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Rockingham, where mission is rough but rewarding

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■ NATIONAL FOCUS

Army forging new frontiers in a united Victoria Division

■ SALVATION STORY

'God's got a plan for me and I'm where I'm meant to be'

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

One Army, one territory

... ONE MOMENT IN TIME

Still Others



NOVEMBER
2018

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VOLUME 02
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The Lord declares ...I will gather still others'
- Isaiah 56:8

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Fostering a spirit of unity.

SCOTT SIMPSON | MANAGING EDITOR

IN LATE 2015, WHILE MANAGING EDITOR of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory's now-defunct magazine, *Pipeline*, I wrote an editorial about change. I had been prompted by the introduction of the Forward Together strategy – a bold vision that promised to usher in a new era for the Australia Eastern Territory. If I could have seen only a handful of months into the future, maybe I would have kept my powder dry.

Change, at least for those connected with The Salvation Army in Australia, was taken to a whole new level in March 2016, with the announcement of the merger of the Australia Eastern and Southern territories into one national territory. Since then, the transition to an Australia Territory has been a challenging journey of change. In just a handful of weeks, though, on 1 December 2018, that journey comes to its culmination when The Salvation Army Australia Territory will be officially launched.

Some of you will no doubt feel a sense of excitement at what lies ahead, while others may feel a rising anxiety, brought on by the uncertainty that change brings. Let's face it, many of us find comfort and security in the status quo and recoil at the mention that perhaps things should be different? But change in life is inevitable.

An important factor in smoothing national unification will be an ongoing willingness to foster a spirit of unity, especially between Salvationists who have become all-too-familiar with identifying themselves as part of either the Eastern or Southern territories. Unity. It's something that God has a lot to say about. In fact, genuine unity within the Church is so important to him, that very little gets done without it.

Sadly, disunity is something that has always plagued the body of Christ. The apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthian church just 20 years after Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, highlighted the cracks that had already begun to appear: "In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you ..." (1 Corinthians 11:17-18).

So, how does The Salvation Army in Australia, in the creation of a new national territory, foster a spirit of unity? It might mean forgoing personal preferences or putting aside petty differences. Ultimately, though, genuine unity among us isn't going to be fostered and maintained if we are not deeply connected and living in fellowship with the Spirit ourselves.

Ephesians 4:3 tells us to, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace". God's Spirit wants us to love and forgive and be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2), especially at this historic time.

That's what God's Spirit wants for The Salvation Army Australia Territory, that we would stay together, work together, and as a consequence fulfil our National Vision Statement, that "wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus". Over to you. •

Scott Simpson is the Managing Editor of *Others*





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The Salvation Army's first large-scale conference to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism drew more than 500 people to The Gathering in Sydney. Photo: Carolyn Hide



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National Commander
COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

National Secretary for
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International Editor
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SIMONE WORTHING

Online Editor and
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ANNE HALLIDAY

Social Media Coordinator
and Staff Writer
LAUREN MARTIN

Contributors
BILL SIMPSON
MARK HADLEY

Graphic Designer
JAMES ALGEO

Subscriptions and
Advertising enquiries
SUE ALLENSBY

others.org.au

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NATIONAL
VISION
STATEMENT

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

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Salvation Story

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It's time to party!

Celebrating a God who has raised up and been faithful to The Salvation Army

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

GOD PLANNED FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE A PEOPLE that celebrate! The Old Testament outlines the practice of festivals that would fill the calendar. Tony Campolo's book, *The Kingdom of God is a Party*, reflects Jesus as one who "partied" with sinners, not in a boisterous unruly manner, but in the spirit of the Old Testament jubilee in which people experienced a new lease on life. This celebratory attitude should set Christians apart from the rest of the world.

The festivals of the Old Testament were days appointed and ordained by God to be kept to the honour of his name. Participating in the seven festivals of the Old Testament was not dependent upon one's life circumstances. The festival was a celebration of God, his faithfulness and his mission.

As Jesus stepped into people's lives and activities, he brought a transforming presence that resulted in unprecedented celebration. Whether a wedding that had run out of wine, a home with a sick child, or even the funeral of a good friend, people found themselves celebrating like never before.

From across Australia and around the globe, Salvos will come together later this month to celebrate. It is not a celebration of The Salvation Army, but a celebration of the God who raised up and has been faithful to The Salvation Army. Through The Salvation Army, God has transformed tens of thousands of lives as officers, soldiers, employees and volunteers have faithfully and sacrificially shared the love of Jesus. We celebrate how God has

worked through those who have aligned their focus according to the one-word telegram of William Booth sent around the world: "Others".

We come together to celebrate the realised promise of transformation as we witness the stories of lives that have encountered Jesus and will never be the same. God is fulfilling his promise that he is doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19). He is doing new things in the lives of people discovering life and faith in Jesus; he is doing new things in the lives of longstanding Salvationists; and he is doing new things through new avenues and programs under the umbrella of The Salvation Army.

It is an appropriate time for The Salvation Army to celebrate. From a myriad of personal life circumstances, people will gather at "Still Others" from 27 November to 3 December, experiencing again the transforming presence of God. We celebrate knowing that God is faithful, and in faith anticipate what he will do in and through each person who gathers. We celebrate knowing that God has declared that he "will gather **still others**, besides those he has already gathered" (Isaiah 56:8).

It's time to celebrate! •

Commissioner Floyd Tidd is National Commander of The Salvation Army in Australia.





Victoria Division - forging new frontiers.

As part of the transition to a national territory, The Salvation Army in Australia now has six divisions. Through 2018, Others is profiling each of these divisions, this month highlighting the Victoria Division

The Victoria Division is less than one year old. It came into being on 10 January 2018 with the merger of three divisions – Central, Eastern and Western Victoria. The state is now divided into six areas:

- Metro East
- Metro West
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West

Sitting within the division, although still a separate entity, is the State Social

Command, which gives oversight to the myriad of social programs that operate throughout Victoria. These programs will be transitioning into a national line-management structure; a process that will be completed by 2019. The changes that have taken place in Victoria this year are part of the Australia Territory’s strategy to adopt the Local Mission Delivery (LMD) model.

The themes for the new division have been those of the National Vision Statement. These include: #LiveLoveFight, #AlongsideOthers, #TransformingAustralia,

#OneLifeAtATime, and #WithTheLoveOfJesus. The goal has been to live out the above themes while implementing the LMD model, the benefits of which are already being demonstrated.

“The challenge for the Victoria Division has been to implement a new way of working while continuing with “business as usual” in our various mission expressions,” said Major Leanne Ruthven, Acting Divisional Commander. “It feels like we’re trying to cross the ocean while still building the boat.”

AT A GLANCE

84	Corps
209	Officers
3634	Senior Soldiers
741	Junior Soldiers
1261	Adherents
1597	Employees
390	Social Programs
191	Corps-based Social Programs

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

Although The Salvation Army officially commenced in Victoria on 24 December 1882, as in other colonies, activities relating to the Army are evidenced at earlier dates.

On 17 July 1880, an advertisement appeared in *The Age* newspaper. It outlined that C. Hoffman was leading The Salvation Army and holding meetings in Little Bourke St West. It appears that this was not the first meeting. On 19 September, the Army commenced meetings in the Mission Hall in Collingwood. Newspapers also showed that the Army was holding services in Prahran and in Latrobe St.

The Salvation Army in Victoria has had a major impact on the movement internationally. It linked the Army to leading politicians of the federation period of Australia including Prime Ministers Alfred Deakin and John Curtin, who was for a time a soldier at the Brunswick Corps.

Melbourne housed the Federal Training Garrison, and saw the introduction of Prison Gate Brigades. - Garth Hentzschel

As well as six areas, each with area officers, the division also now has business partners for finance, property and human resources who are line-managed nationally yet have functional reporting lines to the divisional leaders. “There are new delegated levels of authority for many of our day-to-day functions, and moving from one way of operating to another has been both a great learning opportunity and a challenge,” said Major Ruthven.

COLLABORATION

The division is already seeing effective collaboration within its Area Leadership Teams as members gain a new appreciation of the depth of resources and programs the Army has in their areas. Examples include:

- Sharing of resources: a corps is providing space at their facilities for a social expression to run one of their many playgroups. Corps members are becoming more aware of the range of programs available through our social expressions and the links being made are helping tackle homelessness and multicultural issues – and even simple things such as loaning band tune books for a funeral.
- At Seymour (North East area), social centre staff have assisted with the corps’ community meal and the corps officer is using the SalvoCare Northern site as a base, offering a pastoral role to staff.
- Salvos Stores: in the North East area a Salvos Stores manager assisted a corps officer with fittings for the corps’ new thrift shop, as well as a truck to transport stock. In Metro West, the possibility of pop-up shops at residential sites has been discussed, with clients being encouraged to volunteer with set-up and take-down of the shops.

