

# others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

■ FEATURE

*Churches should start equipping people in friendship-making*

■ OPINION

*Standing up to injustice or a mob mentality?*

■ SALVATION STORY

*How God restored Roger's life and family*



## EVERYDAY HEROES

Dads share their perspectives on fatherhood



September

2020

Issue 09

Volume 04

Price \$2

# restore broken relationships

HOME  
FAMILY  
ENCOURAGE  
HOPEFUL FUTURE  
FREEDOM

Love  
RECONCILIATION  
HOPE  
DIGNITY RESTORE DIGNITY  
ENCOURAGE  
FRIENDSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY  
SELF-WORTH



Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

27 SEPTEMBER SUNDAY

2020 ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR

**VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



WORDS  
LAURIE ROBERTSON

## Farewell and thank you

AS PART OF THE CONTINUOUS REVIEW ACROSS THE SALVATION ARMY in Australia, and with a focus on better stewardship throughout the territory, a leadership decision has been made to discontinue the print edition of *Others* monthly magazine.

As such, this September issue of *Others* will be the final monthly edition. *Others Online* will continue and over the coming months we will look to produce a quarterly, different format, printed *Others*. Further announcements on this will be shared through *Others Online*.

Due to the internal restructure and changes to *Others* magazine, The Salvation Army has concluded the employment of Assistant Editor-in-Chief Scott Simpson. *Others* has been one of Scott's main ministry areas and was created by him and his team when Australia became one territory. It replaced the magazines – *Pipeline* and *On Fire* – of the former two Australian territories.

For the past 13 years, Scott has piloted the production of key territorial magazines. His integrity, love of Jesus, journalistic professionalism, passion for The Salvation Army to effectively share the Gospel message of Jesus, vision, organisational skill and inclusive team-leading has resulted in excellent printed and online magazines being produced.

It has been my privilege to minister closely with Scott during the past two years or so and his strong Christian faith and desire for The Salvation Army to be a life-transforming beacon of light for Jesus in Australia have deeply impacted me. Scott's hope-bringing legacy will long live on. On your behalf I thank him for his Christ-empowered ministry through his roles with us.

The decision regarding *Others* also affects Cristina Baron, the designer of the magazine. I am so thankful for Cristina's creative skill and teamwork during the five years she has worked on magazines with The Salvation Army.

As we all pray for The Salvation Army during these tough times, may we each experience a renewing and expanding of our faith and action, flowing from our loving relationship with Jesus.\*

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson is Editor-in-Chief.



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

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

#### MISSION STATEMENT



#### WORDS

COMMISSIONER JANINE DONALDSON

## Choosing to love and making a new way

Local Mission Delivery a great connection to our communities

FOR THE PAST SIX WEEKS, ROBERT AND I HAVE had the great privilege of visiting Salvation Army expressions around NSW and the ACT. Our sincere thanks to all who have hosted us and made themselves available to share. We have appreciated every courtesy and every location.

We have met so many amazing people. People who have shown great commitment, innovation and ability to adapt during these unusual days.

There are so many wonderful strengths serving together as one territory. This is evident in many ways, but, in particular, the delivery of mission at a local level. To listen and get a sense of collaboration and trust between a wide variety of services has been a highlight and something to celebrate.

Whether it's partnering with other corps, Alcohol and Other Drugs services, Connect, Doorways, Salvos Stores, prisoner support, youth programs, gardens, craft groups, life groups, sports ministry, mentoring, people are being connected and linked into ministry and into the knowledge of God.

We have learnt, too, over these days of change to our Sunday services, that our creativity and engagement with online services enables us to enjoy a buffet of wonderful blessing, spiritual growth and the beauty of new friendships both here in Australia and around the world. This bodes well for our future as we pray and contemplate and respond to what God is showing and revealing to us.

Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you may have trouble and suffering but take courage – I have conquered the world" (John 16:33). This scripture certainly speaks to the past and speaks to the here and now. None of us could have predicted how 2020 would unfold.

We have all observed good and bad behaviour of humanity over these days.

It is a reminder that we are always free to make choices. Scripture reminds us time and time again of people making good and bad choices: The story of Joseph's brothers – "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). Enemy armies made the choice to wipe out Israel when Jehoshaphat was king. Then he chose to believe the prophet Jahaziel: "The battle is the Lord's" (2 Chronicles 20:15).

It is this same God who shines in the darkness of this pandemic. God is with us. The triune God is raising up new opportunities over these days. Yes, there is fear, isolation, panic buying, sickness and death. There are also so many people around our world offering prayer, welcome, shelter, encouragement, support and a listening ear. We are looking at our neighbours and creation in a different way. We are waking up to a reality to how big we really are. To how little control we have and to what really matters. To love.

So, we pray, and we remember all that we fear, all that is different. Yet we still can make good choices. We can still listen to the birds singing, observe and be reminded that spring is on its way. We can open doors and windows to welcome in strangers and neighbours and we can choose to be like Jesus.

Robert and I have continually been reminded through our travels to choose love and make a new way.

"God is with us, God is with us, Christ our Lord shall reign as king."\*

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





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Throughout history, simple hand gestures have served as a form of human communication, conveying meaning and allowing people to identify themselves with a group. Think of the military salute, the 'thumbs up' gesture or the Scout sign. But did you know that The Salvation Army also has a salute? Read Captain Sheldon Bungay's opinion piece on page 11.

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# TAKING A STAND

Exploring The Salvation Army International Positional Statements

## DEATH PENALTY – STATEMENT OF POSITION

The death penalty is a practice whereby a person is put to death by the state as a punishment for crime. The Salvation Army affirms the responsibility of government to create and sustain justice, and while it recognises that this includes punishment, The Salvation Army calls for the end of the use of the death penalty.

All human life is sacred. All people are created in the image of God and have unique and intrinsic value. Those who have committed crimes must face justice, but always in ways that recognise the inviolable sanctity of their lives.

Jesus Christ, who unjustly suffered the death penalty, identified himself with sinners. Through Jesus, God wants to redeem, restore and transform all humanity. Everyone can become a new person in Christ.

The Salvation Army has extensive experience in rendering service within the criminal justice system of many countries, ministering to offenders and victims and their respective families. This experience confirms the conviction that redemption and transformation are possible for all people.

The Salvation Army, in recognising the need for there to be consequences for criminal acts, advocates that such consequences should allow for the rehabilitation of offenders. The Salvation Army uncompromisingly stands for life.

**Download the complete International Positional Statement on the Death Penalty at [salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)**

## THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Last month, General Brian Peddle, the world leader of The Salvation Army, approved the publication of a new International Positional Statement on the death penalty.

The death penalty is a matter of active controversy. It has been abolished in a majority of countries around the world,

but it is still legal in several. Although exact numbers are hard to report since some countries treat death sentences as state secrets, it is known that hundreds of people are still being executed every year.

Depending on the legal system in question, a death sentence is often pronounced for murder, terrorism,

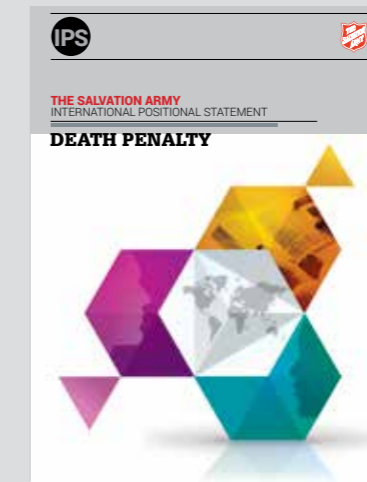
treason, rape, kidnapping, drug trafficking, blasphemy and other crimes. Depending on the country, death may be carried out in various ways: for instance, by hanging, firing squad, lethal drug injection, electrocution, gassing, beheading or stoning. However, there is no evidence that the death penalty is a greater deterrent to crime than life imprisonment.

There is evidence of miscarriages of justice in trials resulting in the death penalty. Studies have shown that in certain contexts if the person on trial is poor, of a racial minority, or suffering from mental illness, they have a greater likelihood of receiving the death penalty. In addition, some people have been found to be innocent after the pronouncing of a death sentence.

There are numerous examples in which people who are incarcerated, including some who have received a death sentence, have reformed while in prison. Spiritual counsel and pastoral care can play a significant role in supporting the law, courts, prisons and correctional programs in their efforts to effect transformation in a person's life

### BIBLICAL GROUNDS

Every person bears the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and so human life has intrinsic value. Sin mars that image but does not remove it completely. All people – without exception – are of value to God, holding a special place in his creation (Psalm 8:5), irrespective of age, gender, race, religion, health or social status,



or their potential for achievement. No matter what a person does, the value and dignity of their life cannot be eradicated. The right to life is universal.

The Bible makes it clear that human life is sacred: it is God who gives life (Acts 17:25). Despite the sanctity of our lives, the Bible teaches that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Although the wages of sin is death, God graciously extends the gift of life (Romans 6:23). We don't deserve God's grace and mercy, yet we receive them (Ephesians 2:8).

In the Book of Ezekiel, God says, “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked?’ declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?’” (Ezekiel 18:23).

The gospel offers hope and redemption to

fallen mankind. As recipients of God's grace, we are called to extend grace to others as well. Such grace was manifested and demonstrated in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Followers of Christ aim to live Christlike lives, motivated by justice, humility and grace, rather than vengeance and hate (Luke 6:27-31). The book of Romans gives us clear instructions for this, stating: “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord” (Romans 12:19).

Scripture recognises the pain of injustice and does not silence those hurt by it. “How long, Lord ...?” is the biblical lament of those whose cry is for injustice to be set right (Habakkuk 1:2). In Psalm 147:3 we read that “He [the Lord] heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wound.” Similarly, 2 Corinthians 1:4 tells us that God “comforts us in all our troubles”.

There are those who support the death penalty from a biblical point of view, believing that God commands the death penalty. The Salvation Army does not support this interpretation of the Bible. Government has been ordained by God to create and sustain justice in society. To do that, it is authorised to use force when justice demands it (Romans 13), but the modern state has at its disposal means to punish serious crimes without taking life.\*

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

## VIEWPOINT

**Been thinking?** We bring you a selection of opinion, critical thought and topical writing to get you engaging with the world around you. To read more go to: [others.org.au/viewpoint](https://others.org.au/viewpoint)

## WORDS

ALEX STONEY

## #Cancelled

Is it standing up to injustice or a mob mentality?

