for our family – we need to be people who invite others to share life and meals with us. You see, at the table we don't just feed people, we build relationships – stories and memories. It is at the table where food and stories are passed from one person to another. It is where each of us learns who we are, where we come from, what we can be, to whom we belong, and to what we are called.

When Jesus sat at a table with others he spoke of theology and life, love and truth. He did evangelism and discipleship over fish and bread and wine. The table is of such significance in the Scriptures and an invitation to recline at it is everything.

"Who are you inviting into your homes and to your table?"

Jesus invited to the table people who had never been invited to a banquet or a dinner. He made the dinner table accessible for all and set an example for us to follow.

Just think, we may be the only invitation some people receive. An invitation to share their lives, their stories, an invitation for them to be seen and heard. And this provides an opportunity for us to share Jesus and his love for them.

Who are you inviting into your homes and to your table?

People who are rejected by society? Jesus invited them.

People who are broken? Jesus invited them.

The outcasts? Jesus invited them.

The sinner? Jesus invited them.

Those different from you? Jesus invited them.

People want to be seen and heard. The words we speak and the love we show reflects love and grace. The invitation we extend speaks of Jesus. The best dinner table I have ever sat at was in the red-light district of Athens, Greece. It was a home-cooked meal made by a female Salvation Army officer.

The evening began with the officer walking down the street in the middle of the red-light district and giving women who were being prostituted big, warm hugs in the middle of their shift. She extended an invitation to dinner that night at the nearby Salvation Army centre.

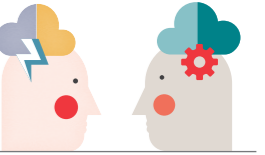
Thirty women, still in the middle of their shifts, walked up the stairs of The Salvation Army that night, sat and listened to the Bible story of the woman at the well. They heard how God knew her story and that he knew their stories, their names, and that he loved each one of them greatly.

The women prayed together, and then sat down at a long table and shared a home-cooked meal. Laughing and sharing life, these 30 women who had been rejected and used and abused, who had been deemed by most to be unclean and unworthy, discovered that in God's eyes they were worthy and valued. At this dinner table there were 30 women who on this night were seen and heard and loved and valued. It still is my favourite dinner party ever.

Jesus had an idea: the dinner table as his mission field. So, who are you inviting to your table? Is it part of your mission field? ●

Sandra Pawar is Multicultural Planter, WestConnect Salvos, Sydney.

Mailbox.



Others has received a varied response to the article, 'Gen Z raises its voice at young adults retreat', that was posted at Others Online (7 August). Below are three of the responses.



AN OVERDUE CONVERSATION

I think that the young-adult population has been used as a tool rather than an essential part of the Church. More and more of my generation is pushed away from the Church because of the things that are expected of us. We need to stand up for what we need from the Church and create our own programs to help ourselves grow because the Church isn't willing to.

I love The Salvation Army but I'm seeking a change in how the young adults are seen in it. I am not called to work with kids and youth ministry! I am called to work with individuals affected by sex trafficking and other sex crimes. I am glad that this article was written and the conversation is finally being discussed!

– **Nicole Joliffe (nee Steffenhagen)**
(posted at Others Facebook)



ACCEPTING CHANGE

The young people of today have to accept that what the older people feel comfortable with, i.e. music, types of meetings, etc, we are often uncomfortable with what some young people are trying to force on us.

I have been a Salvationist all my life and have seen the change (on Sundays) from two open-air and three meetings plus prayer meetings, to one open-air and two meetings, to now no open-air and only one meeting. From bands and timbrels to musical groups, from uniforms to T-shirts and jeans, and we are asked to accept this.

In the future, will these young people who are pressing for change now be prepared to accept the changes that the next generation will ask/demand of them? It will be left to them.

– **Ken Palmer**
(posted at Others Online)



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

I am encouraged by what God is doing in the lives of our young people and their response to the Holy Spirit's promptings. We must continue to pray earnestly that God will use them to make a difference in their sphere of influence, then to the broader community.

– **Carmen Damon**
(posted at Others Online)



BROADENING HORIZONS

It has been interesting reading The Salvation Army publication *Others* each month. Having grown up in the former Australia Southern Territory, I have become used to reading publications of that territory, e.g. *On Fire*.

It has taken time since the initial publication of *Others* to get used to its style, name (which was a shock to me) and other features. I had been used to opening a publication like *On Fire* and instantly knowing where a corps was in that territory, and a recollection of officer names from attending many commissionings, having access to the commissioning brochure and knowing instantly which state a corps/appointment was in.

I can finally reconcile that there is a lot to learn with the one Australia Territory, with officer names and appointments starting to become familiar, although it helps me to look at maps to familiarise myself with new places and names. The current issue of *Others* (August)

was read in about three sittings on the Sunday, which is a record for me. With previous issues I hadn't bothered to read all the articles, so I am getting used to the content and formats.

This issue (August) had articles from geographic areas as far as Rivervale, Singapore, England, Canada, and as far south as I could see would perhaps have been Box Hill, plus the many other articles which I found most enjoyable.

– **Carmel Jackson**



ANGEL AT WORK

I loved reading the story about Colin and Marcelina Patrick ('Rising from the ashes') in the July issue of *Others*.

I witnessed all this happening and saw the devastation that it caused. I also witnessed the miracle that took place afterwards when Colin met the 'angel' who first spoke to him about Jesus all those years before. An amazing story and an amazing couple.

– **Susan Parnaby**
(posted at Others Online)



AGE-RELATED LEARNING

I write in response to the article, 'A church that's AccessABLE to everyone' (*Others Online* 5 August). I believe that all ages should be considered as valued in God's house; that there should be age-related worship and Bible study for all. We should not expect young people to sit through adult worship and learning, but instead give them age-related action songs and remember the biblical instructions "when I was a child I behaved as a child, when I became an adult I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). Young people need to be fed as youth; adults can be fed solid meals.

– **Max Walters**
(posted at Others Facebook)

An authentic witness.

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

WORDS JOHN WILLIAMS

In the formative years of my faith I started to identify ways I could show love to people on the fringe of Salvation Army corps life. In time, I noticed an older gentleman who had been coming to the evening service for a few weeks. He mostly sat on his own. After chatting to with him I realised that he lived near me, so I offered him a lift home.

For the next few weeks I drove him home then continued on my way. However, on one occasion he invited me in for a cup of tea. I said thanks, but maybe some other time. I never saw him again.

When I think about what that experience would have been like for the man and the courage he would have mustered to ask me inside his place, I can appreciate why he never returned. Was I willing to enter his world and get to know him, or was the extent of the relationship I was willing to offer limited to a car ride only? Sadly, when we examine our engagement with others there can be many cracks in the authenticity of our witness.

What I have found is that the means is just as important as the end. A Gospel that heralds restored relationship that is proclaimed by someone with a closed heart to others loses its credibility. In contrast, the Gospel of reconciliation spoken by someone actively involved in the pursuit of peace is heard loud and clear.

Salvation Army founder William Booth suggested there is little use in preaching the Gospel to someone “whose whole attention is concentrated upon a mad, desperate struggle to keep themselves alive”. Why? Because the Gospel speaks of freedom in all domains of our life – the physical, emotional, social and spiritual. This is what Jesus’ ministry involved – healing and restoration, forgiveness and peace. The proclamation of the Gospel in conjunction with practical, material support for someone ensures the integrity of the message is maintained.

In recent years, there’s been much discussion as to what the future of the church looks like in Australia. As Salvos, we desire to know how best to articulate that vision and what it looks like through the many expressions that make up this movement. Whatever that future looks like, one thing is sure – if the method doesn’t match the message, nobody’s listening.

In a recent study, Josh Packard, Professor of Sociology at the University of Northern Colorado, asked people why they had left church. The top four reasons were:

1. People wanted community ... but got judgement.
2. They wanted to affect the life of the church ... but got bureaucracy.
3. They wanted conversation ... but got doctrine.
4. They wanted meaningful engagement with the world ... but got moral prescription.

One thing that stands out is how closely each of these experiences is linked to the tendency for one to exercise power over another. Judgement, bureaucracy, doctrine and moral prescription all reek of the same sin-stained desire that we have to set up ourselves as better – to be the one with power. In fact, it is so second nature to us that we are often blind to the power dynamics in all our relationships.

When we walk into a corps or area leadership team meeting there are complex dynamics of



John Williams with his wife Sharon and sons Thomas (left) and Henry at the Soundpoint centre in Goodna, Queensland.

power in the room. People exhibit power through appointment, through knowledge, as a result of jargon, or because of family connection. As heralds of the Gospel it’s important for us to work towards a space in which all people are safe, valued, belong, find purpose, are special, and where their voice matters. We need to be aware of the power dynamics in our corps and area leadership team settings. It doesn’t matter if we are officers, employees, soldiers or community members, our faithful witness in these relationships either gives credibility to our proclamation or strips it completely.

Our experience of ‘doing life together in Goodna’ is that when one can let go of the outcome (resist the desire for power and control) and let God, beautiful things happen in people’s lives. Of all the people to experience transformation of life at Goodna, the majority have experienced that change through relationship – through the connecting of one person to another where they feel safe and valued; where they belong; where they feel special; and where their voice matters.

We see the offering of authentic relationship as a way through which the Gospel is presented. In Luke 10, Jesus told his followers to go out and be willing to ‘enter another’s world’ – to proclaim the Gospel through both word and deed. Jesus was commanding his followers to do something he was intimately familiar with, having done it himself.

Jesus willingly entered our world so that we might know the opportunity to be transformed by love. I guess this is what the man I dropped home was hoping to see was true. ●

.....
John Williams leads The Salvation Army mission at Goodna in Queensland.