- Red Shield Appeal: mission expressions across one area collected together for this year’s appeal.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- Melbourne 614 Corps has opened a community hub at its premises in the CBD, which will see police, ambulance and paramedic personnel located onsite, assisting people in need.
- A young man who accessed the Army’s Alcohol and Other Drugs program in Bendigo in May 2018 gave his testimony during a Sunday morning meeting in September. His life of drugs, violence and crime had been a way to escape reality and to deal with past traumas. He attended church for the first time when he came to the Army and says that at first he felt “like I didn’t deserve to be there”. Now, he says, as a result of coming to faith in Jesus, “I feel I have a place in this world, hope for my future, and a belief that I have something to offer others”.
- Salvos Catering, a social enterprise born out of Intercultural Ministries in the Metro West area, has provided catering for a variety of mission expressions both within Metro West and in other areas. This enterprise gives new migrants the opportunity to develop skills and earn income, and is a steadily growing mission.

“We are seeing God at work,” said Major Ruthven. “We are seeing lives transformed. We need patience to continue to implement new ways of doing things, but we are seeing the benefits of working with increased collaboration.

“We believe that the still-young Victoria Division will be a vital, vibrant part of the new Australia Territory. One of the Bible verses that has been our inspiration is Philippians 3:14: ‘I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back’” (*The Message*).

To find out more about the Victoria Division, send an email to askvic@aus.salvationarmy.org or go to the Facebook page: [The Salvation Army - Victoria](https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmy-victoria). •

Viewpoint.

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WORDS

PETE BROOKSHAW

I'm done with gambling.

The addiction we don't like to talk about

THE SPRING RACING CARNIVAL IS IN FULL swing. The horses are being immaculately groomed, and the “fashions on the field” are capturing the eyes of the crowd. The bookies are taking their bets and the lines to the bar are out the door. With the Melbourne Cup just around the corner there's no shortage of people crunching the numbers hoping for a shot at a big return.

Some will win. Many will lose.

Amid all the glitz and glamour of the races, there's an underbelly of gambling addiction that most don't want to talk about, nor read about. So when I recently heard about a local council hosting an event to talk about gambling, I initially balked at the idea, but then thought: “Why not?” The purpose of the meeting was to garner people's views on the council's Responsible Gaming Policy.

The questions they posed were intriguing:

- How much should be allowed to be spent on the pokies every hour?
- How do we help people who have a gambling addiction?
- How do you know if someone has a gambling addiction?
- What percentage of the gaming community are “problem gamblers”?
- To what degree should a local council intervene in people's personal gambling choices?

The reason for the meeting was clear. It wasn't articulated on a billboard or placed front and centre on the flyer, but if you weren't worried about offending anyone, you would advertise: “I think our community has a gambling problem. Let's discuss it.”

It was only December last year that the *Sydney Morning Herald* was writing this headline: “Australian gamblers lose a record \$24b in a year”. Fairfax journalist Nick Toscano wrote: “Pokies accounted for the largest share of losses (\$12 billion), followed by casinos (\$5.2 billion), racing (\$2.9 billion) and Lotto (\$1.9 billion).”

That's a lot of “ka-ching, ka-ching”. I'd take a bet each way that there were far more losers than winners. It's intriguing that even though the odds are stacked against us, Australians still love to gamble.

A research report looking into social influences on gamblers notes, “Those who have experienced more harm are also surrounded by more gamblers who have experienced harm, and are more likely to gamble with them despite experiencing harm”. To me, that sounds like the company you keep reinforces the way you act.

The report continues, “Thus, not only is gambling-related behaviour normalised through these social networks, so too is gambling-related harm”. Now I know why they offer those \$12 Parma nights: Let's create a community that reinforces the way I behave, then I can feel like my choices are legitimised because a whole bunch of others are doing the same thing.

I have family history in the gambling industry. No, I'm not a multi-million-dollar fat cat who owns three casinos and a holiday house in Dubai. I mean, I have family who used to be addicted to gambling. I've seen the effect it has on family life. I've witnessed a little of what problem gambling does to relationships.

The problem is, we haven't normalised the seeking of support for problem gambling in our culture. We've done it for smoking; we've done it for drinking; we've done it for prostate cancer; we're doing it for drug dependency. But, when it comes to gambling, it's like we either don't think there's a problem, or we're too shy to speak up about it. We need to normalise the seeking of support. There's no shame in saying, “I have a problem with gambling”. You might have a flutter on the Spring Racing Carnival, have a few too many drinks and go home a little tipsy. But if you wake up the next day with your bank account shattered and your marriage on the line, then you've got a problem. Go get some help.

The same report I referred to earlier, says, “People experiencing problems with gambling need to be supported to develop the capacity to navigate these saturated social networks and environments. At a broader level, strategies to increase social support and normalisation of efforts to limit or abstain from gambling should also be investigated.”

Maybe we should start a hashtag: #donewithgambling. Then we could create a movement that says it's OK to seek help. It's OK to bring others into your social network that hold you accountable. It's fine to tell someone close to you how much you spend and how often you gamble. It would be acceptable to say, “I'm done with gambling”.

The race that stops a nation may have spectacular horses, beautiful hats, and manicured fields, but I'll be honest with you: I'm done with gambling. •

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



WORTH QUOTING.

“Most Christians would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years. I would like to send them to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for a lifetime of compassionate ministry.” – **William Booth**

WORDS

JENNIFER CLOKE

It's all about real connection.

Are our churches missing the mark?

WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS CONNECTED like never before. Hundreds of TV channels, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Tumblr, blogs, emails, texts and old-fashioned phone calls – just a few of the ways people connect with one another. But, at the same time, many people describe a world that is isolated, lonely and devoid of real people and real conversation. I suspect that if it were not for our meetings over coffee, some of us would hardly speak to another person all day.

We hear older folk speak of leaving the TV on for company; they don't really watch or even listen, it is just in the background, blocking the silence of living alone. Unfortunately, there have been all too many folk (of all ages) who have decided that life is just too hard or that no one would even notice if they were gone. Amid the hustle and bustle of life, the busyness around us and cacophony of sound that speaks of life and activity, they remain alone.

The theme song from the television show *Cheers* (set in a Boston pub) explains why the regular catch-up at the bar was crucial for the patrons portrayed in the show. One line says: “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.”

As a Salvation Army, we are in the process of rediscovering what it is to

be a faith community and not merely a weekly meeting place. We need to examine what true inclusion within our church communities looks like and have to consider the tough question: “If I don't belong at church, where do I belong?” And: “If this group of ‘loving Jesus people’ can't love and accept me, where can I find acceptance?”

Is your faith community a place where people can come, sit, share, talk, laugh, listen, cry and express frustration, pain and anger? Is your faith community a place where you can share, and learn that others are struggling with the same issues and stressors of life? Is your faith community a place where the people who share life with us, whether in a traditional church or in some new expression of gathering, leave feeling like people really enjoyed their company, where people knew their name, missed them when they were away and actually cared for them?

If not, then I think we have missed the point.

When the Army's founder, William Booth, said to his wife Catherine: “Darling, I have found my destiny”, I'm quite sure that he did not have a comfortable, middle-class, traditional church in mind. The Booths envisaged a radical church (an Army of saved people who loved Jesus) who would “lift” the fallen, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, share their possessions, include all people equally and extend welcome. A church that would help “lift” people from their poverty, loneliness and despair and enable them to live “life in all its fullness” as expressed in the Gospel of John.

Implicit within the word “lift” is that there is something or someone alongside to enable that upward movement to

happen. The Church, and by that I mean you and I, are God's hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth and heart, shining a light on a loving God to all those with whom we interact. It is not enough to hear about God, we need to see him for ourselves.

The Salvation Army is an active church, lots happening, with many programs and events, but unless we are creating community and operating “in community”, we have missed our destiny.

“

Unless we are creating community and operating “in community”, we have missed our destiny.

”

Do programs outnumber relationships? Can we hide behind our busyness and never actually affect anyone's life? Do we offer safe and inclusive places to meet, support and sustain in body, mind and spirit? Do we offer friendship, support and a sense of belonging to those people who can no longer attend our times of corporate worship, to a young person, to newly marrieds and/or new parents?

These are tough questions for any church, particularly when we aim to answer them honestly. Now, in particular, is the time to answer them and address any areas where our faith expressions are missing the mark. As we become one Australia Territory, we don't have to make everything “new”, we simply need to return to Christ, and Booth's original call to live, love and fight. •

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Major Jennifer Cloke is the Australia Southern Territory Salvos Caring, Disability Inclusion and Seniors Ministries consultant.



WORTH
QUOTING.

"He (Jesus) said, 'Love ... as I have loved you'. We cannot love too much." - Amy Carmichael

WORDS

DANIELLE STRICKLAND

Weeding time.

Release the garden of your life to grow

I'VE BEEN WITNESSING THE MIRACLE OF the season shift. To make room for new things, nature lets go of the old, letting things die in order to make room for new life. But sometimes even nature needs some help.

Recently, my eight-year-old brought home his school project to convince me that weeds were plants too. I decided that he could plant a weed garden if he really felt compassion for the weeded ones, but that I wanted to help my existing garden grow. I'd start by weeding a lovely patch in my backyard that someone else had planted.

So I headed out, armed with ignorance and responsibility and bent over until my back was hard to straighten again and tended to the garden in my backyard. It did seem like a lot of work for what I assumed to be just aesthetic gains. Like eyebrow threading or manicures. A few days later I realised the much deeper reason weeds need to be pulled. The existing plants began to flourish. Without the weeds sucking the nutrients of the earth – taking all the water and minerals – the plants had room to take a deep breath and drink in the precious life of the soil. And it did them a world of good. It did my soul a world of good. I felt the nudging of a divine whisper with deeper truth for the garden of my life.