IN MAY, CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER Bryan Adams posted an expletive-filled rant on Instagram, blaming “bat eating, wet market animal selling, virus making” people in China for the coronavirus outbreak — comments that many considered offensive and racist. Although Adams apologised the next day, saying he was referring to the cruelty of such markets and promoting veganism, #BryanAdamsIsCancelled was already trending on Twitter.

If you are unfamiliar with the term, to be ‘cancelled’ refers to the practice of boycotting or withdrawing support for public figures or organisations after they have said or done something objectionable. It could also be described as group shaming. For some, it’s a way to stand up against injustice. For others, it’s a mob mentality that causes fear and inhibits free speech.

Chances are high that we have all been involved in ‘cancel culture’ to some degree. Even if you’ve never participated in online shaming, you’ve probably seen someone else display outrage at another person’s misbehaviour, and may even have thought, “They deserve to be called out”. But as Christians, how do we acknowledge wrongdoing and still demonstrate God’s love and grace? Here

are a few things to remember as we navigate cancel culture:

We don’t know the whole story. It’s an elementary school lesson — you can’t form an accurate opinion of someone you don’t know very well. I’ve taught this to kindergarten classes. And yet it’s a major factor in cancel culture. Do we really know enough about somebody to form an opinion? Unless we have lived another person’s life, lived through their experiences, we can’t judge them for the choices they make.

And is the offender even informed enough to understand what they are putting out there for everyone to see? Once you post something online, it’s there forever. You can try to delete it, but chances are that

**Christians are called to live out forgiveness culture, not cancel culture**

it can still be found online, somewhere. There are many things I said in my youth, and even within the last few years, that I wish I could take back because of my ignorance and lack of understanding.

No one has the moral high ground. We are all in need of forgiveness and grace. God created and knows all of us, inside and out, and still chooses to love us, all the same. Even with all our shortcomings, God extends grace to us through the words, actions and sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. Because we know what it is to be forgiven, we should forgive others. “Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

We need to model the love of Jesus and befriend the cancelled as well as those

who cancel others, to show all parties involved that they are valued. This will take courage — if we break away from the group to believe the best in someone and show grace, we risk being cancelled ourselves. But Christians are called to live out forgiveness culture, not cancel culture.

Cancel culture closes the door to reconciliation. There is nothing wrong with holding people or organisations accountable for their words or actions, but cancel culture doesn’t do this. Instead, it condemns, equating the offender with their offence, without acknowledging their ability to change. It ends a narrative that has the potential to see growth in the offender and reconciliation with the injured party.

Adams’ comments were insulting and ignorant, but he should have the chance to reflect on his words without being ‘cancelled’. Otherwise, we could miss a significant part of the story. Conflict can only result in reconciliation if we stay open to talking. We need to leave the door open to redemption.

As we navigate cancel culture, let’s be open and prepared to listen and live life with people who have views different from our own, remembering this: “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:19-20). Let’s be prepared to love God’s people as he commanded us to do (see 1 John 4:7). Let’s do what we can to see God’s people as he sees them, as people who are worthy of love. It’s never okay to write someone off. \*

**Alex Stoney** is a member of The Salvation Army’s social issues committee in the Canada and Bermuda Territory. This article appeared at [salvationist.ca](https://salvationist.ca)

## Bible Words

**To fall by the wayside.** To fail to see through to completion or to sideline in favour of another project or endeavour. The earliest use of this phrase in English comes from William Tyndale’s translation of the Bible in 1526, and in particular his version of the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5).

## WORDS

CAPTAIN SHELDON BUNGAY

## To God be the glory

Behind The Salvation Army salute

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, SIMPLE HAND gestures have served as a form of human communication, conveying meaning and allowing people to identify themselves with a group. Think of the military salute, the ‘thumbs up’ gesture or the Scout sign. On many occasions, I have seen motorcyclists give a left-handed, low wave to acknowledge a comrade passing in the opposite direction. A raised, clenched fist is symbolic of unity in the midst of struggle. Placing your hand over your heart during an anthem is viewed as patriotic. My mother-in-law’s two outstretched hands mean I’m about to be embraced.

Did you know that The Salvation Army also has a salute? We raise the index finger of our right hand above shoulder height, pointing to God, as a way of saying that God deserves all glory and praise.

At a recent emergency disaster response, I was asked, “When will The Salvation Army finally get rid of its military terminology and those silly uniforms?” Even within the Army, there are those who think it’s time to do away with some of our symbols and traditions. Is the Army salute meaningful? What purpose does it serve? I had never put much thought into it. Until recently.

It was my great privilege to serve as a pallbearer for Major Lorraine Abrahamse, a fellow Salvation Army officer and a friend. It was a beautiful service of celebration as we honoured her life and ministry and rejoiced in her ‘promotion to glory’. Unsurprisingly, there were many Salvation Army officers present, both active colleagues and the retirees who blazed the trail before us. At the end of the service, all officers present were invited to form an honour guard to flank both sides of our colleague as we carried her casket out of the sanctuary. As we made our way to the beginning of the honour guard, something happened that I did not expect, and its impact will remain with me for the rest of my life and ministry.

As the casket reached the first officers in the guard, they began to quietly and solemnly raise their right index fingers in salute. The salute continued as we passed each officer. It wasn’t long before the magnitude of the moment became almost too much for my emotions to handle, and my eyes overflowed so that I could hardly see where I was going.

Why? Well, I’m still processing what it all meant to me, but I know this for sure. I am blessed to have been called to work with some of the greatest people on earth, people who give of themselves tirelessly to meet basic human needs and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in whichever city or town The Salvation Army appoints them. Are any of them perfect? No, but some of them have sacrificed so much to respond to the life of ministry, often working with limited resources and expected to meet whatever task is placed before them each day.

As I watched the faces of my colleagues that day, I was profoundly aware that many of them have been forced to deal with criticism; have forfeited meals and time with their own families to respond



to a hospital call or a grieving family; have wrestled with their own convictions and studied hard to determine what God is leading them to say or do; and, often with limited skills, have worn many hats in ministry, required to be administrators, business professionals, pastoral counsellors and public orators, one minute planning events for children, and the next for seniors.

In each of their appointments, they have been compared to those who have gone before, and – in the minds of some – did things better. Given that they will eventually move on to another community and another appointment, there are whole generations of officers who have no idea what it feels like to establish life-long friendships.

Some, like my friend Lorraine, have to come to terms with the reality that none of us are immune to sickness and death. And yet, they seek no praise. Instead, they raise their index finger and silently say, “To God be the glory”. \*

**Captain Sheldon Bungay** is the Divisional Youth Secretary in the Newfoundland and Labrador Division, Canada and Bermuda Territory.

## Bible Words

**A millstone around your neck.** An oppressive burden or responsibility, it comes from Luke 17:2 in which Jesus explains that anyone who takes advantage of a child would be better off being “thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck”.

WORDS  
XUYEN PHO

## A question yet to be answered

The multicultural challenge facing The Salvation Army

“WHAT DOES A MULTICULTURAL SALVATION Army in Australia look like?” This question was put to me some time ago. I didn’t have an answer at the time, and my questioner did not pursue the matter.

According to the 2016 National Church Life Survey, The Salvation Army is the second ‘most white’ church denomination in Australia, after the Brethren. It indicated a profile incompatible with the real trend and composition of the wider community. However, a casual survey of the current make-up of our congregations is encouraging. There are increasing numbers of different people groups now joining in our worship and activities across the nation. In the ranks of Salvation Army officers, there are people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds – African, Chinese, Farsi, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, to name a few – taking up appointments across the depth and breadth sections of our ministry. These people are making the Gospel relevant to their different cultural understandings.

There are obvious differing expressions of corps multicultural ministry. At Auburn Corps in Sydney, people from all nations are welcomed under one roof, using English as a common language for worship. There are also many other stand-alone corps with monolingual

congregations. Other corps have separate congregations as an extension of their ministry, using the prime language of the specific cultural group in their worship. Languages used in worship include Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi, Korean, Nepalese and several African languages.

While this indicates a movement in the right direction, in many places congregations are yet to reflect the actual demographic profile of the communities in which the corps is located geographically and culturally. The reason for this mismatch, I believe, is that growth of various ethnic groups is mainly organic (this is definitely good in itself), rather than a result of a deliberate mission endeavour that is embraced by the whole movement.

It is paramount for all of us to acknowledge that there are very few, if any, communities in Australia that are truly monocultural. Whether English-speaking or not, all communities are inherently ‘multicultural’. Logically, it follows that all ministry needs to be technically multicultural.

There ought not be a distinction that marks some ministries as mainstream and others as ‘multicultural’. There is a problem when non-English-speaking projects and ministries are consistently regarded as some sort of special case. We rejoice in what is achieved but accept the status quo of this area being low priority – a supplement to our core mission.

Over the years, the notion of a multicultural Army has been questioned by some Salvationists, sometimes loudly. The argument is mainly over the need for separate congregations. The principle endorsed is that all should be encouraged to join in one worship – in English, of course. The growth of multicultural ministry must not rely only on its ‘natural’ (read unplanned) development. Its

importance demands a significant change of mindset across our personnel, as well as within our strategic thinking about mission.

Multicultural ministry is not done because of government legislation requirements; we do it because “God so loved the world” and offers a boundary-less salvation! The Salvation Army proclaims, “One Army, One Mission, One Message”, but never has it been “One Language”.

A successful formation of a multicultural ministry requires vision, strategy and commitment. Vision denotes a desire to see it accomplished. Without such, there is no need to go any further. Vision also enables a transformation in attitude, mindset and faith. Strategy is the planning for its realisation, while commitment shows the will of leadership to make it happen, which will then result in support with vital provision.

So, “What does a multicultural Salvation Army in Australia look like?” Behind the question, there is a tacit admission that organisationally, it does not exist.

I welcomed the challenge of the questioner and had hoped that action would be forthcoming. However, the person made no follow-up. Was an answer not expected? Was it too hard? Was the mission vision lacking? In the end, the purpose of the question seems immaterial to the mission. We are called to see the challenge and to respond for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

If we look through the eyes of faith embodied in works, we can realise the answer to the question, “What will a multicultural Salvation Army look like?”\*

**Lieut-Colonel Xuyen Pho** is the Officer for Multicultural Community – Victoria.

# others

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Join the conversation

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

f Tracey Tidd

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

t Brian Peddle

“Brilliant! Love the good news from around Australia.”

f Peter Hobbs

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

o Belinda Spicer

# IT'S TIME TO TEST NEW IDEAS

Peer-learning groups to inspire and support

WORDS NICKY GANGEMI



**I** imagine you are sitting in a room discussing a topic and out of the blue someone comes up with the most incredible idea. It is not something that you would have ever thought of by yourself, but having heard it, your mindset shifts. Suddenly, the room is abuzz with new ideas including a whole new set of questions.