Mission in brief

- In July, the Policy, Research and Social Justice team made four government submissions on the following topics:
 1. Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System.
 2. Australia’s National Treatment Framework for Alcohol and Other Drugs.
 3. Residential Tenancies Regulation 2019 (NSW) – risk of homelessness for those in rental accommodation.
 4. Submission on ASIC (Australian Securities and Investments Commission) product intervention power short-term credit consultation.
- The Salvation Army’s ESIS (Economic and Social Impact Survey) research was mentioned in Federal Parliament in the debate that led to an inquiry into the inadequacy of welfare payments.
- The Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) Progress report has been released. The FIAP’s aim is to ensure that all people are able to participate equally and fully in the economic and financial spheres of life to enhance their wellbeing. Go to salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/news-and-stories/publications-and-resources/financial-inclusion-action-plan/



Illustration: Rod Allen



24/7 CHURCH

The relational reality of mission in modern society

As successive generations in Australia become increasingly secular, the way Christians approach mission in their communities has required a significant rethink. Gone are the days when a straightforward invitation to attend church on a Sunday – effectively, a ‘cold call’ in modern language – would regularly be met with a positive response.

The reality is that Australian society in 2019 is far less familiar with the concept of church than previous generations, and more so the consideration of a personal relationship with Jesus. Many younger people, if not most, are largely ignorant of even the simple biblical concepts that older Australians would have learnt through regular Sunday school attendance in their childhood.

As a consequence, the interactions of Christians with people in their communities must now be far more relational. This approach to mission also includes the reality that church can no longer be considered just a Sunday activity; it is something that occurs seven days a week as followers of Christ live out their faith in their communities. In fact, it is simply a return to the model of ‘mission’ created by Jesus, and employed by the founders of The Salvation Army, William and Catherine Booth.

Over the following pages we bring you the stories of a number of Salvationists, corps and new mission plants that are living out this call to be a 24/7 church. ▶



U-Turn on Urana Street.

‘Blank canvas’ mission transforming lives

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

Villawood is a suburb in western Sydney that is often in the news for all the wrong reasons. A lot of it has to do with the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre, but the area is also a hotspot for crime, unemployment and addictions.

But in the thick of it all, at Urana Street, Villawood – the worst street in the suburb, according to one local police officer – there is hope.

Hope was ignited when Major Bryce Davies was appointed to Panania Corps in south-west Sydney about a year ago. He was pretty much given a blank canvas and told to “reimagine” The Salvation Army’s work in this area.

Bryce Davies is a ‘go and do something’ type of guy. He was the officer appointed to start Brisbane Streetlevel Mission and the officer appointed to help develop and share the NSW/ACT Divisional ‘Communities of Hope’ model, which blends faith and action.

Sunday meetings had ceased at Panania Corps and Bryce was looking at how to integrate the thriving Family Store with other fruitful ministries still operating at the corps building, like the weekly Mini Muzos group. But he also wanted to get his hands a little dirty – he was a plumber in his former career and relishes any kind of practical ministry.



Above: Major Bryce Davies (fourth from right) and Dan Taylor (holding the mallet) with six residents who volunteer in the community garden at Urana Street in Villawood. **Right:** Julio proudly wears his Salvo hat and shirt when he attends events at the community garden. Photos: Lena Pobjie

Living up to his pragmatic approach to spirituality, Bryce approached the local police. They told him to head over to the neighbouring suburb of Villawood and gave him the name of a street: Urana Street – notorious for crime and social issues. “So, I drove there and got out of my car and had a look around,” Bryce says, describing the dead-end cul-de-sac with blocks upon blocks of red-brick government housing. “There was all this rubbish everywhere, so I went and bought a rubbish bin and one of those little grabber things and found someone who would help me.”

Some of the residents asked him what he was doing. “I’m picking up rubbish!” Bryce explained. “Why?” they said. “Because it’s dirty – want to help?” Bryce responded. From there Bryce was shown around the complex and noticed a locked community room. “What happens in there?” he asked. “Nothing much,” was the reply. A few phone calls later, Bryce had the keys. Now the community room is open five days



a week, with a growing group of residents connecting to prepare meals, cook and laugh together, plan social outings and ways to make the Urana Street complex better. A community garden has also been constructed and is tended by volunteer residents of Urana Street.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Bryce works alongside Dan Taylor, Communities of Hope Community Outreach Worker. Dan says a rhythm at Urana Street community centre has developed over time. “It was a bit raw when we first got here, but we were really accepted quite well and quite quickly,” he says. “Mondays we have a planning meeting and we work out our week and everyone’s invited to that and we have a bit of a prayer.

“Tuesday is a community day, so we have our Open Hub [where government agencies and other services are available to meet with people] and we do community lunch. Wednesday is our ‘outreach day’, so we either do building works or we take people out on outings to different areas like the zoo or the beach. Thursday there’s a community dinner and Friday the community room is open as a drop-in space.”

One of the first things Bryce did after getting the keys was to buy a table-tennis table. As he was bringing it in, he came across a resident, Sati, and asked him to help. For Sati, a migrant from India who says he was “trafficked to Australia” and used as “slave-labour”, the meeting was significant.

A resident of Urana Street since 2009, Sati – who, like the majority of residents, doesn’t work due to health or other issues – was in a bad place when he met Bryce. He hated the area, hardly left his small, one-bedroom unit, and had applied to Housing NSW to be transferred to a home in a different location. Then, he met Bryce, helped him set up the table-tennis table and experienced something he hadn’t felt in a long time – friendship.

“This place has changed a lot since The Salvation Army came,” Sati says, “... and I have changed my heart.” He says he’s up and out of his house every day now, helping Bryce and Dan with whatever is happening, and has many ideas himself about how to make Urana Street better. Together with Woodville Alliance, local residents and support from Bunnings, they’ve turned the weed-ridden garden space into a beautiful community garden. The produce is used by residents to cook delicious community meals from many cultures.▶



POSITIVE CHANGE

Every Thursday night, the Urana Street community room is abuzz with residents of different backgrounds and cultures enjoying dinner together. Different people put up their hand to cook. One night it might be a vegan Chinese prepared by Hong; another night it's a hot Indian fish curry from Sati. People from Hari Krishna, Hindu, Muslim and Christian backgrounds sit around the table, but the differences in circumstance and upbringing are drowned out by the constant peal of laughter that rises above the chatter at regular intervals. It's a bona-fide family dinner, one that brings to mind the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22.

"I think what we're seeing is something of the community we can build in The Salvation Army with the love of God," Bryce says. "I just think the love of God is the most powerful thing in the world. The unconditional, sacrificial love of God is not easy, it's not a fly-by-night thing. It's actually knowing that every person is a child of God and loved by God and underneath their behaviour and their story is that precious life, that life that is God-breathed."

Now, Sati wears his Salvation Army T-shirt or hoodie every day with pride. He is developing as a leader within his own community and those who know him can't help but comment on the positive change. According to Dan, Sati's transformation is one of many. "I can't tell you too much about their life stories, but they have a bit more of a light and a shine in them now; they have a bit more purpose." And the transformational effect of the loving community that's evolving at Urana Street is not just one way. "It's as good at renewing my spirit as it is to give that hope out to others," Dan says.

Sati recently declined an offer from Housing NSW to relocate. "I've had a life change," he says. "I'd been in a very isolated place and I had no friends. I changed my mind not to go. I stayed here and I've been enjoying life."

Bryce and Dan have brought together a group of people from government departments and community agencies who meet with each other and residents regularly – something that, apparently, has never been done in Urana Street.

"Before, I would come out here and people would turn and walk the other way, or they'd run away," a community worker in the area says. Now that she and her team are involved in the weekly community



Photo supplied



WATCH THE VIDEO!

To watch a short video of The Salvation Army's inspirational work in the community of Villawood, go to others.org.au/villawood



Panania Communities of Hope

Sunday meetings have stopped at Panania Corps, but The Salvation Army is still alive and buzzing in the local area. Mini Muzos attracts 20 kids and their carers on a Thursday and Friday morning. The Salvation Army supports a Triple M mentoring project at a local high school. The thriving Family Store is just about to be relocated into the corps building as part of a pilot project to create missional opportunities within the retail spaces. "This will include a kid-friendly cafe, a space where we can have community gatherings and discussions around social issues," said Major Bryce Davies. "As we meet people and get to know what their needs are, we will work out what their needs are and where God leads us."

Opposite page top: Major Bryce Davies and Dan Taylor with Sati (centre), whose life has been transformed.
Opposite page bottom: A recent Urana Street Hub meeting in progress in the community room where meals are shared on a regular basis.
Above: Major Davies and Dan Taylor with two of their most faithful volunteers from Urana Street – Julio and Sati.
 Photos: Lena Pobjie

luncheon that the Salvos have started at Urana Street, she says their interactions with residents have completely changed. "It's connected us with people on a different level and that in turn helps our work because we're more able to serve the community, because they're more willing to have us."

At a recent 'Urana Street Hub' meeting, passionate people from government and non-government organisations gathered around the community room table with local residents to talk about how to make the community a better place. Despite the fact that a police raid was going on just metres down the road (with police in riot gear and a helicopter), the feeling of hope in the room was tangible.

"I've always had a passion for community," says the community worker. "But seeing people the way that Bryce and Dan see them, it just has re-energised and given me this whole new purpose to what I do."

There is still hardship in Urana Street, Villawood. But life is a little better for the residents, particularly when it's shared with a group of people who listen and love with no strings attached. ●

Lauren Martin is a staff writer for *Others*.



‘My life would be boring if it wasn’t for The Salvation Army’.

WORDS BILL SIMPSON



Ulladulla is a peaceful little seaside village on the NSW South Coast, a perfect place for a television soapie series of the *Home and Away* style. Built around a picturesque boat harbour, it is about 230km south of Sydney, on the Princes Highway coastal route to Melbourne.

Aboriginal for ‘safe harbour’, Ulladulla is the home port of the largest commercial fishing fleet on the entire South Coast. Once a year, the town swells for the Blessing of the Fleet and street parade.

The Pacific Ocean rolling off Ulladulla is teeming with some of the best fish the world’s seas have to offer. Marlin is the town’s most famous fish. There is even a prominent, long-standing hotel in Ulladulla named after the magnificent marlin.