And so it goes that to live well means a letting go or a little pulling up before a growing or bearing or beauty. A bending

before a tall, stretching, straightening in the sun. The death involved in resurrection is not just for aesthetics it turns out. It's a deep work within. Under the surface of our lives there is soil for our souls that has enough nourishment to make us grow. But there are things in our lives that grow fast and furious and bear no fruit and obscure our natural beauty. They can sometimes seem like growth, but they are tricky imposters who suck up the preciousness of our soil and starve our natural beauty, keeping us locked and limited and hidden.

They are prejudice, bitterness, jealousy, self pity, sloth, appetite, laziness, indifference, selfishness – those are the ones I've come to recognise in my life's garden. I've discovered these things and many more are often disguised as a means of growth. I remember a conversation with someone about taking a sabbath and thinking that watching a whole season on Netflix without interruption would soothe my soul – but it didn't. Of course it didn't. It was a weed disguised as a flower. It sucked me dry and the soil of my life was coarser not truer.

In the hopes of improving my appearance I sift through Pinterest looking for outfits that I don't have. I spend hours going to discount stores to find clothes that might just dress up my life, and feel the energy and vitality of my day sucked dry. I remind myself that the outside of me is overrated and turn on some music and cook a decent meal and set the table and spend time with people I love ... and my soul finds rest. Who really cares how cool my outfit is? I rest in the One who clothes the lilies of the field and celebrate an already full closet with some gratitude. I feel a bud ready to burst with colour.

I'm tired and restless and reach for a sugar-coated donut to soothe myself. It doesn't soothe; it adds weight, not just physically but the weed of my appetite enlarges and rather than satiate it unlocks



a deeper hunger. Instead, I put in my earphones and turn on a podcast that leads me through 30 minutes of mindful meditation with scripture from the Psalms. Food for my soul. I reach into the soil of life and emerge more alive. A burst of energy forges a full flower from my bud.

Weeding is tricky. Identifying disguised growth lacking in depth and character is hard work. Sometimes you have to lean over so long your back finds it hard to straighten. But allowing weeds to grow unfettered is dangerous to the soil. To the plants. To growth. To our lives. So, pull them out. Identify them by their easy and fast growth that withers your soul and pull them out at the root. Replace them with the things already planted in you that are stuck hidden and in the shade. Let the sun shine on your God-given gifts, beauty, and dreams.

It's garden season. Time for the sorting. Let things go that don't give you life and embrace the beauty waiting to emerge from your own soul. All that's left after the weeding is the beauty of releasing the garden of your life to grow. ●

Danielle Strickland blogs at
www.daniellestrickland.com

Mailbox.



LIVES THAT HONOUR GOD

I was most interested in the article "The Soldiership Dilemma" (July issue of *Others*) by Captain Peter Hobbs and certainly found it to be quite controversial as he anticipated. I would like to comment on some of the statements that were made in this article.

"He simply saved and sent ..." yet the gospels clearly state that Jesus called, taught, disciplined and then sent. The three years of preparation with Jesus involved intensive instruction and training including a radical change to their lifestyle. They surrendered everything to follow him.

"He invited/recruited everyone to be involved in his mission without discrimination", however the gospels show that Christ specifically called by personal invitation, not just anyone but 12 specific men for the awesome disciple/apostle role.

Does the "etc" in the statement, "To become a Salvation Army soldier, you have to do soldiership classes, promise to live a high and moral life where you're not going to drink alcohol and smoke, etc," refer to the other promises that we make in our soldiership covenant with God: sexual purity, sanctity of marriage, abstinence from pornography, gambling and illicit drugs? Are these lifestyle issues no longer relevant to Christ followers?

Furthermore, we are acutely aware of the damage to society that alcohol and smoking causes. Abstinence from these enables our mission rather than hindering it. Western secular society would have us believe that we ought to retain our "rights" to choose our own self-determined path in life while,

on the other hand, the call of God is the opposite. We are called to be the dwelling place of God with no room for the old, unregenerate, self-styled lifestyle that we once embraced.

Soldiership provides the foundation on which we can build lives that honour God and bring the love of Jesus to broken humanity. Soldiership does not "exclude or discriminate" but rather offers to all who have fully surrendered their lives to Christ, the choice to confirm a life-commitment of consecration to Jesus as people who are wholly set apart for him.

We must resist the temptation to bring God to a level so that he becomes acceptable to society's mould but rather lift ourselves and others to the high calling in Christ that is revealed in the wide spectrum of God's Word.

- Margaret Slater



DISCONNECTED IN MISSION?

As I look at the cover of the *Others* magazine, it states that this paper is Connecting Salvos in Mission. I find it the most disconnecting paper that The Salvation Army has ever produced.

As I read the article by Barry Gittins, "Whose Army is it?" (Viewpoint, September issue of *Others*), I have never read so much rubbish. The Salvation Army doesn't belong to any person. I agree that we should reach out to those who are disadvantaged and to the other examples he makes, but then to state that the members to his thinking have no value and seem to be able to be done without.

I would suggest that unless The Salvation Army invests more time in

strengthening the deep spiritual needs and values of its members, and values them, there will be no one to reach out to these people with needs.

We have become a very lopsided Salvation Army that only sees social needs but neglects worship. I think this is very evident when we see the shortage of officers and young people who are our future. The *Others* magazine lacks mention of the nitty-gritty of corps worship and of those finding Jesus, but wastes valuable space arguing about divisive subjects.

- Dorothy Ware



POLITICAL PROPAGANDA

Sadly, *Others* magazine has become political propaganda of the Left. The article by Mike Frost ("Making room for the foreigner", Viewpoint, October issue) attacks those with a different view on immigration. Conservatives have come in the line of fire.

It cannot be denied that Muslim immigration that was forced on Europe by the ruling class, without the consent of the people, has brought terrorist acts into those countries, and now the common people have spoken in those countries, so that the elites are on the defensive. It is easy to find verses in Scripture to back a viewpoint in politics.

While the Army is already in decline, this venture to attack conservative people and the elected US President will do no good, since it will cause further divisions in the Army ranks, and many thinking people will just walk away.

- Major Harry Webb

others

Your opinion counts.
We want to hear from you!



If you've read something in Viewpoint or elsewhere in this issue of *Others* that you would like to comment on, then please get in touch. Email your letter of about 250 words to: others@aus.salvationarmy.org

WORDS
ERICA JONES

Pillars of National Strategy transforming Kwinana.

The Salvation Army in Australia is rolling out a new National Strategy based around four pillars - **we will transform; we will focus; we will pioneer; and we will be accountable.** In this issue, *Others* looks at the final two pillars

We will pioneer



If you turn up at Kwinana Salvation Army in Western Australia on a Friday morning, you'll be greeted by a team of volunteers standing next to "Lottie", a big orange van. The team is from Orange Sky, one of our partners who connect with the homeless and people doing it tough, by providing free laundry, showers and conversation.

Orange Sky gets around to many different service partners all over Australia – including 10 Salvation Army centres in Western Australia – travelling many kilometres each week. They complete about 110 loads of washing by servicing areas around Perth, including Midland and Mandurah.

One of Orange Sky's regular volunteers is Fred Hemsley. He is a pastry chef who is always willing to have a conversation and generously share some of his famous shortbreads. After Kwinana Corps started its partnership with Orange Sky, it opened an on-site thrift shop. Volunteers from Orange Sky and the thrift shop started to build relationships with each other and very quickly began sharing stories of transformation, resulting in an innovative and seamless sharing of resources. Fred now takes surplus clothing from the thrift shop on his route and gives it to people in need.

This partnership between two like-minded services and teams of volunteers has resulted in a strengthened community. Together they are transforming Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus. Many people who come to the thrift shop can also access emergency relief, and now Orange Sky's services.

We will pioneer is the third pillar of the National Strategy, and it's supported by three strategic imperatives: encourage innovation; grow partnerships; and create sustainable leadership. The partnership with Orange Sky has led to a practical outplaying of caring for people and has

The Orange Sky team that partners with Kwinana includes (from left) Fred Hemsley, Ann Bissett and Alma Bright.

resulted in building stronger communities. Working with organisations that share The Salvation Army's vision, we are demonstrating innovation, building relationships and sharing stories, all while making a positive difference in the lives of the people that we serve.

Find out more about Orange Sky at orangesky.org.au



Among the young adults helping lead Kwinana Corps are (from left) Michellie and Tia Jones, and Sam Higginbottom.

We will be accountable

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, you will struggle to find Sam Higginbottom. The chances are he will be at one of the local schools in Kwinana engaging in one of its programs. He'll either be leading "Treasure Hunters" at Orelia Primary School, "The Gap" for students at Gilmore Senior High School, or running "Art Club" or "Drumbeat" at Medina Primary School.

Two years ago, aged 18, Sam arrived in Western Australia from Victoria. He enrolled in the Western Australia Division's Student Leadership Program. Six months later, he secured a 12-hour-a-week position as the youth ministry worker at Kwinana Salvation Army.