This is the dream of The Salvation Army Faith Communities Development (FCD) team. Across corps, the FCD team wants to see peer-learning discussions that inspire. It creates spaces for corps leaders to hear fresh ideas or gems of wisdom that they wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to hear and discuss.

“We call this idea or moment ‘the wild card’. It leads to the next question: ‘Who had the wild card in the discussion?’” says Major Sandra McLean, FCD Secretary.

These peer-learning groups are part of a twofold approach being developed by the FCD team. Peer-learning groups and webinars enable corps leaders to gather with like-minded leaders. Together, they problem-solve, inspire and support each other in their individual missions and areas. This better equips corps leaders to serve and grow their members and reach out to their communities. The approach is all about cooperative learning.

The FCD team recognises that, in the

past, a prescriptive, technical approach to ‘fixing’ or equipping our churches may have worked. But now, Sandra and her team suggest that times have changed and this generation needs something different. “We need a more adaptive, collaborative approach,” she says. “No one person has all the answers or silver bullet. We need to adapt, explore and go on a journey together.”

This is the mentality for Sandra and her team to facilitate their peer learning groups and webinars. The facilitators are not the singular expert in the field addressing the room. “The role of the facilitator is to guide the conversation in order to maximise the learning on the

topic from the whole group of gathered individuals,” explains Sandra. “The facilitator brings their own expertise on the topic, but is not there to deliver this knowledge. Rather, they use their knowledge to draw out the learning from the network.”

Sandra says that the COVID-19 crisis has revealed that the traditional model of church is not working for the large majority. “We have seen corps take up the opportunities that COVID-19 has provided to stop doing things that weren't working for them and to try new innovations,” she says.

The FCD team supports faith communities at times like this, by meeting them where they are at. It helps corps leaders to turn things they have been doing out of necessity during the coronavirus time into an intentional strategy.

If you are an area officer who thinks the FCD team could facilitate some helpful discussions for your area and value-add to your missional goals, or a corps officer looking for some help to problem-solve or innovate an area of your ministry, email the FCD team at: [faithcommunities@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:faithcommunities@salvationarmy.org.au)

**Nicky Gangemi** is a resource writer with the Territorial Mission Support Team.

Major Sandra McLean is the Secretary of the Faith Communities Development (FCD) stream in Mission Support. The stream includes Worship Arts, Generous Culture and the Faith Communities Development teams. These teams work to assist frontline expressions in various ways. Other members of the FCD team are Major Bryce Davies, Major Colin Hopper and Major Elizabeth Johnson.

## MOVING TOWARDS MORE SIGNIFICANT ENGAGEMENT

In the face of great uncertainty and change, and the ongoing challenges of a COVID-19 world, God is at work.

It's not uncommon for God to use the most unlikely events and people to bring about his purposes. God using Babylon to renew Israel, Jesus growing up in the backwater town of Nazareth, and his bloody death on a cross outside Jerusalem are cases in point.

Now, in Stawell and Ararat, two towns in rural Western Victoria, God's Spirit is breathing new life in the midst of a global pandemic. Pre-COVID, nearly 40 people would attend Salvation Army services at the two corps. With the onset of COVID-19, the formal services stopped and today there are 16 small groups and nearly 80 people engaged in meeting together in homes to pray, read God's word and share in meals together. All the groups have been exploring the Seven Signs of John.

People who never previously came to the Sunday services are now coming to these ‘home churches’. Captains Greg and Lynne Turnbull, Corps Officers at Ararat, and Sandra Pickens, Ministry Assistant at Stawell, feel that they are “more engaged in the community”, and the groups are “more organic and less programmed”. Lynne says that, “People are asking questions, they bring their different gifts, and it's more relational.” Sandra and Greg noted that there is more significant engagement, and sitting in homes face-to-face means there is more intentional care. “We don't just look into the back of people's heads!”

Without COVID-19, Greg admits they may have continued to do the same traditional services. In the middle of genuine anxiety and grief for people in the face of this pandemic, God is doing new things.

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19).

– Rod Yule



## The miracle of grace

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

A young father will turn up to church on 6 September – Father’s Day – and thank God for the miracle of grace. Walking into the Gawler (SA) Salvation Army Corps building with him, will be his two little girls. It’s something that Cameron Brewis never dreamt would be possible just a year or so ago.

Cameron’s life was a mess. He was involved in criminal activity. He had lost his marriage and his two girls. Now 33, Cameron walked away from God and into a life of drugs and alcohol at 21. The next 10 years were not pleasant, except for the arrival of Grace, now 8, and Aubree, 4.

Eighteen months ago, Cameron was drinking at a local pub when Gawler Corps Officer Major Darren Cox struck up a conversation. Darren was there as part of his usual Friday night pub round. Cameron was cynical of Darren’s interest. He did not have a good impression of church people. The pair chatted again the following Friday and every Friday for some time. At first, Cameron gave Darren a hard time, not holding back on what he thought of church. Darren kept turning up and listening.

Cameron came to accept that Darren was somebody who was genuinely interested in what he had to say and wanting to help make his life better. When Darren suggested Cameron come to his church to see for himself, Cameron accepted. He saw Darren as authentic. In Cameron’s words, Darren was “the real deal”. “When I had to appear in court, Darren came with me,” Cameron says. “I hated church and everything to do with it. But Darren changed my whole idea about church.”

A guitar player, Cameron was invited to join the Gawler worship band for Sunday morning services. With the help of his new friends at Gawler Corps, Cameron found his way back to God. He now has shared custody of his two girls. They have joined him as Sunday morning regulars at Gawler. “Actually, they now come three days a week, because they come to music practice with me one night a week, as well as the prayer meeting on another night,” Cameron says.

“I’m in a really good place right now. Having the girls in my life is great. They are two of the main reasons for wanting my life to change. I want them to be proud of me. I don’t see being a single father as a challenge. It’s more of a benefit that I can bring the girls to church, where there are so many role models to provide a spiritual base for them.”

Cameron is now also youth group leader and employed in the corps office as an administration assistant.\*

## EVERYDAY HEROES

Three dads share their three very different stories about fatherhood

➤ Cameron Brewis and his daughter Aubree who have found a spiritual home at Gawler Corps in Adelaide. Photo: Duan Kereru

## Fatherhood the second time around

The tension between delight and sadness as a grandfather takes on parental role

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

“It’s the most wonderful experience to have a ‘second bite at the cherry’ and to enjoy being a dad to Noelle,” says recently retired Major Len Turner, who has full-time care of his 10-year-old granddaughter, Noelle.

“She is her own little person, mature in many ways, argues her own point of view and is a very good negotiator! One of the saddest things, though, is that our circumstances immediately say that something is wrong. This is not as a family situation normally would or should be. For me, it’s a wonderful tension between absolute delight and incredible sadness.”

Len met his wife Marney when they were both teenagers. They were married 1975 and three years later their son Corey was born. In 1986, Len and Marney adopted a little girl, Carmen, who was born in South Korea.

“Carmen was only four months old when she joined us and we were so in love with her,” says Len. “She just folded into our family so easily.”

Fast forward a couple of decades and, after some intense life challenges, Carmen had Noelle, born in 2010. At that time, Len and Marney were also grandparents to Corey and his wife Simone’s three young children.

“Carmen loves Noelle and she was such a caring mother,” explains Len quietly. “In 2014, though, circumstances were such that Marney and I became full-time parents and grandparents to Noelle.

Tragically, Marney passed away in 2016.

“These were traumatic times,” shares Len. “We’d been married 40 years and life changed dramatically. Looking at the ‘glass half full’, though, it was a wonderful thing that I had Noelle. She brought a measure of normality back into a fairly broken



existence at that point and made me keep going with our daily routines.

“There was room for grief, but sometimes I just had to suck it up and get on with life – washing clothes and cooking meals – as a little life was depending on me. She was and is such a blessing and a wonderful little girl.

“Our family, friends, church, school and local community rallied. The school supplied us with two meals a week for the first year after Marney passed away, and once a week the following year, which, given my culinary skills at the time, was a great help.”

Len admits that, in 2014, he did feel a little “miffed”

that he couldn’t really be a grandfather to Noelle. “I wanted the fun of filling her up with candy and giving her back to her mum to deal with the sugar hit, but that wasn’t going to happen,” he explains with a slight smile.

“I had to go into ‘father mode’ – including getting her to clean her room! I definitely see her more as a daughter than a granddaughter, and I’m constantly in father mode now. It’s wonderful, though, and keeps me sane – worn out, but sane. Noelle also calls me ‘Dad’, unless she’s cranky and then it’s ‘Grandfather’.”

Len explains that they resolved the ‘dad’ name with Noelle’s biological father, with whom they now meet up every month or six weeks.

“Noelle and I weathered some storms together and some really tough times, but we’ve had a lot of good times too,” Len says. “I know that there are some interesting times ahead, and I’m looking forward to those.

“We have pretty good communication going – we talk a fair bit about life and the problems of life. There aren’t too many subjects we haven’t touched upon. This will be a saving grace as she matures, and I hope the teenage years won’t be as torrid as they could be.”

### NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Len is closely connected with his son, daughter-in-law and family, and, in non-COVID-19 times, they meet each week over a meal. The school community also continues to support Len and Noelle, as does their Salvos church family. “There are people I can call on,” says Len. “I am not without a network. I also occasionally tap into a support group for grandparents in similar situations to mine and they are a safety net too.

“I’ve attended a few meetings at this group and heard the stories of others, which has normalised our situation for me. I know what I am experiencing is not uncommon and I am not alone.”

Len overlays his life’s journey with a belief in the presence of God, and an assurance that Jesus doesn’t make mistakes.