Ulladulla’s population is a few hundred over 15,000. In summer, that number more than trebles because of the area’s popularity with holidaymakers looking for sun, fun and fish. Among the

locals is Dennis Breheny, approaching 76 years of age. Dennis is The Salvation Army – Mr Salvation Army – in Ulladulla. At times, Dennis has been the only Salvation Army soldier in Ulladulla. The nearest corps is at Batemans Bay, 53km to the south, followed by Nowra, 65km to the north.

From time to time, The Salvation Army appoints an officer or lay person to oversee the Army’s work in Ulladulla, which includes welfare, a sizeable shop staffed by mainly volunteers, and a Sunday afternoon service. Stephen Dunn is currently mission team leader, arriving in Ulladulla from outside the area in January. Stephen’s responsibilities include Ulladulla, but also other towns in the area. Stephen says Dennis is The Salvation Army’s go-to man for anything Ulladulla.

“Dennis is invaluable,” Stephen says. “Dennis knows everybody in Ulladulla and everybody knows Dennis. When I arrived, there was a lot to learn, but Dennis has it all in his head. It’s like having a computer. If I need to know something, I ask Dennis. He has the answers. He’s a humble man. He just wants to be helpful.”

Some would say that Dennis’ connection to The Salvation Army came by chance. Dennis suggests it came by God. Born, raised and employed in Sydney, Dennis, a lifetime bachelor, moved to the Ulladulla area in 1993 after his mother died and he was offered the opportunity by his employer, Smith’s Chips, to be its sales representative on the South Coast.

A tuba player, he joined the town band in nearby Milton. A young woman in the band told Dennis that she also played with The Salvation Army Batemans Bay corps band on its occasional visits to Ulladulla to support Sunday afternoon meetings there. She invited Dennis to give the Batemans Bay corps band a hand. He agreed. That was 14 years ago. He had just retired from work. He kept helping out.

Ten years ago, Dennis joined the Batemans Bay corps band for Sunday morning services there, which means he now worships at The Salvation Army twice on Sundays – at Batemans Bay in the morning and Ulladulla in the afternoon. With Stephen, he arranges and leads the Ulladulla service. At Batemans Bay, he also helps out teaching children about Jesus.

Not long after joining the Batemans Bay corps band, it was suggested he should become a Salvation Army soldier. He did. Linking spiritually with The Salvation Army was not an issue for Dennis. “I didn’t have anything to give up,” he says. “I didn’t touch alcohol, I didn’t smoke and I didn’t gamble.” And he had been committed to God from a young age.

“My disinterest in alcohol came from my father being an alcoholic and how I saw that impacting our family. I didn’t want to be like that,” he says. “When I was a young boy, my father ▶



Left: Dennis Breheny and his beloved tuba (left) on the wharf at Ulladulla, a coastal town in NSW. **Below:** Dennis is known as Mr Salvation Army around the town. Photos: Carolyn Hide



My disinterest in alcohol came from my father being an alcoholic and how I saw that impacting our family. I didn’t want to be like that.





One of Dennis' many jobs is looking after The Salvation Army store in Ulladulla, a beautiful fishing village on the South Coast of NSW. Photos: Carolyn Hide



drove me and my sister and brother to Sunday school every week. After he dropped us at Sunday school, he would head for the nearest wine bar. After Sunday school, we had to drag him from the wine bar to drive us home.

“He didn’t treat my mother well when he was drunk. During those times, I would get my Bible and go to the local park and read it. I remember doing that when I was 12 or 13. It’s how I coped.”

Ironically, he attended a few Salvation Army Sunday morning services when working in Sydney, but more out of filling in time than anything else. He was driving buses out of the Burwood

depot. On occasions, he had a few hours to fill between bus schedules. The Salvation Army was close by the Burwood bus depot, so he would call in for something to do. He stopped going when he was transferred to another depot.

Now in retirement in Ulladulla, he has little spare time to fill. He does street ministry (collecting and also handing out *Warcry* and *Kidzone* magazines) for the Army at Milton on Wednesdays and Ulladulla on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. He also collects at six hotels and clubs every second Friday. Dennis also teaches Sunday school in addition to his involvement in the Sunday services at Batemans Bay and Ulladulla.

Mondays are a rest day, although he is available if required. On Tuesdays, he performs various administrative duties before spending the rest of the day volunteering in The Salvation Army Ulladulla store. His community work goes beyond The Salvation Army, because he drives school buses every morning and afternoon during school term. And he is available for other community volunteering that needs doing.

“I need to be active,” he says. “I need to be doing something. My life would be boring if it wasn’t for The Salvation Army.”

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.



Everyone belongs at Delacombe.

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS

Connection is everything at Delacombe Salvos. And while it may be a rural corps, its passion for community sets it apart as one of the most innovative in Australia.

For Captain Craig Farrell, who was appointed to the Victorian corps on the fringes of Ballarat this year, “every day is Sunday”. The Sunday morning service, which attracts up to 70 people, still resounds with choruses and calls to the mercy seat, but it is Delacombe’s involvement in the community on every other day that has made the corps a trusted partner among schools, the local council and social services.

“Sunday services are important, but we’re really just trying to find out the needs of the community and our neighbours. There’s just so much opportunity here. I think we have so many things that happen during the week,” says Craig. “Ballarat Corps is just 10 minutes up the road from us and has a welfare focus, so one of the things we do well here is try to build community connection.”

One example is the link with a primary school next door. On a chilly weekday morning, a group of volunteers from the corps can be seen coordinating the school’s Walking Bus Program. With a list of names and addresses provided by the school, the small group calls into each child’s house on the list. On a good day, a child will spring out of the door and happily join the walking bus. On a more challenging day, a child may need to be coaxed from the home, often with the promise of a warm

breakfast, another program offered at the school at which some Salvos volunteer.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The walking bus was created three years ago by a schoolteacher who is also a soldier at Delacombe. The majority of volunteers come from the corps, although there are parent volunteers as well. Craig says the volunteers have seen a dramatic change in some children – not only are these children making new friends, but some of them are attending school more regularly.

“We’re trying to target those kids who find it really difficult to get up in the morning, and parents – many of them single parents – who find it difficult to get kids off to school for various reasons,” says Craig. “The school principal actually said it’s made a difference to the kids attending. It’s made a difference to their education. It’s freezing cold out here – and when the children don’t have adequate warm clothing, it’s really important the kids know us [in order to receive social welfare assistance].”

Like everything at Delacombe, the walking bus is a point of connection – connection to social welfare programs or simply opening the door to explore faith opportunities. “We keep a very open mind and work within the school system with teachers, and the chaplain at the school as well,” says Craig. “Really the constant drawcard for us is our kids club; that’s where the big connection is.” Kids Club is held fortnightly at the corps, giving families ▶

an opportunity to be welcomed into the church building. There's time for games, craft and 'God talk', and every child takes home a copy of The Salvation Army children's publication *Kidzone*.

A highlight earlier this year occurred when the school held a 'Red Day', celebrating The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. Craig, resplendent in a red cape, was joined by Shieldy, The Salvation Army mascot. Giving a presentation to the school with the theme 'Everyone Belongs', Craig later welcomed prep students to the corps to make Salvation Army Red Shield cookies. Craig smiles as he remembers the feedback and impact it had: "[We heard] that whenever kids come up to the collection tin, they'd say to their parents, 'We have to donate, we have to help others!'"



“... we're really just trying to find out the needs of the community and our neighbours. There's just so much opportunity here.”



Throw in the weekly pop-up library the council holds on the Delacombe Corps premises, and a playgroup coordinated by Salvo Connect up the road, and you could say the kids of Delacombe and the Salvos are as tight as it comes. "It's just another program where the community uses our space, but I think it's about building connection for those who don't have any belonging in the community," says Craig.

The majority of people who attend Delacombe are over the age of 40, but Craig says there has been a recent influx of young families and he is determined to cater for the next generation. A Junior Soldiers program is set to start. Delacombe, however, continues to have a thriving ministry to older adults in the corps and community, including a weekly craft group, the Companion Club and a monthly meal called 'Dinner is Served', which attracts up to 100 people. Some people who have been involved in these groups have begun attending Sunday services, says Craig.

Despite the corps having a full calendar, Craig and

Clockwise from top: Captain Craig Farrell and his sidekick Shieldy, with SalvoConnect representatives Fiona White (right) and Louise Jeffrey at the school's 'Red Day' earlier this year. Photo: Kate Healy (*The Courier*); Some of the handcraft made during Harmony Day at the corps; School children making Salvos craft during Red Day; the Delacombe school walking bus en route.

his ministry team have dreams of creating more opportunities for connection in the community.

"We work closely with SalvoConnect, and our Corps Sergeant Major is a chaplain at that centre as well. We're trying to develop something new in that area." No connection is out of the question at Delacombe, says Craig. And whether Salvos are walking children to school on a bitterly cold winter's day, or welcoming a lonely member of the community into the craft club, one phrase reminds them of God's mission for Delacombe Corps: Everyone belongs. •

Jessica Morris is a staff writer for *Others*.

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Carved into shape.

This Father's Day (1 September), Mal Davies offers a message that is not only for dads

When I was at university, many years ago, I had the opportunity to study several Eastern philosophies. I chose to do so largely so that I knew more about them, well, at least to some basic level. My thinking was that I couldn't very well tell a Buddhist that he was wrong and Christianity was right if I didn't know the first thing about Buddhism! So I thought a brief 'crash course' was just what I needed.

As I studied these varied and interesting belief systems, I found what I perceived to be – from my Christian mindset – many flaws, and yet I also found some lovely teaching illustrations, anecdotes and stories.

In Taoism, for example, there is a concept called "pu" which is commonly translated as "the uncarved block"; it is at the basis of a teaching about our potential as humans. The gist of it is that you imagine an uncarved block of wood that a master sculptor can carve into any shape or object he desires. He can turn that block of wood into an elephant, a bowl, a temple, a human face, an apple, a rose ... almost anything!