Sam, along with a passionate and committed group of teenagers, began working to assist local young people. They were determined to be leaders, not of the future, but today. "After starting at the schools, I noticed that when the kids transitioned from primary school to

Gilmore High they quickly got caught up with the wrong crowd, resulting in suspensions and detentions," says Sam. "After this they soon disengaged from schooling altogether."

The young adults of Kwinana Corps, under Sam's leadership, became the key leaders at the Salvos' junior youth group. These leaders were determined to build healthy relationships with all of the junior youth attendees. "When they were feeling lost or overwhelmed, we wanted them to know that there were people they could go to who would be a good influence," says Sam. It was in this space that the young people of the corps took ownership of their potential as leaders within the church.

Kwinana Corps is renewing culture, a key aspect of the National Strategy's fourth pillar – **We will be accountable.** The young people of the corps are becoming clear influencers and key leaders of the church. The conversation theme among senior members of the corps has been: "We need our young people to be instigators of change if we are going to grow, survive and thrive going forward". So, these senior members asked the young people to be on the corps senior leadership

team. They valued their opinions and invited them to preach, lead and belong.

Kwinana now has partnerships with six local primary schools and the central high school, and our young leaders connect with over 90 students every week through various programs and initiatives. These young adults took the responsibility to be leaders in their corps. They are mentored by others in the corps to help them build relationships and let them know that they are both welcome and are vital to creating a new, sustainable and vibrant way forward together.

More information on the National Strategy is available at australiaone.info

Captain Erica Jones is Corps Officer at Kwinana in Western Australia. She recently spent time on secondment with the National Transition Support Communications Team.

WORDS

LAUREN MARTIN AND
SIMONE WORTHING

One moment in time.

Still Others a historic occasion
for Salvation Army in Australia

More than 1000 Salvationists and supporters will converge on Melbourne later this month for what has been described as a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. The drawcard is Still Others, a six-day national conference that will have as its centrepiece the official Recognition of The Salvation Army Australia Territory.

On the Still Others website, salvos.org.au/stillothers, the event is promoted as “a week of vision, equipping and celebration of the new Salvation Army in Australia”. Other major events at the conference, which will run from 27 November to 3 December at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, are the commissioning of new Salvation Army officers, the “Our Christmas Gift” concert spectacular, a Salvo Expo, mission workshops, and youth and family-focused celebrations.

Among the special guests are the new world leaders of The Salvation Army, General Brian and

Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, supported by other senior officers from International Headquarters in London. Australian officers and employees currently serving in overseas postings will also be coming home to join in the celebration.

Still Others is, however, first and foremost an opportunity for Salvationists from around the country to gather as one and, as National Commander Commissioner Floyd Tidd says, “celebrate the new thing that God is doing in The Salvation Army in Australia”. And while the logistics of cost and distance in such a vast country as Australia will, understandably, impact on just how many Salvationists will be able to make the journey to Melbourne, there are many for whom this is a moment in time not to be missed.

Others, which will bring daily reports from the event, has spoken to a handful of these people to find out what being at Still Others means to them ... ▶



“
I am hoping to experience the moving of the Holy Spirit, hear different points of view, be moved by the singing and catch up with old friends and past officers.
 - Maree Mauger, Geraldton
 ”

Maree Mauger will make a 7500km round trip in order to be at Still Others. The 65-year-old lives in Geraldton, Western Australia, but from the moment she heard about Still Others there was no doubt in her mind that she would be making the long journey to Melbourne to share in the celebration.

“I just love going to congresses, both in Perth and other places,” says Maree, who is a senior soldier and Home League Secretary at Geraldton Corps. “Doesn’t everyone just want to be there? It’s harder for us country people because of the travelling involved and finding somewhere to stay, but I wouldn’t miss going to them.”

Maree was also at the Boundless international congress, held to mark the 150th anniversary of The Salvation Army, in London three years ago. “It took me three years to save enough money to go, but it was just awesome,” she says. “Everyone who was there wanted to be there and had made such a big effort to get there – it made the atmosphere just amazing.

“I loved the band music and mix of old and new songs, the speakers were excellent, the testimonies were inspiring and through the prayer time I could just feel the Holy Spirit moving. This is what I am hoping for from Still Others too. I am hoping to experience the moving of the Holy Spirit, hear different points of view, be moved by the singing and catch up with old friends and past officers.

“I also want to learn all about Australia becoming one territory and what the plans are, become informed, and I hope to do some electives as well. I will make sure that I am at everything!”

Maree isn’t the only Salvationist prepared to travel a long distance to be at Still Others. Bob and Yon Down will be coming from Townsville in North Queensland, a round trip of approximately 5000km. Bob, who has been a chaplain for The Salvation Army for 35 years, was invited to be a part of the “Caring for Others” panel at Still Others,

and his wife has taken the opportunity to join him in Melbourne.

“Yon and I decided that this was too good an opportunity to miss so we are both going and will attend as many events as possible while we’re there,” he says. “We’ve never been to a big Salvation Army event before and we’re looking forward to catching up with old friends, sharing ideas with fellow prison chaplains, and making new friends. We’re quite isolated up here so to have this opportunity is very special.”

Yon is also excited about being part of Still Others. “We are a bit remote up here and miss out on events like these, so to see and participate in The Salvation Army on such a big scale and to interact with other Salvos will be lovely and such a different experience for us. I’m also really looking forward to hearing the guest speakers.

“It will also be nice to hear Bob and to keep an eye on him. He’s quite the character at 80 years old!”



Some of the group from Bayside Corps that will be travelling to Melbourne to attend Still Others.

Further south, at Bayside Corps in Brisbane, a group has got together to make sure their corps leaders, Cadets Natalie and Scott Frame, and Cadets Ashley and Rita Biermann, who entered training from Bayside, will be well supported when they are commissioned as Salvation Army officers on the Sunday morning of Still Others.

More than a dozen people from the corps will be making the journey to Melbourne, among them Brett Petersons who has been involved with Bayside for the past three years. “I’m looking forward to getting to know more about the Salvos and hanging out with like-minded people,” he says. “I’m also going to support Scott and Natalie, who are being commissioned. Natalie in particular has supported me through a lot in my journey and has been like a spiritual mother to me.”

Majors Bruce and Jean Buckmaster retired from active service as officers a decade ago and for most of that time have made Bayside their church home. “We’re

going to Still Others mainly to support the Frames and Biermanns but will also be going to everything else,” says Jean. “Despite the challenges of travel for us, we are really enthusiastic about going.”

Bruce, who is now confined to a wheelchair, is especially interested in learning more about the new Australia Territory. “I want to hear more on what it’s all about, and what Australia is becoming,” he says.

Bass Strait, the 250km-wide stretch of water that separates Tasmania from the Australian mainland, is no barrier to a dedicated group of friends being at Still Others. Every year, the five Salvationists, drawn from Launceston, Devonport and the Kingborough/Huon corps, get together for a girls’ weekend away. They usually attend Commissioning, and this year are excited to make Still Others their destination.

“We have been going to Commissioning and the Christmas Gift celebration

quite regularly over a number of years, and this year with the amalgamation of the two territories I feel it will be something special,” says Kath Geeves from Launceston Salvation Army. “I love catching up with friends, sharing in fellowship, worshipping with like-minded people and on such a large scale. It’s not something we get very often in Tasmania!”

Joining Kath are Ronda Lucas and Debbie O’Brien (both Launceston), Rae Howard (Kingborough/Huon Corps), and Marie O’Brien (Devonport). “I got to know Kath when she invited me to Ladies Fellowship about 30-odd years ago,” says Ronda. “From there I started to go to the corps.”

Rae says she is excited about attending Still Others to receive “fresh inspiration to work for the Lord in the small corps I attend”. Debbie, meantime, is looking forward to “meeting up with old friends and making new ones”.

The ladies are all staying together in a unit and will attend most events. Marie says ▶

“
Being new to The Salvation Army we are keen to see where we are heading and experience the joy of moving into the Australia Territory.
 - Lyn and John Walker, Wollongong



she is particularly looking forward to the “Coffee with the General” event. “I’m not planning on asking a question, but if I did, it would be, ‘Why didn’t this happen 20 years ago?’”

Each of the women say the creation of an Australia Territory is an exciting step forward. “We are one Army with one mission!” says Kath.

Among the crowds at Still Others will be two new Salvationists, from Wollongong on the NSW South Coast. Lyn and John Walker have been Salvation Army soldiers for only a handful of months, but the couple say Still Others is an event not to be missed. “Being new to The Salvation Army we are keen to see where we are heading and experience the joy of moving into the Australia Territory,” says Lyn. They are both excited to “experience a

large company of Salvationists coming together in worship, prayer, praise and thanksgiving”.

Lyn and John started attending The Salvation Army two years ago and became soldiers in May this year. They had spent the past few decades in leadership roles in the Uniting Church, however felt God calling them to something new. “We have been on a very exciting journey since we joined the Army and want to continue that journey informed and to serve our Lord in whatever he calls us to,” says Lyn. “Even though we are older members by age, we are very open to God’s leading.”

They are hoping Still Others will give them a greater understanding of where The Salvation Army is headed and want to “come home empowered and ready to embrace new ministries”.