“Despite the pain and sadness here, God is still a good God and works to bring what is disjointed,



**Above:** Len and Noelle enjoy some time together in the city.



**Left:** Len and Marney celebrate Noelle’s sixth birthday together before Marney tragically passed away in 2016.

**Opposite page:** Being a grandfather in the role of a father has its challenges, but Len says he relies heavily on his faith in God to support Noelle.

together,” shares Len. “I take great solace in knowing that I am not doing this journey on my own. I am constantly in communion with God and praying about being a father to Noelle in the here and now.

“I gave up asking the ‘why’ question. It doesn’t have an answer. I choose to trust God and that keeps me in a place where I keep perspective.

“When our daughter left and Marney died I told God at various times that I didn’t understand. I know, though, that God is there and I hang on to that. It’s a sad situation but not a bad one. I fall often, but I keep getting back up.”\*

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



David (centre) with his children (from left) Amanda, Josh, Bethany and Matt.

## 'The richest man in the world!'

A personal perspective on fatherhood

WORDS DAVID GODKIN

It's early May 1984, and I am sitting in a rocking chair at 2.30am in my lounge room trying to get my newborn daughter to settle so her mother can get a few hours' sleep before the next feed. I have, cradled in my arms, a perfect three-day-old baby who is completely dependent on her parents for every need and nurture that will shape her life physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

There were so many thoughts going through my mind in that moment as a new father. I had completely fallen in love with this precious life and was overwhelmed with the responsibility to care, nurture and influence her as a father should. I remember thinking to myself, "I've had no training to be a father, I hope I get this right." The greatest blessing was partnering in parenthood with Sandra, who is such a wonderful mother.



Left: David with his dad, John, 83, who attends Parramatta Salvos in Sydney.

I then realised that for the previous 24 years of my life I had received training, teaching, coaching and mentoring on how to be a father ... from my father. There was no seminar, conference or lecture, just the reality of everyday life. I wanted my daughter to grow up knowing she was loved, valued and could trust her father to protect her and that who she was had far more value in life than anything she would ever achieve.

Fast forward to Father's Day 2019, and I received a card from Amanda, now 36, and she wrote these words: "I've always been proud of you Dad. You taught me to see life was filled with possibilities, you wiped away the tears of disappointment, you listened with your heart and brought such comfort to me in those challenging times when you could have so easily said 'I told you so'. Your love has been a priceless gift to me. Your faith in me gave me the courage to pursue my dreams so confidently. I just want you to know I will always be ... 'Daddy's Girl!'"

I have achieved quite a few things in my life – my office wall has most of them hanging up in frames – but none of them give me as much satisfaction and contentment as the affirmation of a child that she/he values the love and nurture of their father. We have four children and 14 grandchildren and last year at my 60th birthday party, surrounded by them all, I said, "I'm the richest man in the world!"

I didn't have a lot of material wealth growing up; more than some I'm sure, but there were many

things we went without. Life for us, however, was filled with an abundance of love, nurture, faith and adventure.

Many people refer to their fathers as their 'hero'. I've never called Dad my hero, mainly because of the concept I had of a hero. For me, a hero was a supernatural, untouchable being who only turned up in a crisis; they rescued the person, then flew off to save someone else.

My father was so much more than that. He certainly rescued me from crises, but he was always present in my life. He was a constant rock and reminder that I was loved and valued. He taught me to swim, play footy, hit a cricket ball, drive, invest, forgive and so much more. He was an example of a loving and caring husband and a faithful follower of Christ. Mum died last year and I watched Dad lovingly care for her through the dementia she battled for almost five years. It changed my perspective on Dad – he really was my 'hero'.

Dad – thank you for everything you taught me about life, love and my Eternal Father.

Amanda, Josh, Matt and Bethany – thanks for making me the richest man in the world!\*

**Lieut-Colonel David Godkin** is Divisional Commander, Queensland Division.



 Congress Hall Corps Officer Major Matt Reeve presents Tom Connah with a framed print honouring his service as a Salvation Army volunteer. Photos supplied.

## GOING THE EXTRA YARD DURING COVID

Sydney Congress Hall brass group keeping people connected

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

**H**e wasn't expecting it. That's what made the surprise all the sweeter. Tom Connah is used to giving out rather than taking in. He prefers life that way.

It's the way life has been for 81-year-old Tom for the past 30 years – since he passed through The Salvation Army's William Booth rehabilitation program in Sydney a changed man. Tom linked with Sydney Congress Hall and, at times, Waterloo Corps, became an adherent and made himself available for anything – no matter how menial – that needed doing.

He ran errands for corps officers and others, helped out with homeless people, made food parcel deliveries, collected for The Salvation Army at Sydney's Central Station, did a bit of cleaning. It didn't matter to Tom; he just wanted to be helpful.

And, he was. Recent entries on the Sydney Congress Hall Facebook page from past corps officers and others paying tribute to Tom's friendship and assistance testify to his value. The comments related to something special that corps people did to recognise Tom. He's at a nursing home now. He's not well. His partner died a few weeks ago.

Corps Officer Major Matt Reeve telephoned Tom and asked if a few people could make a visit. Tom said that would be okay. "We wanted to recognise Tom for his many years of service; to thank him and let him know that we loved him," says Matt.

Matt arrived with a few people, mostly members of what the corps calls Yard Brass. This is a collection of usually around half a dozen brass players. During COVID-19, the group has been visiting mainly older people of the corps isolated by health regulations. They call themselves Yard Brass because they play a few tunes on the front lawn of their audience's home, a bit like, says Matt, the old-fashioned 'open air' meetings of last century.

"Our people love it. They really appreciate it," he says. "All we do is make it known that we would like to play at somebody's home and the hands go up from band members willing to lend a hand."

### STAYING IN TOUCH

The Yard Brass group plays at corps members' homes every fortnight. The ministry started about a month into COVID-19 – so about the start of April. Corps band members, isolated from usual activities by COVID, began meeting online via Zoom every Wednesday night (band practice night) to share tea, coffee and cake, with a chat, just to keep in touch.

There was a suggestion that maybe they could play – maybe in a group of six each time – at the homes of older corps members who were not able to participate in normal activity, like Sunday morning meetings. Sydney Congress Hall livestreams its Sunday meetings, but the Yard Brass visits put people in touch in a face-to-face situation. →



✓ The Congress Hall 'Yard Brass' band and other members of the corps visit Tom at his nursing home.

“As well, some of our older people are unable to watch the meeting livestreams on Sundays, so having Yard Brass visit helps our older people to still feel connected,” Matt says. “We have a saying that even though things are different [under COVID-19], we are still open at Congress Hall. While we can’t meet on Sundays, our ministries still exist.

“We can still be a blessing to the people of our corps and community. That’s why we started things like Yard Brass. And when we go to play to our people, their neighbours come out to listen and get involved.

“When we played to Tom, there would have been maybe 50 people watching from balconies at Tom’s nursing home or passing by. So, there is definitely a ministry there, despite the COVID restrictions.”

**NEW MINISTRIES**

Back at the corps building in central Sydney, the Congress Hall crew have replaced a regular sit-down meal with takeaway food in the foyer, supported by a chat room where people passing by can call in for some company.

“The chat room has been invaluable,” says Matt. “People are coming in not asking for anything except to talk with somebody. People are lonely in COVID. Some

stay five minutes; others stay for an hour. I think we’re busier now than we were pre-COVID. We have more opportunities, I think, because people are looking for somebody to talk to.” A ministry has also developed with staff at cafes around Congress Hall.

“We have been able to add a question or two when one of us calls in to a cafe to order a coffee,” Matt says. “Instead of just placing an order and saying hello, we now ask the staff and owners how things are going for them.

“It brings a response and we can offer our support and encouragement. COVID is showing us that there is much more we can do to speak into people’s lives.” Congress Hall is also continuing with other activities online, like Corps Cadets and small groups (Bible study). Its outreach teams are still on the streets.

“In fact,” says Matt, “I think we are more connected with our corps and the community than we were. The commitment from our corps people has been incredible.

“I think we are proving that COVID-19 doesn’t have to stop us doing anything we want to.” \*

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.

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**VALUES STATEMENT**



# PRESTON'S 'PRODIGAL SON'

Marty's new ministry seeks to bring others home

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN



Marty Stewart (left) with Darebin City Mayor Susan Rennie, Captain Tara McGuigan and Lindsay Howell, who have been serving the homeless at Preston in Melbourne.

When Marty Stewart walked out of Preston Salvation Army, in Melbourne's north, he was determined never to return. It was the early 1990s, and Marty's faith had taken a battering. He could see hypocrisy that his faith wasn't deep enough to reconcile.

God, however, never walked away from Marty, taking him on a journey that, almost three decades later, has returned him to the very place he vowed to stay away from. Things are different now and, aged 50, Marty is back at Preston, the 'prodigal son' heading the corps' newest outreach ministry – serving coffee, tea, pies and sausage rolls in a local park to people experiencing homelessness. "I know now that my calling is ministry," he says, "but it's taken me to turn 50 to realise that!"

Marty was born into Preston Salvation Army. He went through Sunday school, played in the young people's band, sang in the young people's singing company, and then joined the senior band. He had a faith, but reading the Bible wasn't a big part of his childhood and early adulthood. When issues arose around behaviours and attitudes not matching "the way Christians are supposed to be", he walked away from church, aged 22.

A career in the police force, marriage and kids followed, and then a divorce. Marty describes experiencing some significant 'God moments' along the way, but none drew him back into a deep relationship with Jesus. He knew God was

real, but says he would only invite him "into my life when I felt it was necessary". At one point, he was a member of a Salvation Army house church and felt a strong calling from God to lead one of his own. Circumstances meant that he never took up that calling.

Jesus, however, remained persistent with Marty throughout his years "in the wilderness", as he describes it. One Sunday, Marty and his partner were patrolling the streets in their police uniforms. His colleague said he needed to drop into Preston Salvation Army, where, unbeknown to Marty, he had a connection.

"We went during the [church] service," says Marty. "They didn't stop the service, but people came outside to talk to us and it was just like I hadn't left. I felt that if I was going to go to church anywhere, it was going to be there."

Marty opened the door to God and began attending Preston Corps, but this time things were different. He had a deep desire to change, and experienced an overwhelming sensation of the reality of God in a way that moved him to action.

"I had always known it but I never lived it," Marty says. He remembers thinking to himself: "God is real, you've got to start living it, brother! You can't just say 'God is there, I know God's there', and have him in your life when you feel it's necessary; it's got to be all the time."