However, as soon as he starts to carve it into something he imagines it to be, he limits its potential. As a pure, unscratched block of wood he can shape it into anything, but as soon as he carves one piece of wood away, well ... if he changes his mind and wants to carve something else, it's too late – that piece has gone! As soon as he starts carving, he limits his options for what the block can potentially become.

What has shaped you? What has 'carved' you into

the person you are today? We are all 'carved' by people we meet, events we attend, cultures we live in, experiences we have. For many of us, the main 'sculptors' who work on us are our parents – to the point where, as we grow older, we can see ourselves reflecting them closely.

I recall the exact moment I realised I was turning into my father. I was standing at a bus stop one day after university; I would have been about 19 years old. My father had a way of standing that was well known to his family. He would hook his thumbs into the corners of his trouser pockets and stand there with his hands dangling next to him but thumbs firmly stuck in the pockets. As I waited for the bus I was whistling – another trait I picked up from my father – and I looked down. After a moment, the whistling stopped and I realised I was standing with my thumbs hooked into my pockets. I jumped! I pulled my hands out of my pockets, shivered slightly and crossed my arms.

Who do you, either consciously or subconsciously, model your behaviour, speech patterns, attitudes and lifestyle on? Who do you try to be like?

Scripture recommends having a role model who is another Christian. For example, Paul wrote to Titus and said: "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech ..." (Titus 2:7-8, *English Standard Version*). He advised Timothy: "... set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, *ESV*) and he told the Philippians to "keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us" (Philippians 3:17, *ESV*).



However, Paul took it a step further when he told the Corinthians: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1, *ESV*). Just as Paul encouraged them to follow his example, he was trying to follow Jesus' example! He was imitating what was role-modelled to him.

So what does that look like? What sort of example did Jesus set? He was good, obedient, forgiving, compassionate, gracious, bold, righteous, considerate, faithful, wise, honest, generous, and we could go on and on. He was so much!

While we're told that we should "have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, *ESV*) – other versions of the Bible say 'mindset' or 'attitude' – the fact is that we should also model our actions and behaviours on Christ's life. He was the 'complete package' and the perfect role model for us.

Which brings us to our key question: are you willing to let God 'carve' you into the likeness of his son? I'm not talking about a man with a beard; I'm talking

about someone who is obedient, compassionate, gracious, generous, faithful.

God won't carve you into someone new without your permission; he won't shape you into something (or someone) you don't want to be. He will only commence the work of carving you if you invite him to do so and give him permission. God never imposes himself on us; he waits to be invited.

This Father's Day, I actually praise God that I am growing to be like my father, a man whose faith and obedience to God I highly respect, but I also want to grow to be more like my heavenly Father, and my role model in Jesus.

I hope your prayer today is the same as mine: "Father, carve me. Shape me into who you want me to be."●

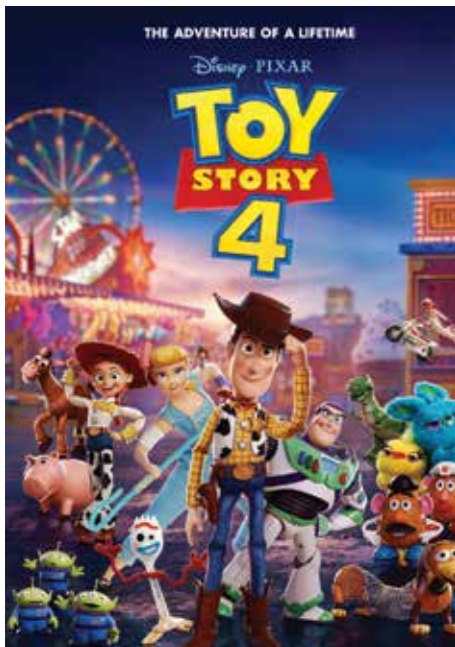
Major Mal Davies is Corps Officer at South Barwon Corps. A version of this article appeared in *The Officer* magazine.

THE DANGEROUS DRIFT IN DISNEY'S VISION

*Entertainment giant's subtle shift
in how it influences our children*

Words Mark Hadley

THE GIFT OF LONGEVITY, IN LIFE OR A career, is not really intelligence. Actually, the more time that passes, the more you can feel your lack of knowledge. No, the gift of longevity is perspective. The passage of time enables you to see how things have changed, for better or worse. Three decades of writing scripts, of reviewing children's films, have made it plain to me that there is a glacial shift in entertainment underway. And nowhere is it more evident than in the works of the movie-market leader, Disney.



Today, The Walt Disney Company controls the four most significant production houses for children's storylines. At its core is Walt Disney Pictures, responsible for family classics ranging from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* through to *Aladdin*. In 2006, when CEO Robert Iger realised Disney hadn't created a memorable animation character for 10 years, he added Pixar to its roster, gaining CGI titles from *Cars* to *Monsters Inc.*

In 2009, Disney followed up with the purchase of Marvel Entertainment, adding a cavalcade of superheroes and villains to its catalogue. And six years on, Disney welcomed Lucasfilm aboard, thereby acquiring the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* franchises. In short, Disney now owns a controlling interest in our most beloved characters.

The result has been a domination of the family entertainment market. In 2018, The Walt Disney Company had more titles in the top 10 highest-grossing films than any other production company. This translated to a staggering \$4.4 billion in United States tickets alone. Worldwide, Disney's movie and music business generated revenue of \$14.7 billion, up from \$12.3 billion in 2017. Add to that Disney's revenue from consumer products of \$2.3 billion in retail and other sales, plus \$4.5 billion in licensing, publishing,



and games ... and you start to get a picture of just how invested we are in its storylines. Which begs the question, what have we got for our money?

DRIFT IN PHILOSOPHY

From the beginning, Disney has been a company with a vision of how the world ought to be. The production company's trademark 'be all you can be' philosophy has its roots in founder Walt Disney's own inherent optimism and determination to succeed. From Pinocchio's dream to be



'a real boy', to Merida's determination to 'be free', Disney's characters have always championed the individual's right to follow their dream. Like Walt, *Brave's* heroine believes we play a role in finding our happiness: "There are those who say fate is something beyond our command. That destiny is not our own, but I know better. Our fate lives within us, you only have to be brave enough to see it."

Yet Walt's creative drive to make his 'dreams come true' was always held within the greater framework of a relationship with his creator. He was a devoted Congregationalist, a brand of Christianity that holds strongly to the Bible as the only way of knowing God. Walt firmly believed that though we should strive to be everything we could be, we do that best when we connect with our creator: "Whatever success I have had in bringing clean, informative entertainment to people of all ages, I attribute in great part to my Congregational upbringing and my lifelong habit of prayer."

Yet the sort of entertainment Walt's company is currently producing is drifting ever further from the idea that we might require direction or inspiration from anything other than our own hearts. From *Wreck-it Ralph* to judicious Jedi, characters are finding less need to rely on hearts outside our own. Take the *wToy*

Story franchise as an illustration. In 1995, *Toy Story's* characters found their chief joy in 'belonging'. First and foremost they were Andy's toys. He was the god of their bedroom universe and they couldn't think of anything better than bringing him joy. Woody was threatened by the arrival of Buzz Lightyear and conspired to see him gone, but that's only because he believed that more of his owner's love for the newcomer meant less for himself. Yet by the end of the film, our cowboy hero comes to the conclusion that there is room in his owner's heart for all of them, and they can please him together.

This togetherness became the theme for 1999's *Toy Story 2*. Woody falls into the hands of a toy collector and the rest of Andy's toys set out to save him. Meantime, Woody is confronted with two possible futures: one in which he is played with and suffers the usual trials of a toy's life; or one where he's kept in pristine condition, but disconnected from his purpose. For Woody, the choice is obvious:

Woody: Japan? No, no, no, no, no, I can't go to Japan!

Jessie: Ha, ha, ha ... What do you mean?

Woody: I have to get back to my owner, Andy! Look, look, look, see! (points to the name on the bottom of his boot).

Woody isn't ashamed to be a toy, or to

find his pleasure in pleasing someone else, because he's always known that's what he was made for. He and the rest of the toys take joy from belonging to someone.

However, a great deal changes in the following 11 years. Happiness and Andy begin to separate in 2010's *Toy Story 3*, as the plot takes an end-of-life turn. Andy is preparing to go to college and no longer needs toys. Once again, Woody and the gang face two futures. The first is going up into the attic with all the Christmas decorations, an option that's infinitely more preferable to their other fate: ending up at the dump and falling into a fiery furnace. But instead, the toys opt for a third option. Rather than ascend or descend they'll find themselves a new owner and keep playing for the foreseeable future.

There's lots to be said about the strong heaven/hell parallels here, as well as the characters' collective decision to choose neither, but one thing remains constant. Our hero's purpose is found in belonging to someone else, a prospect only the villain thinks is a bad thing:

Lotso: No owners means no worries. We don't need owners at Sunnyside, ▶

"Whatever success I have had in bringing clean, informative entertainment to people of all ages, I attribute in great part to my Congregational upbringing and my lifelong habit of prayer."

– Walt Disney



we own ourselves. We're masters of our own destiny.

Yet by the time *Toy Story 4* arrives, the villain's philosophy has become the hero's hope.

Nine years later, and the world sees belonging to someone else, and finding your meaning in their happiness, to be a poor prospect. Woody goes on a road trip with his new owner, Bonnie, only to discover his owner's affections are fickle, and not something you can trust your future to. Eventually, Woody heeds the advice of a good friend and chooses to find his own meaning. Having done his time pleasing someone else, Woody decides it's now time to please himself.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

The *Toy Story* franchise sits well in the Disney catalogue because its episodes are all 'life lesson' scripts. You can't help wondering, though, where Disney hopes kids will apply this wisdom. Are they supposed to apply it to their relationships with other kids? Or maybe their parents? Hopefully not their marriages! One thing's for certain, though: being 'owned' is no longer an option. As he watches his old life pull away from the parking lot, we're led to believe that Woody has made

“We forget at our peril that children’s films are written by their parents, and this world has been walking away from God for quite some time.”

the brave choice in not building his life's meaning on serving anyone, unless it's himself.