Another group of Walkers – not related to Lyn and John – will also be making the trip from Wollongong to Melbourne later this month, and are excited about attending Still Others as a family.

“We have always attended Commissioning and congress events and it was just a natural thing for our family to attend this important event,” says Lachlan Walker, who will be going with his wife Karen and their children, Sarah, Kyle and Jordyn.

Lachlan says that being in Melbourne to witness the “rebirth” of The Salvation Army in Australia, as the two territories come together as one, will be a powerful experience. His niece, Chloe Hutchinson, as well as Karen’s parents, Don and Cheryl Johnson, are also planning to fly to Melbourne with them to attend the historic event. ●



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WORDS

SCOTT SIMPSON

Day of transformation.

Cadets prepare to put training into action

In just a handful of weeks' time, this group of people will undergo one of the most significant transformations of their lives. On Sunday 2 December, they will make the shift from Eva Burrows College Officer Formation Stream cadets to fully commissioned officers of The Salvation Army.

They have either spent their training as part of the *Messengers of Compassion* session in Melbourne or Sydney, or as the Brisbane-based cadets of the *Messengers of the Gospel* session. Their studies have been across all three areas of their required training: Educational and Theological Formation; Ministry and Missional Formation; and Personal and Spiritual Formation.

Their big moment will take place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, on the penultimate day of the week-long Still Others celebration to mark the official Recognition of The Salvation Army Australia Territory. Adding significance to the occasion for the cadets, the commissioning ceremony will involve General Brian Peddle, the world leader of The Salvation Army who with his wife, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, are the special guests for Still Others.

To find out more about becoming an officer in The Salvation Army, go to salvos.org.au/comealive.



◦ The cadets, pictured with national head of college, Major Gregory Morgan (far left), are (back row left to right) Ashley Biermann, Scott Frame, Aaron Coombes, Peter Martin, Mitchell Stevens, Charlie (Jihun) Jung, Star Conliffe, Andrea Martin, and (front row left to right) Keryn Coombes, Danielle Starr, Leanne Hardaker, Stephanie Savage, Natalie Frame, Rita Biermann, and Sally Stevens. Photo: Carolyn Hide

WORDS
BILL SIMPSON

Rockingham – where mission is rough but rewarding.

Meeting the needs of vulnerable people reflects God's values

It's only mid-morning and already the expansive foyer at Rockingham Corps near Perth is packed with people. Community lunch is still a few hours away, but, for many, this is one of the few highlights of their week – one of the few things they have to look forward to in a difficult life.

Often, 100-plus people share in the Tuesday midday meal provided by The Salvation Army Rockingham Corps. Some are homeless; some just lonely. Others are struggling financially and the free lunch and additional services offered by the corps help them make it into another week. They come, too, on Wednesdays and Fridays, when tea, coffee and an assortment of smaller meals are available from the corps cafe.

While the Tuesday meal is being prepared in the corps kitchen, community members are sitting at tables in conversation, resting on lounges, taking advantage of free internet, charging mobile phones

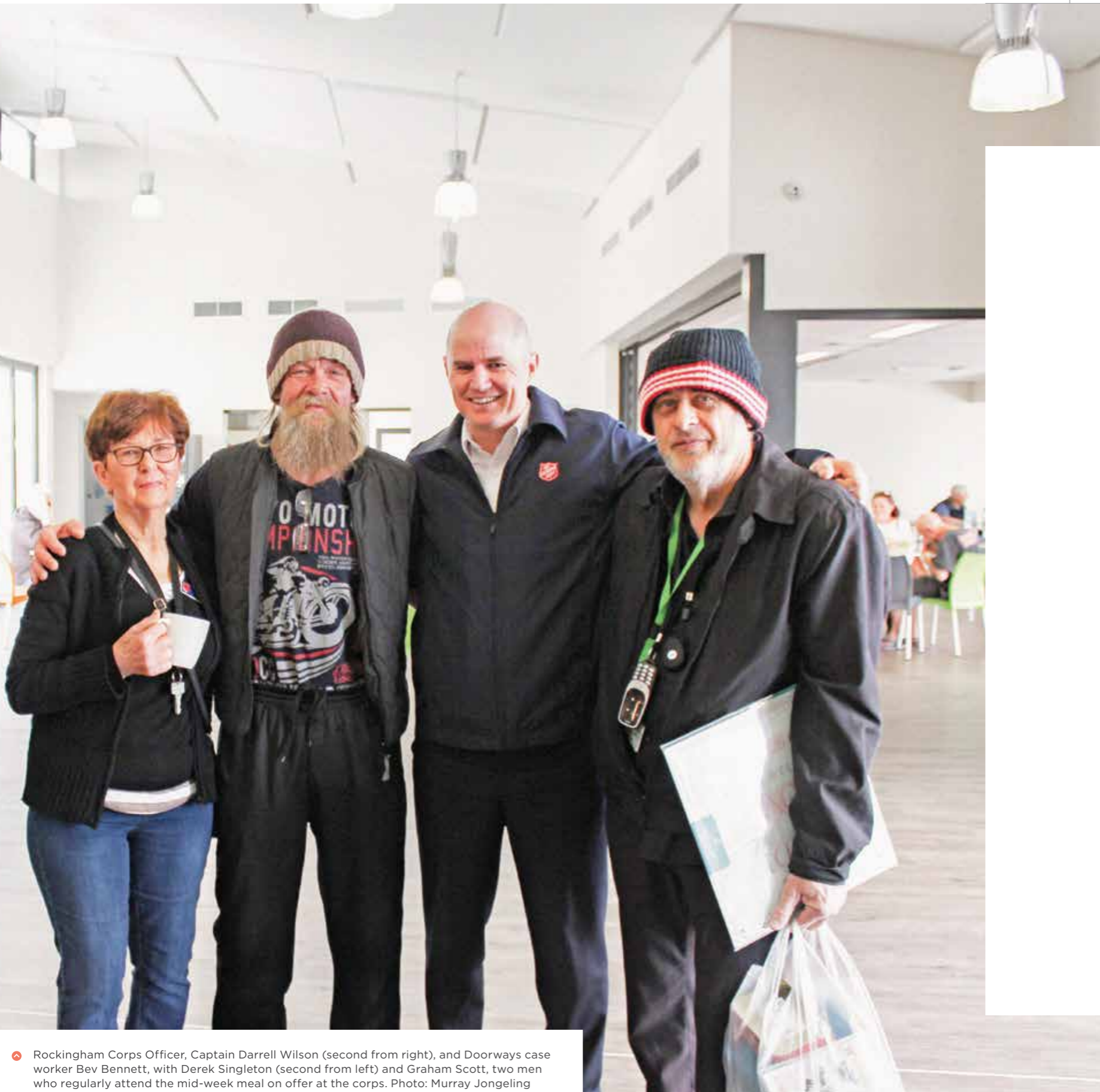
“

What we have here at Rockingham is a centre of hope ... we want that people who come here for help leave with more hope than when they came.

”

and checking concerns with a Centrelink worker. Others are seeking assistance from Doorways emergency relief staff, conferring with on-site counsellors or inspecting bargains at the corps op-shop.

Occasionally, somebody approaches a large bird cage situated in the foyer just outside the main worship centre. They say a few words to the encaged birds, who seem to show an interest. It started from a small cage and one bird left at the front door and has grown as community members add to the collection. “Apparently the birds are good for relieving stress,” says Corps Officer Captain Darrell Wilson, who, ▶



Rockingham Corps Officer, Captain Darrell Wilson (second from right), and Doorways case worker Bev Bennett, with Derek Singleton (second from left) and Graham Scott, two men who regularly attend the mid-week meal on offer at the corps. Photo: Murray Jongeling

with wife Lieutenant Chelsea, have been at Rockingham for almost eight years.

Out in the car park, people are waiting for appointments with a GP and a nurse, who both volunteer through a free service called Freo (Fremantle) Street Doctor. Others are having their clothes washed and dried at no cost by workers from the Orange Sky mobile laundry.

In the middle of the action, the Wilsons are mingling to chat with whoever needs their time. This is why they are Salvation Army officers. It's about the people. The Wilsons are supported by a few paid staff and around 100 volunteers from the corps and the community. Rockingham is a busy corps. Captain Wilson says the busyness can sometimes be messy, because there is a lot going on. "Mostly, though, we seem to have it under control," he says.

PILOT PROJECT

Rockingham Corps recently received initial funding to move further into the community to offer help to the homeless who are unaware of available services. Four part-time and casual staff have been employed for the pilot project. Future funding will depend on what the team of workers find.

Rockingham is a satellite city with official city status. It is 40km south-west of the Perth Central Business District, just south of Fremantle. It has a population of around 131,000. Ten per cent of its available workforce of 60,000 is unemployed. Eleven per cent of households are single-parent families.

The Indian Ocean is its western border. Rockingham is best known for its playful dolphins, fairy penguins and naval base. There are areas of affluence, but also big pockets of poverty. Rockingham Corps sits at the centre of community activity, in the suburb of Coo loongup. It's been there for about 40 years. "We are trying to

build a church based on God's values," says Captain Wilson.

To the observer, Rockingham provides a positive picture of a corps focused on serving its community – people in need of many things. Corps people meet on Sunday morning for worship. They participate in a range of traditional Salvation Army corps activities. About 100 people attend on Sundays, but the Wilsons say probably 200+ people would regard the corps as theirs.