This began a process that many describe as being 'born again'. During an argument with his daughter, she asked him to stop swearing. He hadn't even realised he was using profanities. Shocked, Marty remembers retreating to his bedroom and breaking down in tears. "That was like a lightning bolt moment for me, where it was like, 'You're wanting to

change as a person, you can't keep doing the same things over and over," he says. From that moment, many of his unhealthy behaviours stopped.

Around the same time, he started reading the Bible. Ephesians 4:22-24, to "throw off your old sinful nature and former way of life" and "let the spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes" quickly became one of his favourite scriptures. "I never realised that becoming a new person, living a different life, is actually in the Bible!" he says.

Despite much of Melbourne being in a COVID-19 lockdown, the twice-weekly homelessness outreach that Marty oversees for Preston Salvation Army is deemed an 'essential service', providing vital continuity for the people it serves, many of whom sleep rough. The team includes Corps Officer Major Tara McGuigan and another Salvo, Lindsay Howell.

"Preston is becoming more and more 'inner-city'," says Tara. "Years ago, it would have been seen as part of Melbourne's 'middle north' but now its proximity to Melbourne's CBD means a lot of city-centric social issues have spread to the area.

"And with COVID-19, people from the inner-city are moving out, so we are having a lot more drug and alcohol addiction, and a lot of homelessness spreading into Preston."

The ministry has its origins in a visit Tara made to →



Lindsay Howell (left) and Marty Stewart prepare supplies for Preston Corps' outreach ministry.



1. Preston Salvo Marty Stewart chats with a man at the corps' twice-weekly street-outreach. (Photos taken before the introduction of mandatory masks.)
2. Darebin City Mayor, Counsellor Susan Rennie, volunteers at Preston Salvation Army's street outreach to vulnerable members of the community at a local park.
3. Preston Salvo Marty Stewart knows ministry is what God is calling him to.

“  
... people came outside to talk to us and it was just like I hadn't left. I felt that if I was going to go to church anywhere, it was going to be there.”

the Army's Project 614 in inner-Melbourne. While there, she had a conversation with the co-founder of the mission, Major Sandra Nottle, about how the thriving ministry began.

“It turns out that she and [her husband] Brendan just put some hot pies into a box, got tea and coffee into the car and they went driving around looking for people [in need],” says Tara. “That's how they built it up. And I thought to myself, ‘That's not hard.’”

Tara mentioned the ministry idea to Marty and his eyes lit up. He actually remembers feeling his heart “fluttering” during the conversation and knew immediately that God was calling him to be part of it. Another of his favourite quotes is from Salvation Army founder William Booth, who said: “You cannot warm the hearts of people with God's love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet.”

Now, every Tuesday, like Project 614 founders Brendan and Sandra Nottle before them, the small team at Preston loads their car with warm pies, pasties and sausage rolls, hot tea and coffee. They drive to a local park, where about a dozen people eagerly await their arrival.

The nearby Watsonia Salvos Store has partnered with the ministry to provide clothing, blankets and other items. The Salvation Army's Doorways service at Preston supplies the tea and coffee, and the outreach team is able to refer people to Doorways when appropriate. Recently, the program was expanded to

include Thursday nights as well. “We give them pies and pasties and sausage rolls, we give them clothes and other food from Doorways and we go and see them every week and we make a difference just by doing that,” says Marty. “They often ask me, ‘Why are you doing this?’ and I say, ‘Well, I love God, God loves me, and God loves you guys, too.’”

During a recent visit to the park, the Mayor of the City of Darebin, Susan Rennie, joined the team. She is a big supporter of Preston Salvation Army and was impressed with what she saw happening.

“I admire the Salvos and their work in the community in all kinds of situations,” she says. “What I love most is the non-judgmental approach you have with people who are disadvantaged. You journey with them and they accept and look for your presence in their lives.”

As Marty reflects on his life, and where he's at now, he can see God's fingerprints throughout his journey. He is reminded of the pull of Jesus to lead a house church all those years ago. His prayer is that God will bring that dormant calling to fruition, right there in the park at Preston, over a hot pie and a cuppa.\*

Lauren Martin is a staff writer for Others.



## THE LONELY CROWD

Why churches should start equipping people in friendship-making

WORDS MIKE FROST

I've lost count of the number of Christians who've told me they either stopped attending church or left their church to join another one because they couldn't make any friends there. They report that the church people were friendly enough. They were hospitable and welcoming. As one person told me: "They're nice to you, but no one becomes your friend."

And it hurts when all that friendliness leads only to friendlessness.

In the 1950s, sociologist David Riesman coined the term "the lonely crowd", in part to describe collectives of people who live according to common traditions and conforming values, but who barely know or like each other. I fear the church is in danger of becoming just such a lonely crowd.

I know pastors think long and hard about how to be better preachers and leaders, how to calibrate the church's ministries to meet needs and serve others, how to be more missional, more adaptive, more innovative. These are all good things. But is it possible that all that leadership development, visioning, and ministry planning might be wasted if people can't find friends and just drift away?

Before hosting any more conferences or seminars on vision-casting, living your best life, or finding your spiritual gift, how about we start equipping people in friendship-making? Becoming and being a friend isn't easy. It takes intentionality and training. It might be your church's next major challenge.

### IT'S NOT JUST THE CHURCH

Before we start beating ourselves up about how friendless churches can be, we should note that this is a society-wide problem. In his book, *Social*, Matthew Lieberman reports on a survey of people's social connections that was done in 1985 and again in 2004.

People were asked to list their friends in response to the question, "Over the last six months, who are the people with whom you discussed matters important to you?" In 1985, the most common number of friends listed was three; 59 per cent of respondents listed three or more friends fitting this description.

But by 2004, the most common number of friends with whom you would discuss important matters was zero. And only 37 per cent of respondents listed three or more friends. Back in 1985, only 10 per cent indicated that they had zero confidants. In 2004, this number had skyrocketed to 25 per cent. As Lieberman says, "One out of every four of us is walking around with no one to share our lives with."

### CHURCH PEOPLE AREN'T GOOD LISTENERS

Like my first point, it might be fairer to say most people aren't good listeners. The inability or disinterest in asking meaningful questions that indicate an interest in another person is a huge impediment to making friends.

Listening is key. When someone is a good listener, they are able to seek similarity with someone else. It's →



impossible to show empathy or celebrate the positive in a person without first hearing from them. And without an awareness of similarity, empathy and celebration, friendships just don't get started.

Listening is not the same as hearing or waiting. Therapists refer to active listening to distinguish between giving someone your full concentration and just passively 'hearing' them.

Frankly, I think church people can be so bad at it they need training. Churches should run regular workshops in active listening. Good listeners know how to harness all the non-verbal cues that show they are listening, such as making non-threatening eye contact, smiling, maintaining an open posture, mirroring (reflecting facial expressions), and eliminating distractions.

They also need to know how to utilise verbal skills like remembering things that were said, gently questioning someone for greater clarification, and using reflection techniques (closely repeating or paraphrasing what the speaker has said in order to show comprehension).

These things don't come naturally for most people. Train your congregation to be active listeners.

### CHURCH PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO BE VULNERABLE

Friendship is more than just listening, although that's an essential start. Getting close to people, becoming their friends, involves something more. It involves vulnerability. Face it, people don't become besties by only discussing the weather.

Allowing yourself to be vulnerable helps the other person to trust you, precisely because you are putting yourself at emotional, psychological, or physical risk. Other people tend to react by being more open and vulnerable themselves. The fact that both of you are letting down your guard helps to lay the groundwork for a faster, closer personal connection.

The great enemy here is shame. Nothing silences us more effectively than shame.

Sadly, church people are often the most shamed people. This could have come from old church patterns about needing to appear clean and tidy and always winning. Our church might have taught us to never show the parts of our lives that are messy, dirty or embarrassing. I think that might be because a lot of



churches unwittingly promote perfectionism, which is a condition in which people constantly ask, "What will they think?"

But as Brene Brown says, "The irony is that we attempt to disown our difficult stories to appear more whole or more acceptable, but our wholeness – even our wholeheartedness – actually depends on the integration of all of our experiences, including the falls."

Brown also writes, "If we can share our story with someone who responds with empathy and understanding, shame can't survive."

It's in the courage of vulnerability we find connection with another and then, potentially, friendship with them.

### CHURCH PEOPLE NEED TO BE LESS BUSY

Friendships take time. It's the thing spouses and friends fight about the most – unavailability. In his book on friendship (helpfully titled *Friendship*), Daniel Hruschka reviewed studies on the causes of conflict in

friendship and found that the most common arguments boil down to time commitments. Spending time with someone is a sure indicator that you value them, and feeling undervalued is a sure-fire friendship killer.

A *New York Times* report concluded, "the leading cause of persistent relationships is reciprocity – returning a friend's call". The report cited research that said enduring friendships require friends to touch base at least once every 15 days. If we want our churches to be more friendly places, we need to encourage people to create time for friends.

Churches are good at running programs and promoting faith. As a result, a lot of church conversations are either about serious matters of faith (Bible studies, workshops, etc) or focused on the practicalities of volunteering for a ministry or committee.

But many of us know that our really good friendships emerged not by being on a committee with someone, or even attending a Bible study group with them. Friendships are often forged in the conversations that occur when we're 'playing' together. Hanging out,

“

Becoming and being a friend isn't easy. It takes intentionality and training. It might be your church's next major challenge.

”

attending parties, camping, hiking, picnicking, goofing off – these are the occasions where people let their guards down and share more deeply.

If a person's church schedule is crammed with attending stuff, no matter how good that stuff might be, there might be a problem. Validating the importance of play and encouraging people to share in good, fun, non-religious experiences is really important.

### THE ONUS SHOULDN'T BE ON THE NEWCOMER

A lot of people have shared with me how tough it is to break into a new church. It's the newcomer who has to break into conversations. The newcomer has to find common interests and angle for invitations. It's often the newcomer who does all the hosting of people for a meal. I can relate to this. Since leaving the church we planted, my wife and I have attended two great churches, but in both cases, we had to work so hard to make relational connections.

It really shouldn't be the newcomer's responsibility. Churches should be learning to embody the grace and hospitality of the gospel and striving to be more like Christ, the friend of sinners. Teresa of Avila wrote: "If Christ Jesus dwells in a person as his friend that person can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us. He is a true friend."