It's hard to truly know where Walt Disney stood with God. He was certainly a man with faults. His biographies talk about the perfectionism he demanded from his staff, and the workaholicism that adversely affected his family. Yet I suspect even he'd be surprised at the distance his company has placed between children and something greater than themselves.

However, the Bible views that perspective as the one we need the most. Proverbs says it is “the fear of the Lord” that is the beginning of wisdom. The greatest instruction to happiness the Scriptures contain is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and

strength”. And when Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, he begins by instructing them to see God as hallowed above all else, our own concerns included. As one preacher put it to me, the first step up is a step down. Or as James puts it, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10).

It's not surprising, though, that children's films should be taking this glacial path away from God, or that the world's largest producer of family entertainment might encourage them along it. We forget at our peril that children's films are written by their parents, and this world has been walking away from God for quite some time.

But if there is one baby step believers could help their families take back towards our Creator, it would be to remind them that they do not exist for the sake of their own stories. Buzz Lightyear had to come to realise he belonged to someone else, that he existed for their joy, before he could experience the personal joy he was designed for all along. ●

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

Listen

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE



Make a Joyful Noise is the latest CD released by The Salvation Army International Staff Songsters. It provides a wide variety of vocal tracks

performed with the professionalism listeners have come to expect from this group. The album opens with the title track, an upbeat adaptation of 'Psalm 100', with music by Benjamin Harlan.

The central focus of the release is the four-movement, 'Choral Symphony No.2', with words by Stephen Pearson and music by Richard Phillips. The work covers the attributes of courage, hope, trust and triumph in the life of the Christian. The combination of themes works well with the climax in the final words, “Endless love, boundless grace. Amen, Amen!”

The tribute to the Sunbury Junior Singers LP was a welcome and refreshing addition to the album, especially from those of us old enough to remember the release of the original LP. Those with an appreciation of the more classical will appreciate 'Ubi Caritas', a traditional Latin antiphon. The inclusion of the American spiritual 'Wayfaring Stranger' also provides another dimension to the release, as does the more contemporary 'Via Dolorosa'.

My favourite track was Howard Davies' 'You Know That We Love You'. I consider Howard to be among the leading composers of our time with an ability that is almost unique; the ability to write meaningful lyrics and memorable music.

The album is good value with the 17 tracks providing almost 70 minutes of playing time. I did find a sense of sameness with the sound and wondered

if the recording may have been enhanced with the addition of other instrumental accompaniment rather than just the piano, which did seem a little too prominent at times. Like much contemporary Christian music, the content lacked any real evangelical thrust, which one might expect from a Salvation Army production, and tended to be one-directional, more concentrated on our relationship with God.

Available at Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) and Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).
– **David Woodbury**

Read

ROY WILLIAMS

IN GOD THEY TRUST



In God They Trust: The religious beliefs of our prime ministers 1901-2013 provides not only an enlightening glimpse into the souls of our past

leaders but also an instructive summary of the political and religious history of Australia in general.

Featured by Koorong five years after its release, this book, created by the Bible Society, reflects Roy Williams' (a former lawyer) dedication to research and his logical style of writing. Evangelicals may struggle with his broad understanding of what constitutes a Christian leader, but Roy's approach is balanced and his personal opinions are clearly signposted. He categorises Whitlam as a “fellow traveller”, Deakin as an “ardent seeker”, and Keating as a “more-than-tribal Catholic”.

The chronological structure of the book hinders reader engagement as the most interesting chapters, which include personal interviews, are found towards the end of the book. His frequent references to the denominational

affiliations of leaders make much more sense when he describes the high level of sectarianism found at every level of Australian society in the past.

The historical context in which Roy presents each leader means that this book will not only appeal to readers interested in politics, but also to those interested in Australian society in general. Despite its historical perspective, *In God We Trust* is still valuable today in light of Australia's ever-changing political landscape.

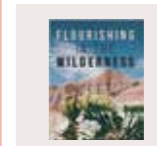
Available at Koorong and major bookstores.

– **Claire Watson**

Read

ALICE SWAIN

FLOURISHING IN THE WILDERNESS



Most of us experience a spiritual wilderness at some time in our lives. In this debut devotional by British Salvationist

Envoy Alice Swain, we are shown how to navigate seasons of doubt, fear, pain and discouragement.

Calling on her own experience with infertility, Alice makes her journey applicable to everyone by utilising the Scriptures to find key biblical truths. Nineteen bite-sized devotions lead you through the promises of God, and you will be convicted and encouraged by the questions that complete each chapter. Lyrics from *The Song Book of The Salvation Army* close out each point, giving you time to reflect and meditate.

Rich in biblical knowledge, *Flourishing in the Wilderness* is ideal for personal devotions, or as the author suggests, with “big cups of tea, large slices of cake, and other people to share with”.

Available at SPS-Shop.com
– **Jessica Morris**

All nations unified in Christ at youth camp

A NEW SALVATION ARMY YOUTH camp has been launched – UNIFY – which is designed for first- or second-generation Australians from migrant, new arrival, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

UNIFY camp is the result of a vision that Salvationists Adrian and Natalie Kistan had after spending much of their time and lives with young people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

This led to partnerships with a number of Sydney corps, The Salvation Army Cultural Diversity and Inclusion team and The Collaroy Centre, to meet the needs of young people from other cultures.

The first camp was held at The Collaroy Centre from 15-19 July, attended by more than 50 young people from different cultures. The camp focused on identity in Christ,



Delegates and their leaders who attended the first UNIFY camp at The Collaroy Centre. Photo: Lena Pobjie

identity in the home and identity in mission.

Teaching sessions were held to discuss the challenges that first- and second-generation young people face in Australia, trying to navigate both the culture of their family of origin and the culture of Australia.

“These young people are essentially caught between two worlds and the camp specifically spoke into this area of identity and belonging,” said Adrian, who is the National General Manager, Mission Inclusion.

Natalie said: “Parents have come wanting to give their families a better opportunity in Australia; they come with the traditions and culture from their origin country, which are all good things.

“But the kids are growing up in a culture and society that is very different to where most of their parents are from, so this can cause a struggle between child and parent and in their understanding of one another.”

Adrian said the camp was a unique initiative to address these challenges.

“It was also amazing to see 15 young people make first-time commitments to follow Jesus and seeing young people from culturally diverse backgrounds given the opportunity to be part of the leadership team for the week,” Adrian said.

Natalie added: “Our desire is that as these young people discover their identity in Christ, they will find their place of belonging in The Salvation Army and will become active participants in our vision and mission.”

– Lauren Martin

Nambour gives underprivileged diners a taste of Italy

A PIZZA RESTAURANT ON THE Sunshine Coast has brought a taste of Italy to Nambour Corps, giving people doing it tough a special night out.

The owners of Cappiccios restaurant in nearby Maleny, Tamara Leacy and Dom Venditti, with their team, recently provided a pop-up restaurant experience with

authentic Italian food, table service and live music to more than 30 people connected to The Salvation Army.

The diners were people experiencing homelessness, who come from situations of domestic violence, are on low incomes, are chronically unwell, isolated or lonely.

Tamara and Dom also

brought new scarves, beanies, woolly socks and blankets, donated by the Maleny community, to give to the guests.

“We wanted to spread some warmth and love to those in need this winter,” Tamara said. “One mum with her children had never been to a restaurant – this just filled us up.”

– Simone Worthing



An authentic Italian meal is served at the Nambour Corps event. Photo: Sunshine Valley Gazette

Building hope in the centre of Portland

HOPE IS THE HEARTBEAT OF the Victorian coastal town of Portland, and The Salvation Army will soon be at the centre of it – quite literally.

A planned \$4.5 million purpose-built complex in the centre of town will bring together the corps worship centre, thrift shop and welfare services. And Portland Corps Officers Lieutenants Heather and Peter Stamp, who will oversee operations, say this is just the beginning.

“People [in Portland] have been gravitating towards The Salvation Army because we’ve been offering a place of belonging, but it’s not going to be long before we completely outgrow the centre we are in,” said Peter.

Funding for the ‘Hope’ centre has come through the sale of the current corps building and property previously acquired



Portland Corps Officers Lieutenants Heather and Peter Stamp will coordinate a new multifunction ‘Hope’ centre. Photo: Portland Observer.

outside of the town. The new complex will function as a community space where people will not only receive help but journey together with a sense of purpose and belonging seven days a week.

On any given morning,

around 20 people line up outside the Army’s doors seeking food and welfare assistance, with more coming in throughout the day.

The current building houses corps programs, Doorways, Salvo Housing and Salvo

Connect, a snapshot of the ever-expanding collaboration between Salvation Army expressions in the area.

“There’s huge respect for the Army in Portland,” said Peter. “We offer a place where people can come and have a chat and spend time, and we have been able to come alongside and journey with people much deeper than what we’ve had opportunity to before.”

With a drop-in centre and additional welfare services on the horizon, as well as a rejuvenated thrift shop and a boom in volunteers (40 in the past five months), Peter says the new building will be an answer to prayer.

“Since we announced it to the public there’s been a real excitement in the community ... there’s much-needed hope emerging in Portland.”

– Jessica Morris

Freedom Chapel offers chance to celebrate the journey of recovery

“A SUPPORTIVE, ENCOURAGING gathering for people journeying through the hurts and hassles of life” is how Freedom Chapel is described by Majors Darren and Leanne Elsley, Corps Officers at Palm Beach/Elanora on the Gold Coast.

“We gather to share our experiences and hopes and celebrate our journey of recovery and our freedom won in Christ,” said Darren. “And we are all on that journey of recovery, all recovering from the effects of The Fall and our wilful separation from God.”

Run in a cafe-style, Freedom



Major Darren Elsley leads Freedom Chapel at Palm Beach/Elanora Corps. Photo: Kian Worthing

Chapel is a meeting that attracts people of all ages from the local community, as well as those recovering from addictions. The style is relaxed – discussing a different topic

each night, sharing struggles and victories, and being open in a safe and caring environment.