The extras are the people who turn up for the community lunch and other assistance. Some are seen at Sunday worship maybe once a month. "What we have here at Rockingham is a centre of hope," says Captain Wilson. "We want that people who come here for help leave with more hope than when they came."

But he concedes that it can sometimes be tough because, well, working with community can be tough. "I often hear outsiders talk about Rockingham to be a great missional corps. It is a great corps and we love being here, but the reality is it can be really messy because there is so much need and we serve really vulnerable people," Captain Wilson explains.

"Chelsea and I see our roles as teaching our people to do the mission. That's what Ephesians 4 tells us is the role of the leaders in the church. We lead from within. Everyone has gifts and abilities, but not everybody understands that.

"So, it's our responsibility to help our people understand what their ability is and how they fit into God's Church. It has been exciting to see that develop in our people. It's especially exciting to see our people working in their community and to bounce back despite disappointments."

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

The people at Rockingham have learned that mission can be rough as well as

rewarding. Many times, they have gone the extra mile. They have opened their homes to the homeless, found jobs for the unemployed, walked with those desperate for a hand-up, only to be let down by some of them.

"There are people like that coming here all of the time," Captain Wilson says. "But they are the people we are here for. It's the history of The Salvation Army, really. It's The Salvation Army's mission. It's about reaching people with the love of Jesus."



We show people something different when they come here for help. We show them Jesus and, hopefully, if they fall back to the bottom of life, they will know who to turn to.



"People are coming and going all of the time. The thing that really matters, though, is that we do something. We show people something different when they come here for help. We show them Jesus and, hopefully, if they fall back to the bottom of life, they will know who to turn to.

"I think that's what we're here for. Life is a long journey. We shouldn't tell people that life will be all sweet and rosy. We have sown the seed for many people and I am proud of what we have done, regardless of the lack of measurable success with some people who come to us for help."

There are, too, the successes – community members desperate for help who came and have stayed; stayed to become part of the church community and to help the next influx of people in need.

"We're here for whoever needs our help," Captain Wilson says. "It's what The Salvation Army does." ●



● (Top) Captain Darrell and Lieut Chelsea Wilson (centre) and support worker Bev Humble (right) share coffee with Greg, who has come into the centre; (above left) Captain Wilson sorts through donations in the corps warehouse; (above right) kitchen team leader, Dominica Loong, prepares a meal; (left) the Rockingham Corps cafe is always a hive of activity during the week. Photos: Murray Jongeling

✓ This remarkable illustration graced the 13 March 1915 edition of *The War Cry* in Canada.



‘Safe with Jesus’

During World War One, two soldiers on opposing sides of the conflict found a moment of peace

While Remembrance Day ceremonies on 11 November will allow us to remember those who died or suffered for Australia’s cause in all wars and armed conflicts, they will also help us to reflect on the horror and inhumanity of war, hoping we will never again have to endure such a waste of human life. Amidst all this, Remembrance Day also serves to remind us of the displays of human compassion that so often interposed themselves between the long periods of enmity.

Members of The Salvation Army serving on the front lines during the Great War, as World War One was then called, often spoke of those displays. One such remarkable story was told in the pages of the Canadian edition of *The War Cry* in 1915. It read:

The battle was in progress, and our trenches were being raked by the enemy’s fire. We were expecting to be told that the German guns would have to be silenced, and presently along the line came the order to “Charge!”

We assembled into the open and rushed forward, met by a perfect hail of bullets. Many of our men bit the dust, but we who remained came to grips with the enemy. I cannot write of what happened then. The killing of men is a ghastly business!

On the way back to the trenches, I saw a poor German soldier trying to get to his water

“

... he opened his eyes and saw my Salvation Army Leaguer’s button. His drawn face lit up with a smile

”

bottle. He was in a fearful condition. I knelt down by his side. Finding his own water bottle was empty, I gave him water from mine. Somewhat revived, he opened his eyes and saw my Salvation Army Leaguer’s button. His drawn face lit up with a smile, and he whispered in broken English: “Salvation Army? I also am a Salvation soldier.” Then he felt for his Army badge. It was still pinned to his coat, though bespattered with blood.

I think we both shed a few tears, and then I picked up his poor broken body, and with as much tenderness as possible, for the terrible hail of death was beginning again, I carried him to the ambulance.

But he was beyond human aid. When I placed him on the wagon, he gave a gentle tug on my coat. Thinking he wanted to say something, I bent low and listened, and he whispered: “Jesus, safe with Jesus!”

Article appears courtesy of *The War Cry* (Canada) and *Faith & Friends*.



Words Mark Hadley

01.

BEAUTIFUL BOY

Rating: M

Release date: 25 October

BEAUTIFUL BOY IS BASED ON THE TRUE story of David and Nic Sheff, chronicling David's horror as he watches his son's descent into long-term drug addiction. Steve Carell delivers an Oscar-worthy performance as the father who becomes steadily aware that his son's "recreational" drug use has taken on sinister tones. What began as the occasional use of marijuana in high school, advances to speed and cocaine, and finally graduates to methamphetamine.

Nic's actions lead to homelessness, crime, and recriminations that shatter his family's life. Simply allocating him the blame, though, would be too simplistic. The question of responsibility for drug addiction concerns *Beautiful Boy* as much as it concerns society today.

Nic is the child of a broken home. His mother and father separated, and David chose to begin a new family. His mother Vicky is also distant, busy with her life in Los Angeles. Though his father regularly assures Nic that he loves him, "more than everything!", there is a fragility to the boy's character from this point onwards. Society, too, has had a hand in what unfolds. Nic is lauded as a child with such promise, but his world is filled with a mundanity he finds hard to bear. Nic eventually tells a room full of students, drugs became the answer to a growing feeling that he was "missing" something essential.

In the memoir on which the film is based, the real David Sheff shares how he attended many therapy sessions, and was continually told to remember the "Three Cs" when it came to dealing with his son's addiction: You didn't cause it; You can't control it; You can't cure it.

Sheff writes that he had a difficult time accepting these statements and could ultimately only agree with the last two. In this, he reflects the hard truth offered by the Bible. We are not responsible for the choices our children might make, nor can we stop them choosing the wrong way. However, that is not the same as saying we bear no responsibility for their fate. Our lives are inextricably linked.

Consequently, God requires mothers and fathers to do more than love and provide for their children. They are to set the moral direction for their lives by living lives that lead them to God: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them" (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Beautiful Boy longs for a sure and certain hope – a solution to a heart-rending problem that seems beyond our best resources. Yet God calls on us to bring our children to him because he knows that without him, they will fall prey to the ravages of cruel idols.

Beautiful Boy is a hard watch, but it presents truths every parent would do well to learn. To begin with, it doesn't anaesthetise the problem with an idealised Hollywood ending. There is no "graduation moment" where Nic can throw his hat in the air and say, "Drug free!"

Both David and Nic have to come to terms with the fact that addiction has an iron grip on his life that will never truly be released. Neither are the shards of shattered relationships neatly reassembled; life must go on in spite of the many jagged edges Nic's addiction has created.

However, David has a chance to model to Nic what enduring love looks like. Not "unconditional" love, that takes no account of what he has done, but the God-like love that says, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you". ●



Words Mark Hadley

02.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD

Rating: M

Release date: 25 October

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD STARS BRENTON Thwaites as Paul Asher, a rising journalist who has just returned from a stint covering the war in Afghanistan. He has carved a niche for himself at a New York newspaper writing about spiritual issues, and his last piece – "Christians In Combat" – has gained him high praise, as well as a personal crisis. Paul's marriage is stumbling, and his faith is faltering. Into this context, he accepts an offer of an interview with a man who claims to be God.

"God" is expertly played by David Strathairn, presenting us with a creator who is both sympathetic and unapologetic about what he is prepared to put humanity through. Paul soon realises he is dealing with a character who defies easy dismissal or explanation, and the longer the interviews go on, the more the journalist realises he is the subject, and not the mild-mannered man before him.

An Interview With God is probably one of the best collections of apologetic answers to ever make it to the big screen. Paul and his mystery man cover a wide range of significant questions from the expected, "How do you get to Heaven?" to the esoteric, "Can an atheist be a moral person?" In each case the Bible forms the basis of the answers given. Scholars beware, there are quite a few theological hairs to split, but given the limitations of the medium, the responses are surprisingly robust. More importantly, Strathairn presents us with a God who is neither embarrassed by his answers nor unsympathetic to our struggles with them. He is the Lord Almighty, but he is also our Heavenly Father.

For the war-torn journalist, though, the biggest questions centre unsurprisingly

on suffering. "Why don't you help us?" he demands. "Just do something!" And here, the God of the universe turns the demand back on his interviewer: "Yes, *do* something. You have more power than you know, Paul. Food can be grown. Diseases can be cured. Wars ended. A troubled veteran can be helped and a marriage saved. So, when you ask me why all this is happening, start by looking to each other. And that's where I'll be."