We can't sing, 'What a friend we have in Jesus' without his friendship affecting how we befriend others.\*

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AUSTRALIA

## Read

N.T. WRIGHT

### GOD AND THE PANDEMIC: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE ON THE CORONAVIRUS AND ITS AFTERMATH



Early during the COVID-19 pandemic, *Time* magazine asked N.T. Wright to write an article reflecting on the coronavirus, detailing a Christian response to the virus, and considering the many implications of the pandemic. The article was the genesis and starting point for his latest book, *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Response on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath*.

For years, anything Wright has written is required reading and this latest text is no different. In the short but very thoughtful volume, he reflects on the Bible, Christian theology, Church history, and particularly prayer and lament, as he explores and answers these questions pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic: What should be the Christian response? How should we think about God? How do we live in the present? What can we learn about ourselves? How do we recover?

Wright is not interested in the partisan or geopolitical blame game; and he does not believe in the unhealthy and unhelpful over-spiritualising of the pandemic. He writes about present-day prophets who are willing to give us the answers for our current problem. "These range from the cause-and-effect pragmatists (it's all because governments didn't prepare properly for the pandemic) to the strikingly detached moralisers (it's all because the world needs to repent of sexual sin) to valid but separate concerns (it's reminding us about the ecological crisis). We sometimes have the impression that the coronavirus is providing people with a megaphone with which to say,

more loudly, what they were wanting to say anyway."

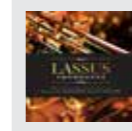
The most important vocation for the Church in this season of uncertainty, for Wright, is our calling to prayer. And the vital initial Christian response to the coronavirus pandemic is lament. We, the Church, are called to pray with and for others, and to weep for and with others.

*God and the Pandemic* is well-written and accessible. At the same time, it is deeply thoughtful and theological. It is a wonderfully timely read in this frustrating season as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. *God and the Pandemic* is available at [koorong.com](http://koorong.com) – **Captain Mark Bray**

## Listen

ISB, BLACK DYKE, AND GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BANDS

### LASSUS TROMBONES



Trombone sections from both the International Staff Band (ISB) and Black Dyke Bands have combined once again, this time with Grimethorpe Colliery Band and other invited guests, to produce this wonderful album full of energy and great music.

The opening number, 'Lassus Trombones', starts this album of with bang, setting the standard for what is a great 60 minutes of music. From the low growl notes, to the high trumpeting style, the album has it all presented through a wide variety of musical styles.

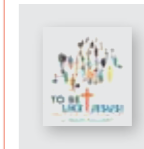
For Salvo musicians, the opportunity to listen to the Eric Ball's march 'Star Lake', played by just trombones, was a treat. At other times, the words behind the music do come to mind as you just sit back and enjoy. There is something for everyone to enjoy on this album.

*Lassus Trombones* is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or [thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au), and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or [commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](http://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au) – **Adam Cole**

## Read

DEAN PALLANT

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



Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant is a widely travelled Salvation Army officer, holding a doctorate in theology from King's College, London.

Using self-discovery methods familiar to 21st-century educators and students, he encourages readers to explore what it means to be a Christlike Salvationist in any of the 131 culturally diverse countries in which the Army works. The first five chapters introduce an essential framework for seriously exploring what it means 'To be like Jesus!'. Pallant uses that framework in the following 12 chapters to help readers examine a range of potentially controversial issues. These include discrimination, start of life, human sexuality, divorce and remarriage, same-sex relationships, pornography and social media, migration, refugees and human trafficking.

I recommend the book as essential reading for all thoughtful Salvationists, for those contemplating membership in the Army, or anyone seeking to appreciate Christian ethics in the 21st century. *To Be Like Jesus!* is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or [thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au), and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or [commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](http://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au) – **Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell**

## Salvos superhero a mufti-day marvel

TEN-YEAR-OLD ISAAC WILL TELL you that Salvos are superheroes. That's because three years ago, he says, the Salvos saved his mum's life.

When his primary school recently held a 'Dress up as your idol' mufti day, he asked his mum (Von) if he could go as a Salvation Army worker, just like her. So, she adjusted her Salvation Army volunteer T-shirt to fit, gave him her Salvos cap, and he proudly wore the outfit all day.

"He loves what I do now," says Von, who volunteers with Sydney Congress Hall street outreach team and assists with the community meal.

Just three years ago, the family's life was chaotic. Von was struggling with an addiction to ICE and was in an unhealthy



Isaac, 10, (with his little brother) went to a school mufti day dressed as a Salvation Army volunteer.

relationship. In what she would now describe as "God opening a door", she was given the opportunity to journey to recovery at The Salvation Army William Booth House in Sydney. Her supportive family took care of her three children and she spent seven months at William Booth House, saying "it completely turned my life around".

Upon graduation, she undertook a Diploma of Community Services and has continued to be a faithful volunteer at Sydney Congress Hall in its outreach ministries to vulnerable people in the inner city.

She has taken her two eldest children, Isaac and his older brother Denzel, with her to experience what it's like to "love

God and love others".

Von knows it wasn't the Salvos that saved her life, but God. She's passionate about "giving back" to the organisation that assisted her in her time of need. And she's proud of her son, who's taking after his mother in his excitement to serve others.

– Lauren Martin

## Coat tree keeps Gold Coast homeless covered

EVEN ON QUEENSLAND'S GOLD Coast, it gets cold during winter! So, this year, the Salvos started a 'coat tree' there, hanging warm coats and jackets on a tree in a park for those experiencing homelessness or going through tough times.

If someone needs a warm coat, they can go to the tree to find one. If someone has a spare coat or wants to donate one, they can hang it on a coat tree

for a person in need.

Kevin Lawler, from Gold Coast Salvos, is also a volunteer at Southport Courthouse. He helped get the coat tree started, just near the courthouse. Now, the Salvos and members of the community keep the tree supplied.

"It's a great connection point to start up conversations with people, many of them homeless, going in and out of court," said

Kevin. "The local community and council are also on board and supportive of the trees."

Different organisations and communities around the country have also set up coat trees to help those experiencing homelessness keep warm this winter. Ten-year-old Oliver Edwards, from Hobart, came up with the coat tree idea in winter 2018. He called it 'Free on a Tree'. – Pallavi Singha



Kevin Lawler and the coat tree. Photo Kian Worthing.

## Rockdale adds food market to its 'delivery' service

'LOCAL MISSION DELIVERY' – ALL expressions of The Salvation Army working together to transform Australia one life at a time – has been a key part of the new way of operating as one territory in Australia.

There have been videos made to explain it, Local Mission Delivery workshop days held to discuss it, and Area Leadership Teams refer to each expression's Local Mission Delivery plan to track goals set on collaboration and shared objectives.

But at Rockdale Corps in Sydney's south, Local Mission Delivery has moved beyond a concept and into reality, with several Salvation Army expressions operating out of one building and working together to support the community.

In fact, it's nothing new. Rockdale Corps has long been co-located with a Salvos Store, and Doorways and Moneycare



Major Peter Lucas (left) and Vanessa Davidson at Rockdale Salvation Army's new low-cost food market.

also operate out of the large, multi-purpose building located within the heart of a bustling industrial area.

"We've all been working together to work out how we can really partner with each other because we are all The Salvation Army and we are

all here for the same purpose – to spread the love of Jesus to anyone who comes through the doors," said Hayley Grigg, Rockdale Corps Connect Team Manager.

The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Support Network also relocated its southern Sydney

operations to Rockdale Corps, increasing the way the different services work together. And last month, the corps opened a low-cost food market to cater for the increase in need being experienced by people affected financially by COVID-19.

"With COVID-19 we saw the need [in this area] just jump massively," said Hayley. "And we noticed a different demographic of people needing assistance ... people who have lost their jobs and have never needed assistance before."

After consulting with other local agencies, the Rockdale Corps leadership team realised that, on Wednesdays, no other providers gave food assistance. That's how the idea of a low-cost food market, to complement the existing services available on-site, came to fruition.

– Lauren Martin

## Sandra on the money at empowering financial advocacy

SANDRA KINGTON SAYS SHE would love to "do herself out of a job". The bubbly Salvation Army Moneycare financial counsellor is passionate about seeing people take control of their finances, know their rights and advocate for their own wellbeing.

That's why, every year, she goes 'above and beyond' to organise a Moneycare Day event at Shepparton Corps in Victoria's north. Timed to coincide with national Anti-Poverty Week (11-17 October), The Salvation Army's Moneycare



Sandra Kington (centre) with helpers at the Shepparton Moneycare Day event last year.

free financial counselling service holds a number of events across the country with the aim of educating communities about their rights and how to take

control of their finances.

For Sandra, prevention is key. "I get a buzz out of giving the resources, information and education to empower our community," she said. Moneycare Day at Shepparton Corps regularly attracts up to 80 people – current and former Moneycare participants, interested community members, as well as other service providers.

"I love to see people make a difference in their own lives," Sandra says. "I've had clients who have gone off after being at the event and ringing me back

later, saying, 'I was successful after hearing that person speak at that Moneycare Day', because they've had debts waived on their own or they've learned their rights."

The Salvation Army Mission Resources team has a range of resources for corps and centres to help raise awareness within their communities during Anti-Poverty Week. Resources will continue to be uploaded closer to the October date. They can be accessed at [my.salvos.org.au/anti-poverty-week](https://my.salvos.org.au/anti-poverty-week)

– Lauren Martin

## Lovely a-Roma coming from new cafe

A DISCUSSION OVER A CUP of coffee has resulted in The Salvation Army opening a cafe at Roma Corps in Queensland.

Roma Corps Officer Major Kaylene Morrice said the cafe, called Hope @ Espresso, opened in late July and the aim is to make it a community hub for conversation and care.

Kaylene said the cafe came about after she and husband Paul shared their corps vision with Maranoa Regional Council support officer Janaya Greenwood at an inter-agency meeting in February.

“Through the course of the conversation, Janaya shared that she had been trying to do something similar but, without a venue close to the town



Major Paul and Kaylene Morrice, Roma Corps Officers, with Majors Miriam and Peter Sutcliffe, Area Officers, on the opening day of the Hope @ Espresso cafe.

centre, she couldn't get it off the ground,” Kaylene said. “So we decided to partner together.”

Kaylene said the Roma Corps complex was the ideal location for the new mission expression.

“As we are also renovating the old hall back into our Family Store, it was an ideal spot to have a place for people to come for coffee and a chat ... and to shop,” she said.