“Everyone is welcome, regardless of their beliefs and where they are in their faith

journey,” said Darren. “This is the authentic Salvation Army. We don’t want to introduce traditions or get stuck in our ways.”

Area Officers Majors David and Michele Terracini, Courts and Prisons Chaplain Major Chris Cohen and people from both the Tweed Heads and Gold Coast Temple Corps also lead some of the meetings.

“I am so grateful for this church,” said one attendee. “They pray for me, support me, but also help me to give back to the best of my ability.”

– Simone Worthing

Carina's little 'Green Warriors' bring out the 'God Colours'



One of the Carina Child Care Centre children waters newly potted plants during the special gardening event in celebration of National Schools Tree Day on 26 July.

MORE THAN A DOZEN EXCITED little 'Green Warriors' from The Salvation Army Carina Child Care Centre and Kindergarten planted trees and flowers as part of National Schools Tree Day on Friday 26 July.

In their child-size gardening gloves with matching spades and watering cans, the children planted, mulched and watered the trees on the site of both the centre and Carindale Corps in Brisbane's south.

The planting was part of a full program of events to mark the day and celebrate all they had learned about sustainability in the preceding weeks.

"The General [Brian Peddle] posted on Facebook on 6 July about our International Position Statement regarding sustainable environmental practices, and as Christians and as Salvationists



Kindergarten teacher Yvonne Lou shared in the excitement of children planting the trees as part of their learning about sustainability and the environment.

we have a responsibility to not only care for the world but to nurture, love and care for this gift," said Captain Krista Andrews, Carindale Corps Officer. "Sharing sustainable

environmental practices with our next generation confirms this commitment. We are here to bring out the 'God colours' of the world."

– Simone Worthing

Equipping God's people the focus of conference

ABOUT 75 DELEGATES FROM across Central Queensland and beyond attended the Wide Bay Area Leadership Team (ALT) Mission Conference in Bundaberg from 26-28 July.

Special guests for the weekend included Lieutenant-Colonels David and Sandra Godkin (Queensland Divisional Leaders), Major Deborah Robinson (Head of College and Training Principal at Eva Burrows College), Rod Denton (Christian leader, author and speaker) and Leanne Folling (Christian psychologist).

There was a question-and-answer session with David and Sandra on the opening night with a plenary session on 'mission', led by John Williams, leader of Soundpoint Salvation Army and Sony Foundation Youth and Community Centre in Goodna, the next day.

"Participants had the opportunity to choose various electives that were designed to (as Paul wrote to the Ephesians in 4:12 – NLT) "equip God's people to do his work and build up the Church, the body of Christ," Area Officer Major Peter Sutcliffe said.

A family social evening concluded the Saturday events and worship on the Sunday was at Bundaberg Corps.

"At the conclusion of the conference, many said this had been a long time coming and it was good to have training happen closer to people rather than have people travel to the major cities," said Peter.

– Simone Worthing

Homelessness goes beyond classroom in Perth

"IF YOU HAD NOWHERE TO sleep for the night, what would you do?" This is just one question students answer when they take part in Beyond The Classroom, the Salvo Schools Program pioneered by the Western Australia Division.

More than 15,000 students from Busselton to Geraldton engage with the program each year, and the results speak for themselves.

"We were able to get a valuable insight into the risks and potential affects of drugs and alcohol use, and the reality of financial pressures on many in society," said Bailey Thompson, a Year 10 student at Tranby College in Baldivis.

"We also learnt how these factors affect homelessness and how The Salvation Army is assisting those in need. It made us realise how much we take for granted."

Over three hours, students



Students from Tranby College with Darren Reynolds and Salvos Schools staff in the 'Immersion program' in Perth CBD.

are taken through three Salvation Army service centres in metropolitan Perth – The Beacon, Bridge House and Doorways Perth.

The students fill out a series of questionnaires and are then given the opportunity to 'walk in the shoes' of the city's most vulnerable people.

"At the beginning of the tour students are given a fictitious scenario that has led them to experience homelessness and at each location students make decisions based on what they're facing, such as where to sleep and what to eat," said Darren Reynolds, Schools Engagement Coordinator.

"At the end of the tour we process their decisions and award them with an overall grade, with explanations as to why some decisions are more beneficial than others."

Traditionally, the WA Schools Program focused on fundraising, tours of Salvation Army centres, workshops and assistance with the Christmas Appeal. The program was rebranded in 2015 as 'Beyond The Classroom', allowing Darren, his team and local corps to take a more service-oriented approach to engage students from Year 1 to Year 11.

"Our hope is that students receive a deeper understanding of the causes and true nature of homelessness, the work of The Salvation Army in this area and to respond to this knowledge with a genuine compassion for those experiencing these issues," said Darren.

– Jessica Morris

Project 9 housing initiative changing lives in Tasmania

SIRPA, WHO HAS SERIOUS health issues, is one of nine clients, including families, who will benefit from Project 9 – the construction of nine units by Salvation Army Housing Tasmania (SAHT).

"It's almost too good to be true! I've been pinching myself that this is not a dream," said Suzie, the daughter/carer for her frail and elderly mother, Sirpa. "This unit is real; it's been offered to my mum and is exactly what she needs. It's modern, beautiful and new. She's been through so much and this is just amazing."



Sirpa is one of The Salvation Army Housing Tasmania tenants who will benefit from Project 9 Housing.

SAHT is a well-established community housing provider that has been active in southern Tasmania for more than 20 years. It was established in 1998 and is part of

the national Salvation Army Housing service, providing long-term affordable housing for low-income and disadvantaged households; including 146 Housing Tasmania (HT) owned properties.

The Salvation Army in Tasmania is also part of Housing Connect – a partnership with four other agencies who, together, provide the majority of homelessness services in the state.

In 2017, the Tasmanian Government agreed to transfer the ownership of 30 properties to SAHT.

"The Government required SAHT to build nine new properties – one- and two-bedroom units – in the large backyards of existing properties," said Dr Jed Donoghue, Housing and Homelessness State Manager.

This project began in December 2017 and is almost complete.

"Project 9 is really changing people's lives by providing affordable and stable housing, enabling them to engage with the local community, seek employment or education, or enjoy retirement," said Jed.

– Simone Worthing

Gen Z shows its creative side at camp

CREATIVITY IS A BIG KEY TO A relevant church, and if the first Australia Territorial Creative Arts Camp is anything to go by, then young Salvos have it in bucketloads.

Eighty Gen Z delegates from all over the country recently gathered for the camp at Blampied, just north of Melbourne, and were empowered to transform their communities from the inside out – one song, dance or skit at a time.

With streams ranging from big band, wind ensemble and contemporary band to visual arts, gospel choir, drama and dance, young people were taught how their creativity could be used in personal worship and everyday life.

“Lots of our young people have gifts in the creative arts. [The camp] gives them the opportunity to express themselves, and for us to champion what they do,” said Ken Waterworth, National



◆ Youth express themselves during the dance elective, one of the popular streams at the Australia Territorial Creative Arts Camp.

Manager, Worship Arts.

Not to be outdone by the physical arts, minor electives were held in spiritual leadership, social issues facing Salvos today, and youth ministry, just to name a few.

“This brought together outstanding Salvo leaders

from across the country – the very best of what we have to offer,” Ken said. “We hope this engagement will enhance and develop young people’s gifts so they can take it back to their local faith communities and better serve in them.”

– **Jessica Morris**

Salvation Army on display during town’s anniversary

THE ROLE OF THE SALVATION Army in the small Queensland town of Allora was on display during the recent 150th anniversary celebrations of the town as a municipality.

Salvationist Robert Marshall developed and set up a Salvation Army historical display in the window of one of the shop-fronts that included old band instruments, timbrels, photographs, books and flags.

Additionally, he led an ‘Anzac-like’ service during the celebrations that honoured

those from Allora who had fought in wars.

Robert also played an integral role representing The Salvation Army on the organising committee for the 20-21 July weekend.

Since 1916, The Salvation Army has played a pivotal role in Allora, 160km south west of Brisbane, both as a corps and as a leader of the town’s annual Anzac Day service. The town’s historical society had specifically asked the Army to play a part in the celebrations.

“People wanted us to be involved in the day because The Salvation Army was in the town for such a long time – from 1888 until 1952,” said Robert, who lives at Stanthorpe, 100km south of Allora, and attends the Southern Downs Corps at Warwick, where he plays euphonium in the band.

Robert is also the corps historian and treasurer of the Brisbane Chapter of The Salvation Army’s Historical Society.

– **Simone Worthing**

Hurstville marks dual anniversaries

HURSTVILLE CORPS IN SYDNEY is celebrating two momentous anniversaries this year – the start of work in the area 120 years ago and 100th anniversary of its citadel.

The Army’s work commenced in Hurstville in 1899, with outreach activities conducted by Salvationists from nearby Rockdale Corps.

The corps building, located on the corner of Bond and Dora Streets, was opened by Mrs Commissioner Hay on 26 July 1919, but has had many additions and renovations over the years.

The corps will officially celebrate 120 years of serving the Hurstville community on the weekend of 26-27 October.

To contribute photos or other memorabilia, or for more details about the celebration, please email hurstville120@hotmail.com.



◆ Robert Marshall has played a key role in the Queensland town of Allora.

A church that is AccessABLE to everyone

IMAGINE BEING TOLD THAT you are not welcome at a church because your kids are too disruptive. Or feeling so uncomfortable at your place of worship due to the fact that a member of your family is different. It doesn’t sound like the church that Jesus spoke about but, unfortunately, these scenarios are all too common among families with special needs.

Alli and Liam Holland are Salvos who can genuinely say to these hurting families that they know how it feels to be looked at and treated differently, sometimes, in social settings.

Their son, Asher, has MECP2 Duplication Syndrome, a rare condition that results in physical and intellectual disability, hindering his ability to communicate and compromising his immune system.

Hospitalisations are common and in the four-and-a-half years that the Hollands have lived in north-west Sydney, they have developed relationships with many families in similar situations. The Hollands worship at Rouse Hill Region Corps, with Alli and Liam working there with Project CSC (Connect, Support, Community) as the Team Leaders and Family and Community Engagement workers.