But *An Interview With God* doesn't follow the fault line of the "God in all of us" like *Conversations With God*, or settle for a creator wringing her hands on the edge of creation like *The Shack*. Instead, the conversation integrates our responsibility to each other, with our responsibility to God. At this point it becomes very clear that *An Interview With God* has believers, not seekers in its sights. Paul struggles with why his lifelong "faith" has not prevented him from coming to his current crisis. God tells Paul that his faith has to be more than intellectual assent. It must work its way out into his life.

The church-going "faith" that inspires self-confidence and divine criticism, does not inspire *An Interview With God*. Real faith trusts God to be God. It is a process that daily dedicates itself to depending on him – then moves outward to demonstrating his character to the world. You might think *An Interview With God* is meant for an unbelieving world, but I believe it has more to say to uninspired Christians, because it ultimately offers the same observation the Apostle James does: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:26) NKJV. ●

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

🐦 Brian Peddle

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

f Peter Hobbs

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

📷 Belinda Spicer



O1.

GREG SHERIDAN

GOD IS GOOD FOR YOU

Review: Associate Professor Glen O'Brien



AS A WORK OF POPULAR apologetics, Greg Sheridan's *God is Good For You* has much to commend it. Written in a clear, lucid style, as one might expect from a seasoned journalist, it sets out the

argument that the decline of Christianity in Australian society is having a negative impact on our social capital.

The book attempts to do what apologists like C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton have done in bringing some theological reflection to a non-specialist audience, though without the same degree of intellectual weight. In one sense it's a reply to the New Atheists like Richard Dawkins who write for a popular audience to argue that religion is a very, very bad thing for human beings. Sheridan is fair-minded in his dismissal of this approach and manages not to come across sounding dogmatic.

The first part of the book argues for the values that Christian faith has brought to society. Believing in God is entirely rational and it is atheism that is odd and intellectually indefensible. Widely held modern values such as human rights, feminism, social justice, and secularism are seen to have their origins in Christianity. Sheridan is not unaware of the problem of evil and of the Church's chequered past, but does not see these as obstacles to faith.

The Old Testament, popularly dismissed as primitive, violent, and inhumane, is recommended by Sheridan as a book rich in sublime stories that embody the best and worst of human behaviour yet is a work of genius that is "infinitely

rewarding" to the reader. The second part of the book takes the form of testimony. Over several chapters Australian politicians are interviewed (somewhat reluctantly) about their faith. Two later chapters recount the lives of church leaders who have impressed Sheridan.

While noting (and perhaps at times overstating) the marginalisation of Christian faith in Australian society, Sheridan also looks for signs of new life. He is impressed by the youthfulness, energy, and sheer size of Pentecostal churches such as Planetshakers, but also notes the smaller scale and persistent attraction to ancient monastic life among contemporary Australian Benedictines and Cistercians.

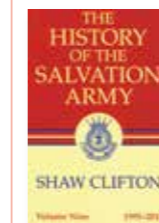
He closes with a description of the positive benefits of the minority status the churches now find themselves holding in Australian society and argues that Christians should keep telling their truth with boldness, kindness, and intelligence. That seems like good advice to me.

God is Good For You is available online and at most bookstores.

O2.

SHAW CLIFTON

THE HISTORY OF THE SALVATION ARMY VOLUME NINE



DURING THE LAUNCH OF *The History of The Salvation Army Volume Nine 1995-2015* the author, General Shaw Clifton (Rtd), spoke passionately about the process of distilling 20 years of Army history

into the new book, and about the effect so many inspiring stories of Salvation Army ministry had on him.

The project to compile the ninth volume of The Salvation Army's official history began

nearly three years ago, at the initiative of former International Headquarters Communications Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel John Murray. Commenting on his research for the book, General Clifton observed that during the 20 years in review, The Salvation Army "opened fire" in 24 new countries.

"The Army I found ... was the Army I have always known and admired, made up of ordinary but Holy Spirit-filled people. I found Salvationists full of belief in God's grace and keen to work for him ... I found Salvation Army soldiers and officers, of all stations and ranks, with loving, caring hearts and showing compassion in action."

The History of The Salvation Army Volume Nine 1995-2015 is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018), Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and as an e-book on Amazon and Kobo.

O3.

PHIL NEEDHAM

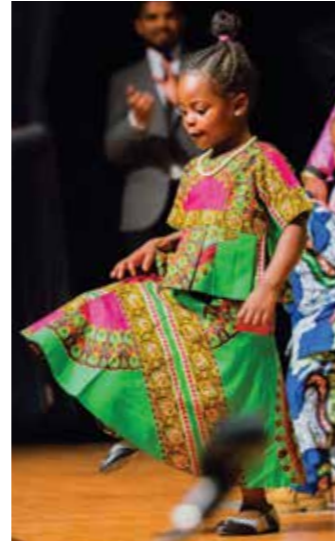
CHRIST AT THE DOOR



IN *CHRIST AT THE DOOR*, Commissioner Phil Needham attacks the status quo, encouraging us to radically change our approach to ministry and service. His passion for seeking and saving the lost

calls us back to our bottom line; making converts who are sanctified, radical followers of Jesus Christ.

This book is a must read for anyone looking to increase their commitment to their charge as a Salvationist. *Christ At The Door* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209), and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



^ The Gathering conference held in Sydney featured all the colour and excitement that is usually associated with multicultural events. More than 500 people took part over three days. Photos: Carolyn Hide

Hundreds gather to celebrate cultural diversity

THE SALVATION ARMY'S FIRST large-scale conference in Australia to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism drew more than 500 people to The Gathering in Sydney.

Nearly 80 people from all over Australia attended sessions at Newington College, Stanmore, on Saturday 22 September to learn about and honour the rich cultural tapestry of Australia's ever-changing missional landscape.

A praise and worship service was held at the college on Saturday night, attracting almost 500 people from an array of cultures, followed by an All Nations Church Service on the Sunday morning at Auburn Salvation Army.

The weekend's theme was based on Revelation 7:9, "A vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb".

"The Gathering was a little taste of heaven on earth," said Captain Ashish Pawar, Corps Officer at Doonside, Sydney. "It was very special and powerful to see so many different nationalities coming together to worship Jesus."

Starting with a prayer night on Friday at Auburn Salvos, attendees were treated to a weekend of cultural enlightenment, engagement workshops, multicultural cuisine and heart-felt worship.

Speakers including theology expert Dr. Sam Chan and Senior Pastor Mathew Kuruvilla, of Baptist Parkside Church, offered guidance and introspection on issues ranging from how to build and nurture a multicultural church through to ministering to refugees and asylum seekers.

The Saturday night celebration was an enthusiastic time of worship and vibrant colour, due to the many faith expressions and array of cultures represented. These included Australian Indigenous, Filipino, Indian, Nepalese, Korean, Chinese, Iranian, Burundi, and the combined African Nations Choir, who all came together to lift up the name of Jesus.

"The Sunday morning service was held back at Auburn Salvos and really picked up where the Saturday night finished," said Adrian Kistan, The Salvation Army Multicultural Ministries Director, who organised The Gathering.

"It was a full house at Auburn. We featured worship from the Nepalese church, prayer in numerous languages from around the globe and Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas gave a powerful message that challenged all to leave what is behind and to keep firing the arrows into the future according to God's divine purpose for our lives. There was a great atmosphere of praise and response to the Holy Spirit."

— Lauren Stevens

Ride for Homelessness crosses fundraising line

A CROWD OF ENTHUSIASTIC supporters welcomed a team of tired but elated riders who pedalled into The Salvation Army Brisbane Streetlevel Mission, after riding all week from Sydney to raise funds for those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

"Everyone needs a place to call home – that is what this ride was all about," said Paul Maunder, Team Leader at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission, who was part of the Ride for Homelessness.

The group, passionate about "doing something significant" for homelessness, had set a fundraising target of \$100,000, which, thanks to generous donations and sponsors, they have exceeded.

The money raised will go towards street swags for those sleeping rough on the streets, training courses for people experiencing homelessness on their journey to independent



^ The group is greeted by supporters as it rides through the streets of Brisbane at the end of the 1060km fundraising journey from Sydney.

living to support them and equip them with skills and resources, and faith-based housing – supporting people to move to their own rental accommodation, support them in that, and help underwrite their tenancies.

"An ordinary bunch of guys have achieved an amazing fundraising effort and completed a physical challenge that many of us thought almost impossible and at times felt we could not go on," said a rider, Guy Drake.

"None of us are elite cyclists, and most of us over 50, some over 60, have done 1060km in nine days straight on our bikes in trying conditions.

"The money raised at this time appears to be in excess of \$120,000. Not bad I reckon for a small team of bike riders on a private mission to do something worthwhile for others."

Major Bryce Davies, The Salvation Army Communities of Hope Coordinator, served on

the support crew and said it was a real team effort.

"The camaraderie and teamwork made the difference between the riders all making it or not," he said.

Major Davies explained how the riders were "blown away" by how they were welcomed, loved and cared for both along the route and at every Salvation Army corps and centre where they stayed.

— Simone Worthing

Bankstown choir lets God's voice be heard

MEIJUAN YANG WANTED to learn English and likes to sing, so when she heard about Bankstown Salvation Army's LETS Choir, she was delighted.

LETS stands for "Learn English Through Singing", but it is the opportunity to explore faith and build relationships that keeps many choir members coming along to the corps in Sydney's south-west.