She said the council supplied

the coffee machine, the coffee and all sundry items.

Opening day was a relatively big occasion attended by various town dignitaries, inter-agency representatives and the Area Officers, Majors Peter and Miriam Sutcliffe, who ran a sausage sizzle, which went along with the free coffees, provided by the local coffee van, and homemade cakes.

The cafe is to open on

Tuesdays from 10am–2pm.

“We have made a space for anyone to come and connect, have a chat and, on a weekly basis, other agencies will come in and just be around if people need to talk,” Kaylene said. “We wanted to create a space to have faith conversations and what better way to have that than over a coffee and homemade yummys.”

– Darryl Whitecross

## Port Augusta Corps rolls out the red carpet for book club

PORT AUGUSTA CORPS, ON THE east coast of the Spencer Gulf in South Australia, has started a book club where everyone is given the opportunity to take part.

The first book for reading, called *Christ at the Open Door*, is by retired US Commissioner Phil Needham. It was studied during the recent South Australia/Northern Territory Officers' Fellowship.

Major Gaye Day, Port Augusta Corps Officer, said



Nicole Cugley has joined the book club.

that after having studied the book at fellowship, she thought

it would be a good book to read at corps level.

Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson, Australia Territory leaders, have encouraged all officers to read the book.

Gaye said it was the first time the corps had started a book club and had been encouraged by the number of corps folk who had shown interest in being a part of it.

The book club was launched as part of group worship at

the corps on 9 August, which involved an introduction to the book and then breaking into small groups to begin the first chapter.

Gaye said club members would read a chapter each week and come together corporately or online to discuss the questions posed at the end of each chapter. She said the book would also help the corps focus on what their church might look like post-COVID-19.

– Darryl Whitecross

## Aged care battle fought in the armour of God

EVERY TIME SALVATION ARMY chaplain Major Janette Shepherd walks into James Barker House Aged Care Centre in Footscray, she covers herself in two things – PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and the ‘armour of God’.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc across the Melbourne aged care sector over the past month, which has added increasing pressure to Janette's role as the full-time chaplain at James Barker House.

“As Christians, we're called to put on the full armour of God ... now we're just adding PPE!” said Janette, who ministers to more than 100 residents and staff.

“You can get really dispirited sometimes [in aged care]. It's relentless. In these settings [COVID-19], it's even harder, so you have to laugh. We look like blue smurfs!” she said.

Positivity is essential to Janette's work, especially now as residents and staff are feeling vulnerable.

James Barker House is the



Major Janette Shepherd in her Personal Protective Equipment, on duty at James Barker House Aged Care Centre in Melbourne.

only Salvation Army aged care facility in Victoria, with many residents entering after spending time at Salvation Army crisis accommodation centres like Foley House and Flagstaff services or Community Aged Care.

Many are suffering from dementia, mental health issues or long-term side effects of substance abuse. And during a global pandemic, they need more than just reassurance,

they need to be seen and heard. That's where Janette and her colleague, Major Ian Platt, step in.

“We show up for the people who have no one to show up for them. It's about supporting people who perhaps don't have a lot of visitors or family, and reassuring them,” said Janette.

“It's about turning up every day. And with the staff, it's listening and checking in. It's about providing that

spiritual-care space for whatever that may look like.”

In 2020, providing that space for patients and staff is an ever-changing process. Earlier this year, implementing social distancing was enough to hold a weekly chapel service, a movie afternoon, or communion for those residents for whom this is important. As restrictions tightened, however, Janette and Ian moved to one-on-one Bible studies, where they talk, pray and offer reassurance.

“Organic church principles have come in so handy in this situation, because it's not about structure, it's about networks,” said Janette. “So, we celebrate and remind staff about the fantastic job they do, because no one sees it. It's hidden ministry – but I'm always encouraged that Jesus sees.”

During an unprecedented season, Janette says she stays planted in her mission to “live, love and fight”, alongside each resident and staff member at James Barker House.

– Jessica Morris

## Face-mask donation from Taiwanese community a 'godsend'



Lieut-Colonel Xuyen Pho and Major Brendan Nottle (centre) with representatives of the Taiwanese community.

MELBOURNE'S TAIWANESE COMMUNITY last month donated 10,000 face masks to The Salvation Army for distribution to vulnerable people in the city.

The Melbourne Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce made the donation to The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614, which Corps Officer Major Brendan Nottle described as “a godsend”.

“One of the major issues we have been facing is helping people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to access face

masks that are clean,” Brendan explained.

Brendan said the donated masks are being given to “people who are homeless, or in temporary accommodation, and even people in permanent accommodation who don't have access to clean PPE [personal protective equipment]”.

“Our thanks to the Taiwanese community and to Lieut-Colonel Xuyen Pho [Officer for Multicultural Community in Victoria] for his great work in helping build strong community connections.”

## Artists draw community together for ChalkFest



One of Green Bay's talented pavement artists competes in ChalkFest last year.

DRAWING WITH CHALK IS NOT an activity limited to children. Across the world, it is popular among artists who use roads, footpaths and buildings for their unique, removable public work. These creatives – many of them professionals – are called pavement artists.

Greater Green Bay Corps in Wisconsin, USA, has drawn on this popularity with its annual ChalkFest event etched into its calendar each August.

About 20 people applied to be part of ChalkFest this year and were given a little over five hours to create their artwork.

COVID-19 threatened to dust ChalkFest from the 2020 calendar, but The Salvation Army's Kroc Community Center in Green Bay found a way of making the third annual

event happen on the bitumen driveway behind the complex on 8 August.

Kayla Klein, the Kroc Center event services coordinator, said interest and participation in pavement chalk art had become more popular recently.

"You wouldn't see many people doing chalk art on any given day; however, it has become more popular since

COVID," she said. "ChalkFest is a great opportunity for us to provide a family-friendly event that also promotes the arts in our community.

"There are a couple of other locations in Wisconsin that have ChalkFest events and that's where we got the idea from and just wanted to bring it to the area here.

"We simply love offering free

family-friendly events and it's a great way to promote art in our community. This event is also a fundraiser for the Army's Kroc Center, so it helps support our other programs as well."

The event usually attracts around 1000 people throughout the day, who watch the hobby artists transform the pavement into one-off pieces.

— Darryl Whitecross

## Salvation Army collaborates to give refugees a permanent home in Rome

A NEW RESIDENTIAL FACILITY HAS OPENED in Rome, providing permanent accommodation for up to 14 refugees who had previously lived in The Salvation Army's social services centre in the Italian capital.

The program is a community partnership led by the Army and financed by government and municipal authorities – the first such collaboration in Italy – in an ongoing scheme that will see buildings requisitioned by the government and repurposed for initiatives of social benefit.

Captain Monica Seiler, the director of the initiative, explains that the newly



The first group of refugees to move into permanent housing in Rome.

renovated apartments will enable independent living but also continue to provide wrap-around case management services to

residents. "The building is not being run as a 'shelter' – it's a new way of providing a sustainable housing solution, with clients moving on from an emergency/crisis situation to a context that offers long-term security," she said.

The individual units at Centro Virgilio Paglieri provide each occupant with a bedroom, kitchen and private bathroom, with shared laundry facilities and communal spaces.

The first seven residents have migrated from countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia and Niger.

## Cupcake ministry supports abused women

NORMALLY DURING WOMEN'S Month in South Africa, the Pretoria Corps organises a series of outreach programs in the community, but restrictions and concerns surrounding COVID-19 caused a rethink.

This year, it was all about cupcakes – hundreds of them – which were given out as the Army in South Africa's north joined the rest of the nation in raising awareness about abuse of women and children and the victims of human trafficking.

Pretoria Corps Officer Major Moya Hay said the corps baked more than 450 cupcakes.

August is Women's Month as South Africa annually pays tribute to the more than 20,000 women who marched to the government buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1956 to protest against extending of Pass Laws to women. The legislation had required African people to carry 'the pass', which was an identification document that restricted a coloured South African's freedom of movement under apartheid.



Finished cupcakes ready to be placed in their individual boxes with a message of hope printed on the side.

Along with raising awareness of abuse and human trafficking, the month also enables the country to celebrate the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. National Women's Day is an annual public holiday in South Africa on 9 August.

"Not one cupcake leaves us without being prayed over, so we are absolutely confident that God will reach those who

need the message and who need him," Moya said.

The individual coloured boxes in which the cupcakes are placed have printed on them words of encouragement from abused women, the types of abuse that can be perpetrated, signs that an abuser may not be changing their ways, a plan to escape an abusive situation and contact numbers for support, including The Salvation Army.

## Sri Lanka praying for God to 'rebuild'

THE SRI LANKA TERRITORY has entered into a 52-day prayer initiative called Let's Re-BUILD. Salvationists have been invited to be at prayer, asking God for "renewal, restoration and revival". Each day a prayer point is posted and linked to a verse in Nehemiah and each Sunday a message is posted on social media based on that passage.

## Volunteer given rare gold coin donation

TRAVERSE CITY CORPS IN THE United States has been handed a gold coin valued at more than \$US1800 (\$A2500) from an anonymous donor. MLIVE Michigan reported that Lieutenant Matthew Winters said the person approached a volunteer who was serving meals and handed over an envelope with a rubber band wrapped around it. Inside was a rare 1927 \$20 gold Saint Gaudens double eagle coin.

## Long service award for Ugandan officer

THE UGANDA TERRITORY President for Women's Ministry, Colonel Philomena Oklah, has been awarded a Long Service Order Medal recognising her 35 years as an Army Officer. Philomena was commissioned in August 1985 after graduating from the *Guardians of the Truth* session.

## Army gets on board bus campaign



Three schoolgirls, who benefited from the campaign, with their new schoolbags.

THE SALVATION ARMY ACROSS the United States is running its second annual Stuff the Bus campaign to collect supplies to help low-income families kit out their children for the new school year.

In conjunction with retailer Walmart, thousands of dollars of supplies and uniforms are collected to hand out to struggling families. The initiative is in its second year and, across

the country between 7-9 August, corps, missions and centres collected donations to help the children regardless of their learning environment.

Commissioner Kenneth Hodder, National Commander, said feeling unprepared for class put students at a disadvantage and created lasting social and emotional challenges. "School supplies remain critical to their success," he said.

**VERGIL KEEYS**

**MAJOR VERGIL FREDERICK KEEYS** WAS promoted to glory on 17 July, aged 87. His funeral service was held on 24 July, conducted by Captain Matthew Sutcliffe.