Project CSC was created to support families of children with medically complex or additional needs. There are four special-needs schools within a 10km radius of the corps, with another 11 schools that have a special-needs unit attached.

Over time, Alli and Liam have developed a network of



◆ Liam (sitting) and Alli Holland (on Liam’s right) with other members of the AccessABLE church at Rouse Hill in Sydney.



◆ One of the AccessABLE Church families with an interactive wooden cross – a symbol of belonging in God’s family.

friends in similar situations.

“We had a few people bring up the question: ‘Why has God allowed my child to be disabled?’” Alli said. “So, we would say, ‘Let’s talk it out’. Or some have said: ‘I was asked to leave church. Where do families like us fit?’”

Conversations like that

stirred a yearning in the Hollands to create a space for families of all abilities to worship Jesus together.

This year, Project CSC, in partnership with Rouse Hill Corps and a team from other churches, launched a completely inclusive church service.

AccessABLE Church focuses on members’ abilities, taking the needs of participating families into account in its individual design, which changes from month to month.

A coffee cart and jumping castle create a relaxed mood, and while the ‘formalities’ of the service last just 40 minutes, the gathering runs for two hours, allowing plenty of time for conversation.

Alli explains that each aspect of the service is designed for multiple levels of engagement.

“We realise that not

everybody learns in the same way,” she says. “For someone to sit and to listen to a speaker may not be the way that a child with autism or a child with sensory-processing issues receives information. We wanted to make it an ‘all-streams of communication highway’.

“So, each activity involves an element of sensory activity, so everyone is actually part of the message but in their own way. They can engage as much or as little as they choose.”

The first service was attended by four families. Word spread and now up to 60 people attend. Liam said, “One of the dads came up to me and he said, ‘I did tell you I hate church.’ And I said, ‘I know,’ and he said: ‘Well, I just rang a few of my friends for the next one because I love this, this is great.’”

– **Lauren Martin**

Enrolments

COFFS HARBOUR CORPS NSW



Left: MAJOR ANDREW VAN GAALLEN accepted five new adherents at Coffs Harbour Salvos on 2 June. They are (from right) Ben, Andrew, Matt, Kaye and Nathan. **Far left:** Major van Gaalen also accepted (from left) Luke and Will as adherents at the corps' Recovery Church service on 5 June. Tyrus van Gaalen is holding the flag.

MERRIWA CORPS WA



Left: CORPS OFFICER MAJOR NIKKI Curtis accepted Vivian Ataya (left), Laria Blount (at back) and Jan Fenner (right) as adherents and enrolled Michelle Rowe (centre) as a senior soldier on 7 July. **Far left:** Nikki also accepted Juliana George as an adherent on 14 July. Gordon Pursell is the flagbearer.

ROCKDALE CORPS NSW



Left: AUX-LIEUTS MATT CAIRNS AND Renata Davies enrolled Vivienne and Alex Peres as senior soldiers on Sunday 4 August. **Far left:** They also enrolled Snezana, Oliver and Alex Petrov as senior soldiers on Sunday 21 July.

CHATSWOOD CORPS NSW



CAPTAIN GLENDA BROWN ENROLLED Vikki Song as a senior soldier during The Gathering service on 2 August.

LAUNCESTON CORPS TAS



AUXILIARY-LIEUTENANT RODERICK BROWN enrolled Peter Bowen as a senior soldier on 23 June.

RIVERLAND CORPS SA



CORPS LEADER HELEN ADAMCZYK accepted Dylan Berri as an adherent on Sunday 28 July. Dylan is pictured with family members.

DANDENONG CORPS VIC



CORPS OFFICER CAPTAIN CLAIRE EMERTON enrolled Hoda Pasandi and Manocher Pazooki as senior soldiers on 14 July. Pictured (from left) are Lieutenant Elizabeth Kang, Hoda, Manocher and Claire.

PORT LINCOLN CORPS SA



CORPS OFFICERS LIEUTENANTS ADRIAN and Lydia Hamond enrolled Rita Adams and Simeona Rawles as senior soldiers on 9 June. The group is pictured with family members of the new soldiers.

GOLD COAST CORPS QLD



CAPTAINS PETRA AND STEVE DORMAN recently enrolled Andrew Archer, Michelle Ault and Tahlia Spence as senior soldiers. Pictured (from left) are Andrew, Tahlia, Michelle, Corps Sergeant Major Lyell Surch, Recruit Sergeant Captain Robyn Collins, Petra and Steve.

General reflects on first year in job



General Brian Peddle (right) and Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham discuss their experiences of leading the global Salvation Army during an interview recorded at International Headquarters.

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham, have recorded a short video in which they talk about their first 12 months in office and reflect on their experiences leading the worldwide Salvation Army.

The General reveals that, during the visits he and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle have undertaken, he has been “surprised by ... innovative

expressions of the Army” and impressed with young people, who he sees “at the front line of mission wherever we go”. He says he is encouraged that “God is still at the centre of what the Army is and does”.

Reflecting on his growing awareness that “at least half” of Salvationists are serving in countries where “it is not easy to be a follower of Jesus Christ”, the General calls on

Salvationists and friends to pray for the Army in these places.

Having discussed his ‘Call to Mission’, in which he challenges Salvationists and everyone associated with the Army to ‘Be Ready, Be Engaged and Take Responsibility’, the General then invites Salvationists worldwide to be “part of the best Army that has ever existed”.

The video can be downloaded at sar.my/oneyearin

Two-volume Booth biography rolls off press



Author Gordon Taylor (left) receives one of the first copies from Paul Mortlock, IHQ Literary Secretary and Managing Editor at International Headquarters.

AUTHOR AND LIFELONG SALVATIONIST Gordon Taylor’s two-volume biography of Salvation Army Founder William Booth will soon be available through Salvation Army trade departments around the world and as e-books through Amazon and Kobo.

The major biography, titled *William Booth: The Man and His Mission* and *William Booth: The General and His Army*, examines both the life and legacy of one of the most influential Christian leaders of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Contact IHQ-Editorial@salvationarmy.org for more information.

Euro assault on human trafficking

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS commenced its first European pan-continental campaign to raise awareness of – and deter people from being lured into – human trafficking and modern slavery.

Around half of the 31 European countries with a Salvation Army presence have begun a multi-modal campaign, encouraging consumers to consider whether low prices come at the high cost of human exploitation. By the end of 2019, all Salvation Army countries are expected to have joined the three-year campaign.

Go to highcost.salvationarmy.org for examples of the way the campaign is being used.

Words of Life releases new series

THE SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2019 issue of *Words of Life*, The Salvation Army’s daily reading series, is now available to subscribers. This issue focuses not only on God’s peace but also his presence.

“We live in a noisy, busy world,” explains Major Christine Clement, new writer for the series. “However, the noise is not necessarily measured in decibels but in the clamour of a society’s pursuits for the things other than God.”

In the lead-up to Christmas, the series focuses on “God’s gift beyond words” and the gifts brought to Jesus.

Go to sar.my/wol to download the first eight days for free.

Army to step up relief efforts in crisis-hit Nigeria

THE SALVATION ARMY IS SET to implement phase two of its relief efforts in north-eastern Nigeria where civil conflict has had a devastating effect.

Army workers have been supporting more than 500 of the most vulnerable families of internally-displaced people (IDPs) who are currently living in temporary camps in the Maiduguri area.

Food shortages have led to nutritional insecurity, with millions of people severely affected. In the least-accessible and worst-affected areas, more than 45,000 people are experiencing famine-like conditions and severe hunger.

The Salvation Army has been helping to provide essential food supplies, sleeping mats and clothing, as well as ensuring that hygiene and disease prevention is being addressed through the provision of soap and washing detergent.

While the security situation



Salvation Army workers in Nigeria prepare relief packages for vulnerable families in the north-east region of the country, where many people have been displaced due to civil conflict.

was such that Salvation Army team members had to be accompanied by armed military personnel, reports are that “the relief assignment was peaceful and successful” and that independent observers noted the positive impact of The Salvation

Army’s approach.

When the security situation has stabilised, a second phase of the Army’s emergency response seeks to equip subsistence farmers with seeds and tools, in order to help address longer-term food security.

Elsewhere in Nigeria, The Salvation Army is also busy responding to a conflict between migrant herdsmen in Benue State. Food and non-food items are being provided to approximately 600 families.

Breaking down barriers at Pride celebration events in the USA



The Salvation Army’s Jennifer Byrd helped spread a message of kindness, love and service at Pride.

FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, The Salvation Army in San Francisco has had a booth at the Pride celebration weekend, dispensing sunscreen, water and information, along with the message from 1 Corinthians 13:4 – love is kind.

The booth is part of the Army’s continued participation in Pride-related events throughout the USA Western Territory to spread positive messages of love and to correct misinformation that exists

regarding The Salvation Army’s relationship with the LGBTQ community.

San Francisco Advisory Board member June Sargent has volunteered at the Army’s Pride booth several times to promote The Salvation Army’s commitment to serve everyone without discrimination, regardless of age, race, religion or sexual preference. Over the years, she has watched the effort’s positive impact grow.

“Every conversation I had

this time was very positive. People were more aware that we are serving the LGBTQ community without discrimination, particularly in San Francisco,” June said.

Golden State Director of Communications Jennifer Byrd also participated at the booth.

“If they see the shield and they don’t feel safe coming to us for help, that’s not a good thing. We really want people to know that we’re here to help,” she said.

GWENDA WATKINSON



MAJOR GWENDA WATKINSON was promoted to glory on 5 July, aged 86. Major Bram Cassidy conducted her funeral service at Waverley

Temple on 12 July.

Gwenda Florence Watkinson was born to Salvation Army officer parents, George and Georgina Watkinson, in Melbourne. She was the eldest of three children, having two brothers, George and Hedley. She accepted Jesus at the age of seven and was very much part of The Salvation Army all her life.

Gwenda trained as a primary school-teacher and worked for the Victoria Department of Education. In 1955, she left South Melbourne Corps to become a member of the *Soulwinners* session of cadets. Her first appointment was back to the officer training college for 12 months, before serving for 12 months in each of the following Victorian corps: Traralgon, Clayton, Little Bourke Street and Daylesford.

In 1960, she was appointed to Africa, where she spent the next 19 years working in education – at Mazoe Secondary School in the Rhodesia Territory (now the Zimbabwe and Botswana Territory), Chikankata Secondary School in the Zambian Territory, as an education officer at the training college in Lusaka and as the Youth Education and Candidates Secretary, also in Zambia.

Gwenda's first appointment on returning to Australia was at the training college in January 1981, where she spent four years, before becoming the Assistant Field Secretary. Her final appointment was as the Territorial Secretary for Companion Clubs.

Gwenda entered active retirement in October 1992, later becoming the Prayer Covenanters' League Secretary. She fulfilled this role until January 2002. She soldiered at Waverley Temple Corps, supporting in every way she could and encouraging others in their faith journey.

NEIL BERRY



NEIL ALLAN NORMAN BERRY was promoted to glory on 2 June, aged 84. Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell conducted his funeral service at

Ringwood Corps on 5 June. Gary Berry (son) and Liliana and Isabella Vinagli (granddaughters) brought family tributes, Derek Burridge brought a Ringwood Corps tribute and Lionel Wood, a school friend of Neil's in Geelong, shared some memories.

Neil was born to Frederick and Eileen Berry in Horsham, Victoria, on 22 July 1934. The family moved to Geelong and it was at the local Salvation Army corps that Neil made his decision for Christ as a small boy. Neil worked as a compositor at Citadel Press at the Army's Printing Works in East Melbourne.

In 1958, Neil married Beverley Caddaye and the couple built a house in Nunawading and started attending Ringwood Corps. Three children were born to them – Gary in 1961, Raelene in 1963 and Roslyn in 1965. Six grandchildren expanded their family.

When eyesight problems forced Neil to leave Citadel Press, he used his expertise and enthusiasm for music by teaching brass instruments at five Melbourne suburban secondary schools.

He also undertook formal part-time study over six years to gain a Bachelor of Education degree in secondary music education from the University of Melbourne.

An enthusiastic Salvationist and committed Christian, Neil expressed his faith as he played various instruments in the corps band and the veterans band at Ringwood, participating thoroughly in their activities as well as the other ministries of Thornbury and Ringwood corps.

During his final years, when ill-health confined him to residential care, he held on to the promise of the home Jesus had gone to prepare for him in heaven (John 14:1-6).

EVA ROSE TROTTMAN



EVA ROSE TROTTMAN WAS promoted to glory in June, aged 96. Lieut-Colonel Rusty Adams conducted a thanksgiving service for Eva

at Waverley Temple Corps in Melbourne on 20 June. Shannon Trottmann (grandson) gave a family tribute, Laura Smith (granddaughter-in-law) gave a Bible reading (John 14:1-6) and Colin McMillin offered a corps tribute.

Eva, born in 1922, attended school in South Preston and Warrnambool, before moving to Melbourne as a teenager. She soldiered at Thornbury Corps and joined the songsters. She married Max Trottmann at Thornbury Corps and they had one child – Graeme.

They transferred to Footscray Corps where Eva was the timbrel leader for 32 years. She was also corps treasurer. In retirement, Eva and Max moved into a Salvation Army home at East Malvern. They soldiered at Hawthorn Corps and then at Waverley Temple where Eva was a keen Home Leaguer and sang in the songsters.

Eva's testimony would be, "Christ is all, yes all in all, my Christ is all in all."

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

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 26 July

Captain Andrew **Walton**, Alternate Training Mode Coordinator, Officer Formation Stream, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Captain Kylie **Herring**, Team Member, Norwest Region, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Martin **Herring**, Team Member, Norwest Region, NSW/ACT Division; Major San Holland, Team Leader, Norwest Region, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 11 August

Major Cheryl **Kinder**, Chaplaincy Team Leader, Aged Care, Sydney NSW, Community Engagement: Chaplaincy, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

Effective 16 August

Captain Taryn **Singer**, Project Officer, THQ Mission Portfolio, Policy, Research and Social Justice Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission, and Ministry Assistant, Kyabram Corps, Victoria Division (additional appointment); Major Sue **Davies**, Assistant Support Officer, Divisional Headquarters, NSW/ACT Division (pro tem).

Effective 20 August

Captain Melanie **Cop**, Chaplain, Domestic and Family Violence, Victoria Community Engagement: Chaplaincy, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

Effective 26 August

Captain David **Collinson**, Corporate and Philanthropic Relationship Manager, South Australia, Office of the Secretary for Communications; Captain Kylie **Collinson**, Mission Program Development Support SA/NT, Mission Support Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

Effective 22 September

Cadet Marika **Wallis**, Corps Officer, Gunnedah Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 3 October

Major Kaylene **Morrice**, Corps Officer, Roma Corps, Queensland Division; Major Paul **Morrice**, Corps Officer, Roma Corps, Queensland Division.

Colette and Duane **Albino**, of Leongatha Corps, have been accepted as auxiliary-lieutenants and appointed as Corps Officers, Albany Corps, Western Australia.

Effective 28 October

Major Margaret **O'Neill**, Chaplain, Montrose Aged Care,

Sydney NSW, Community Engagement: Chaplaincy, Office of the Secretary for Mission; Major Lindsay **Reeves**, Chaplaincy Coordinator, Sydney Airport, Community Engagement: Chaplaincy, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

Effective 11 November

Major Karen **Masters**, Executive Assistant, Heads of Government and Media Relations, Office of the Secretary for Communications, and Silver Star Fellowship Secretary, Australia, Officer Personnel, Office of the Secretary for Personnel (additional appointment).

CANDIDATES

Rachal **Mills**, of Miller Corps in the NSW/ACT Division, has been accepted for training as a cadet in the 2020 *Messengers of Reconciliation* session; Rachel **Nally**, of Broadford Corps in the Victoria Division, will commence as a candidate helper for a 12-month period at Broadford Corps.

FUTURE OFFICERSHIP

Aux-Lieutenant Andrew **Webb**, currently appointed within the Victoria Division, is to be transitioned to commissioned officership; Aux-Lieutenant Kate **Clifford**, currently serving within the Tasmania Division, is to be transitioned for future officership. Kate has been accepted as a cadet of the *Messengers of Grace* session.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Aux-Captain Thelma **Lehr**, on 8 August; Aux-Captain Sylvia **Lockhart**, on 9 August.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON (TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

Perth 1-2 Sept – WA divisional visit.
Geelong 12 Sept – Area Officer gathering.
Sydney 8- Sept - 20-year Officer Service Seminar Dinner, The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy.
PNG 14-18 Sept – South Pacific Leaders Conference, Port Moresby

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

Melbourne 6 Sept – Spiritual Day for Cadets, Eva Burrows College.
Sydney 8-11 Sept – 20-year Service Seminar, The Collaroy Centre, Sydney.
PNG 14-18 Sept – South Pacific Leaders Conference, Port Moresby.

Filling the void.

Discovering a living faith in Jesus

WORDS BRONWYN VINEN

I MOVED FROM TASMANIA TO TOWNSVILLE in 1999 with my now ex-husband, who is in the military, and our two young children. It was a move I didn't want to make as it signalled sure deployment for my ex-husband, which did happen.

When he returned six months later, I decided to return to the workforce. I have a background in retail management and had been with a major company for 13 years. I applied for a job as a store manager with Salvos Stores. I knew a bit about The Salvation Army through Red Shield Defence Services and chaplaincy. Salvos Stores were restructuring at the time and I was offered an area manager role.

My mentor was Freddy Choo, the former retail and marketing manager of Salvos Stores, who made a big impact on my life both professionally and personally. I was attending a Uniting Church at the time but got to know a few Salvationists in the area. Majors Isabel and Norm Beckett were also significant mentors for me at the time. They gave me a clearer understanding of a faith journey. They spoke everyday language I could understand, they referenced Scripture to real life and are exceptional leaders and teachers.

I started to attend chapel as the Townsville Riverway Recovery Mission was being built and learned a lot about recovery, homelessness, suicide and disadvantage. I knew these things existed, of course, but working with people affected



Salvos Stores area manager Bronwyn Vinen says the Army helped 'activate' her faith.

by them was life-changing for me. It was heartbreaking at times too – seeing young people the age of my children in devastating situations. Seeing how and where The Salvation Army worked also showed me faith in action, and a lived, active, personal belief. It also showed me that being involved in ministry opened up a range of pathways to faith, and growing faith.

I grew up in a nurturing family, although Dad died when I was only six. I went to Sunday school with my six siblings, attended the Church of England, and we were encouraged to give thanks, volunteer, live generously and share. Faith was there, but it wasn't active. In talking to Captain Brad Whittle (Manager, Riverway Recovery Mission), I realised that I'd been praying, which was a wake-up call for me. I'd also been associating Dad with God because I knew he was in heaven.

The Becketts and in recent years Majors Beth and David Twivey would often come to the store and chat with us. Beth

was someone I would always check in with and share my thoughts. Together we started Warehouse Chapel – leading a chapel in the warehouse for staff, volunteers and interested customers. This is something I would like to develop here.

Now the void in my life has been filled – with God and serving others. I am trying to encourage others to experience a faith journey through chapel at Fairhaven (Gold Coast Recovery Services), Palm Beach Corps (Freedom Chapel) or helping at Still Waters (Gold Coast Crisis Accommodation). This is definitely more than a job for me. It is a way to help people and reignite, or discover, faith.

I had a faith before The Salvation Army, but it wasn't active. The Army opened the doors for me to a personal, living faith in Jesus.

**Bronwyn is the Area Manager of Salvos Stores on Queensland's Gold Coast, overseeing 13 stores from Murwillumbah in Northern NSW to Beenleigh, 35km south of Brisbane. ●*

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