Vergil Keeyes entered The Salvation Army Officer Training College in 1961 as a member of the Soldiers of Christ session of cadets. Commissioned in 1963, Vergil was appointed to Stanley Street Men's Home, followed by Riverview Training Farm (1964), where he met and subsequently married Lieutenant Dorothy Holt. They went on to have five children – David, Geoffrey, Jennifer, Andrew and Bradley.

Vergil and Dorothy were appointed to Tuggerah Welfare Farm (1965), St Peter's Rehabilitation Services Centre (1966/67), and then Brisbane (Moonyah) Rehabilitation Services Centre (1968-69).

In 1970, Vergil returned to the Riverview Training Farm, and was then appointed to Collaroy Men's Home (1974), and to Pacific Lodge (1976). In 1981, Vergil took up the appointment of manager at Rockhampton People's Palace, then two years later returned to St Peter's Rehabilitation Services Centre, first as assistant manager, then as manager.

In 1987, Vergil and Dorothy moved to Miracle Haven Rehabilitation Services Centre as assistant managers (1987-89), before becoming assistant managers at Montrose for 15 months, and then their final appointment as assistant managers at Macquarie Lodge from July 1991 through to retirement on 1 July 1997.

In retirement, Vergil continued to perform chapel services and maintenance at Macquarie Lodge. Dorothy was promoted to glory in 2007.

In 2010, Vergil met and married Catherine and together they enjoyed

playing music, Vergil on his squeeze box and Catherine on the keyboard, piano or organ. Together they would take chapel and continue to share God's love and praise his name with music. Vergil regularly participated at the Men's Shed, spending his time making toys for under-privileged children.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Catherine, and Vergil's children David, Geoff, Jenni, Andrew, Brad and their partners, and grandchildren.

**JASON BARNARD**



**JASON BARNARD** WAS promoted to glory on 13 June, aged 47. A service to celebrate his life was held at Adelaide Congress Hall on

23 June, with Captains Sarah and Shane Healey officiating.

An ensemble of Congress Hall bandsmen played some of Jason's favourite marches at the start of the service and accompanied the congregational singing. Susan Martin, a family friend, prayed and read from the book of Revelation. Family and corps tributes were brought by Rochelle Kitchin (sister), Lindsay Packer (uncle), and Lieut-Colonel Rodney Barnard (father), along with Jason's niece and nephews, Charlotte, Jack and Sam. A trombone tribute, 'Still', was presented by Major David Collinson, and Captain Shane Healey brought a devotional message.

Jason Rodney Barnard was born on 22 October 1972 to Rodney and Jenny Barnard, and within a very short time was dedicated to God. This set in place a lifetime of love for God in The Salvation Army. He was proud of the fact he was a fourth-generation Salvationist.

Jason was still a child when his parents received their first appointment as Salvation Army officers. He adapted well to moving and always found something

exciting to focus on when news came that the family were to move again.

Dandenong Corps held a special place in Jason's life as it was where he learned to play a brass instrument and was eventually enrolled as a soldier of The Salvation Army. In 1994, he returned home to South Australia and Norwood Corps, where it was his great delight to play in the band with his grandpa, Bill Rowe. After four years at Norwood, he joined his parents at Adelaide Congress Hall and began 22 years of service to God through the corps band, most of the time on the trombone.

Jason loved his sister Rochelle dearly and was so proud to be Andy's brother-in-law and uncle to Charlotte, Jack and Sam. He achieved much in his 47 years despite constant health challenges and his family was very proud of him.

**HARRY MATEAR**



**HENRY (HARRY) MATEAR** was promoted to glory on 27 July, aged 82. A service of thanksgiving to celebrate Harry's life and service was

held on 4 August, officiated by Adelaide Congress Hall Corps Officers Captains Sarah and Shane Healey.

Tributes were given by Margaret Hunter (sister) and David Cowan (brother-in-law) followed by a small ensemble accompanying the singing of Harry's favourite hymn, 'Be Thou My Vision'. Further tributes were paid by Harry's grandchildren and sons Andrew and Ian. Two videos were shown of Harry at the piano and conducting the Norwood Corps band, which illustrated his exercising of the gifts God had given him. After a message from Shane, the band played 'Thine is the Glory', as Harry's coffin was carried out of the chapel.

Harry was born in Glasgow on 9 August

1937 into a Salvationist family. Showing early promise of musical prowess, he studied piano through the London College of Music at the tender age of seven. In 1956, his parents migrated to Australia with their young family, to Kaniva in Victoria. Two years later, they relocated to Adelaide and settled into service at Norwood Corps.

In 1962, Harry married Brenda Seaman. He held several jobs in various industries before joining the police band and later teaching music, brass and piano in the

South Australian Education Department. Harry became bandmaster at Norwood in 1968 and held this position for 26 years. During those years, the band became renowned for its swing style of music, which Harry brilliantly trained it to play so well.

He was also Divisional Bandmaster for a period and enjoyed participation in various contemporary ensembles. On assuming control of the South Australia Divisional Red Shield (formerly Heritage)

Band he gave new life to some of the great Army brass band classics, including many Army evergreen marches.

In later years, Harry transferred to Adelaide Congress Hall, where his talents were used in the band and on the piano. Harry had a cheery countenance, a mischievous sense of humour, and always had a word of encouragement for others. He was a great family man, greatly adored by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**ABOUT PEOPLE**

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Effective 5 August 2020*

Major Kim **Hawke**, Corps Officer Darwin, TopEnd Ministry Team Member, South Australia/Northern Territory Division (title change only); Major Peter **Jones**, Public Relations Secretary, Northern Territory Public Relations Department, Office of the Secretary for Communications.

*Effective 10 August 2020*

Auxiliary-Lieutenant **Deb Strapp**, Associate Corps Officer, Marion, South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

*Effective 7 October 2020\**

Lieutenant Gavin **Jones**, Corps Officer, Kwinana Corps, Western Australia Division; Lieutenant Jodie **Jones**, Corps Officer, Kwinana Corps, Western Australia Division; Cadet BJ **Baillie**, Cadet in Appointment, Corps Officer, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Western Australia Division; Cadet Bethany **Baillie**, Cadet in Appointment, Corps Officer, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Western Australia Division.

*\* Appointment dates pending COVID-related border restrictions.*

*Effective 24 August 2020*

Major Sherrie **Nicol**, Corps Officer, Team Member, Hurstville, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Joycelyn **McIver**, Community Engagement Project Officer, Community Engagement Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

*Effective 31 August 2020*

Major Michelle **Oliver**, First Five Years of Officership and Aux-Lieut Development Officer, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel (additional appointment); Cadet

Sarah **Walker**, Cadet in Appointment, Assistant Corps Officer, Parramatta, NSW/ACT Division.

*Effective 1 September 2020*

Major David **Collinson**, Public Relations Secretary, NSW Public Relations Department, Office of the Secretary for Communications; Captain Brad **McIver**, State Social Mission and Community Engagement Coordinator and State Manager Homelessness, NSW/ACT Social Mission Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

*Effective 14 September 2020*

Major Carolyn **Harmer**, Internal Communications Support Manager, Internal Communications Department, Office of the Secretary for Communications.

*Effective 1 October 2020*

Major Stacey **Cotton**, Chaplain, SA Prisons, Community Engagement Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

**RETIREMENTS**

*Effective 31 August 2020*

Major Dennis **Bryant**, Senior Chaplain Fire and Emergency Services (Qld); Major Genne **Bryant**, Family Support Chaplain Fire and Emergency Services(Qld); Major Ian **Dearing**, Chaplain The Beacon (WA); Major Douglas **Kollmorgen**, Divisional Support Officer (Vic.).

**PROMOTED TO GLORY**

Auxiliary Captain Evelyn **Tolputt** was promoted to glory at Barrington Lodge, Hobart, on Wednesday 19 August 2020.

**BEREAVEMENT**

Major Judy **Lumb's** mother, Audrey Somogyi, passed away peacefully at the age of 91 on Wednesday 5 August 2020.

GOD RESTORED MY LIFE AND FAMILY

WORDS ROGER TULL



LAST DECEMBER, ON THE FLOOR OF my home, I died. I thank God that it happened during an argument with a family member, for which my daughter had already called the police.

When two police officers arrived a few minutes later, they found me lying on the floor. My heart had stopped beating. They took turns to perform CPR for 20 minutes until the ambulance arrived. If the police had not arrived so promptly, I am convinced I would not be alive now.

While I was being resuscitated, one of the officers said he noticed I was praying Psalm 23: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

I don’t recall doing that nor do I recall anything else that happened between the argument and waking up in hospital. I later learnt that I’d travelled the 80km from Murray Bridge to the Royal Adelaide Hospital in an ambulance and had been admitted to the high dependency ward.

When I received the news that I had died, I was angry at first that I had been brought back to life. I wished I had stayed in heaven so I could enjoy eternal peace. Now I realise that God brought me back because I have unfinished business. God was – and is – restoring relationships in

my family. My youngest daughter and my son, who had been estranged from each other for almost 10 years, met at the hospital and began to communicate with each other again.

About 40 years ago, God called me to follow him while I was driving a truck in the scrub, yet I remained disobedient to his voice. I was an angry and violent man. One day, I returned home to find that my wife had left with the children. The house had been left bare. I picked up flagons of water and smashed them on the floor.

I visited a counsellor and, in time, learnt to trust her. After a few sessions, I told her about some strange sensations I had experienced in the middle of the night. She left her seat and hugged me tightly: “You are so lucky. Old ladies sit at the front of church services for 40 years hoping for a touch from the Holy Spirit like that.” She told me to share the Good News of Jesus, the Living Water, with others, which I do to this day.

I joined The Salvation Army at Murray

Bridge (SA). As I had not seen my children for months, I prayed for them and their return. I remember reading in the Bible: “But before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes, I will send you the prophet, Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again” (Malachi 4:5-6a). On Pentecost Sunday this year, my daughter arrived and sat in church with me.

God has often spoken to me by his Word, such as these verses from Isaiah: “Israel, the Lord who created you says, ‘Do not be afraid – I will save you. I have called you by name – you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you’” (Isaiah 43:1-2).

I know that I am a sinner, but Jesus has taken away my sin and cleansed my soul. God has made me a new creation. I thank him that he answers prayer and that he is always with me in the darkest times of life. \*

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