"I can be part of a community

doing something I enjoy," said Meijuan, who recently became a senior soldier. "I have learned a lot through hymns, Bible stories, and sharing conversations with others. And I have experienced many positive changes in the lives of both myself and my daughter."

Bankstown Corps Officer, Lieutenant Frank Wang, said the choir was formed about two years ago out of a desire of a number of corps folk who wanted to help others. One of them was a piano player and suggested a choir.

"We thought we could help our community by teaching people English through song," Lieut Wang said. "[Being part of a] choir gives people a sense of

community and singing is very beneficial for health, for mental health and physical health."

After advertising on social media, the choir began a few months before Christmas 2016, with *Silent Night* the first song learned. Yang Greenaway, a professional vocal teacher who soldiers at Springwood Corps in the Blue Mountains, travels to Bankstown every week to conduct the choir.

Other volunteers, Hermen Kung and Raymond Tang, teach English using the *Simple English Bible* as the textbook. The pianist is Winnie Kung while Mary Jin and Susan Gong also assist on a voluntary basis.



^ The Bankstown Corps LETS Choir with Lieutenants Frank Wang and Belinda Zhou (centre).

Bankstown LETS Choir performs a number of times during the year at aged care centres. Earlier this year, the choir was asked to perform at the Red Shield Appeal Multicultural launch.

— Lauren Martin

Palmerston volunteer Bronwyn a 'true Kingdom builder'

VOLUNTEERING ISN'T ABOUT doing the right thing, it's about being like Jesus, according to Bronwyn Johnson, a fourth-generation Salvationist who attends Palmerston Corps in the Northern Territory.

Bronwyn volunteers for many organisations in the Palmerston area, dividing her time between The Salvation Army, the local primary school, the Red Cross, the local hospital and the scouts. She also helps out with the corps' prison transport ministry, driving the bus between the corps and prison in outer Darwin so families can visit their loved ones.

"We can be spectators and hope that others hear about

the love of Christ through our church services and others doing the preaching, or we can get involved and let them see that love in action; impacting their lives and showing practical concern for them and their families," she said.

Last month, Bronwyn was one of 16 recipients of a Seniors of Excellence NT award. She was nominated by the Mayor of Palmerston, Athina Pascoe-Bell, and was presented with the award by State Government minister Dale Wakefield at a special ceremony at the Trailer Boat Club near Fannie Bay in Darwin.

Salvation Army Regional Officer, Captain Richard Parker, Palmerston Corps



^ Bronwyn Johnson (centre) with Captain Richard Parker and Palmerston Corps Outreach Officer, Captain Katie Ryan.

Outreach Officer, Captain Katie Ryan, and Bronwyn's children and grandchildren were present at the ceremony.

Bronwyn has been a pivotal member of the Palmerston community for 40 years, and is a founding member of Palmerston Corps.

"Bronwyn is our local Kingdom builder who

champions The Salvation Army's vision through action," said Captain Ryan. "She is a woman who daily lives, loves and fights alongside others with the love of Jesus, not only in her volunteer capacity with the corps and emergency relief, but in her influence in the community. We are so proud of her."

— Jessica Morris

Christian women united in historic Canberra visit

COLONEL JULIE CAMPBELL, The Salvation Army National Advocate for Gender Equity, joined women leaders from various church denominations and Christian organisations in a historic visit to Canberra in September.

In addition to advocating for policies of justice and care for the world's poor, the cohort met with senior ministers and members of parliament from both political

parties, including some women MPs, to thank them for their public service and to encourage them to lead Australia in continuing its commitment to creating a just world.

"We even met with the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison," said Colonel Campbell.

Micah Australia Executive Director Tim Costello facilitated the coalition group, not only to bring Christian women leaders together with a unified voice, but also for talks with politicians about women in leadership.

The delegation included women from The Salvation Army, Hillsong, Baptist Church, Citipointe Church, The Grainery, and Anglican Deaconess Ministries.



^ Colonel Julie Campbell (front right) was part of a group of women leaders from a range of Christian churches and organisations who met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and other senior politicians.

"It is timely to be standing with Christian women leaders here in Canberra and speaking with one voice about our commitment to justice and care for all Australians and those in the global community who call for our support," said Colonel Campbell.

"It is so important for all Christians to be aware of issues and policy, to continue to be generous in caring for others, to be a voice for those experiencing hardship and injustice both in Australia and overseas, and to serve alongside others." — Simone Worthing

WA youth homelessness service wins major awards

THE SALVATION ARMY Crossroads West youth homelessness program won several awards at the Children, Youth and Families in WA awards night in Perth in September.

Crossroads West nominated four outstanding women for various awards: Trish Ruzsycynski and Tessa Mettam, both of Crossroads West Transitional Support Service, for Outstanding Practise; Natasha, Communities Case Manager, for the Child Protection Family Support Communities award; and Montana, who worked from Broome to Kununurra in the remote Kimberley region, for the Rising Star award.

"As a team we were thrilled when Natasha from Communities and Montana from Kununurra took out the award in their categories," said Yvonne Hunt, Crossroads West Network Director.

"Although Trish and Tess were not award winners on the night, we celebrate their ongoing commitment to both the young people of Crossroads and The Salvation Army."

For almost 30 years, The Salvation Army Crossroads West has been responding to youth homelessness in Western Australia, serving young people aged from as young as 12 to early adulthood. The service is now transitioning to focus on the 15-25 age group from July 2019.

In Perth, Crossroads West operates two medium to long-term premises for young people in care, with 14 places between the two homes.

There is also a crisis centre in Karratha, 1500km north of Perth, and Kalgoorlie, almost 600km west of the capital.

Yvonne and her team, together with other non-government organisations and



^ Guy Rees (front) and the Crossroads West Transitional Support Team, two of whom were nominated for awards in their fields.

the state Department of Communities, are focusing on the needs of marginalised and vulnerable young people who leave state care at the age of 18. This is primarily through Crossroads' Transitional Support Service, led by Guy

Rees. "It's a privilege to work with these young people – to be able to give them some sort of vision, hope to get up each day, and to see many of them move on to success," said Yvonne. — Simone Worthing

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Song for a new territory

WHEN SALVATIONISTS FROM across the nation gather in Melbourne at the end of November to celebrate the official Recognition of the Australia Territory, they'll sing a song that was inspired by the new National Vision Statement.

Singer-songwriter Luke Inglis, a sixth-generation Salvationist, said his song *Live Love Fight* is a creative expression of The Salvation Army's national vision.

"It's an anthem for every human who wants to see our world a better place and a call to arms for the Christian who will fight to see this happen by sharing the love of Jesus," he said.

"It's a song for a nation, it's for a people, it's for a purpose and it's for a time."



^ Sixth-generation Salvationist and singer-songwriter, Luke Inglis, has written an anthem called *Live Love Fight*, inspired by the new Australia Territory National Vision Statement.

On the Friday night (30 November) of the Still Others Convention and Exhibition Centre, Salvationists from across the nation will witness the launch of the new Australia Territory, conducted by General Brian Peddle. During the meeting, Luke will perform *Live Love Fight*, which he hoped will be a powerful moment.

Luke said he wrote the song in one night after he had taken his young adults through the teaching materials associated with the new National Vision Statement. Its lyrics are inspired by the vision, as well as Acts 13, which says, "This is what the Lord has commanded us, I have made you a light to the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Luke said that he was also inspired by the words of the founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth, who said: "While there is one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight, and I'll fight to the very end."

The song *Live Love Fight* is available to download and buy at iTunes, Spotify and lukeinglismusic.com

Mentoring program helping to build better lives in Port Augusta

CAPTAIN MICHAEL JOHNSON IS helping to transform the Port Augusta community in South Australia with his new mentoring program, Building Life.

The free program gives locals the opportunity to "develop and build something" with one-on-one mentoring for two hours every week. But it doesn't just give them a beautiful finished product, said Captain Johnson, the Corps Officer, it builds their self-esteem and awareness of God, too.

"We see the potential in all people and want to encourage them to seek a quality of life and skills they don't have," he said.

"It makes them feel empowered. They think 'I am of worth. I can build something'. Along the way we just do life and communicate the love of God. Sometimes through words, other times solely in action."

The four-week program was forged out of Captain Johnson's passion for reaching people in isolated communities, something he saw first-hand during his previous appointment in Alice Springs.

"It started as a passion for woodwork and Building Life became a project to attract people," he explained.

"We have many people with

a lonely disposition, who feel like they don't belong. They're referred to this program through internal programs, other agencies, and we also partner with the local high school so kids who struggle can participate.

"Building Life increases their worth of life because they built something from scratch that they designed and completed from start to finish. Their self-esteem goes through the roof."

So far, eight participants have gone through the program with a 100 per cent completion rate. To top it off, all participants have signed up for another round of mentoring,

showing just how powerful this hands-on approach to mentoring is.

Building Life, which is run out of a tiny shed on site at the corps, so far remains free for participants, with the local Rotary club donating \$3000 and community members also financially backing the cause.

"We want more mentors who have building skills, can operate big machinery and who have a heart for Jesus," said Captain Johnson.

If you would like to support Building Life, contact Captain Johnson at michael.johnson@aus.salvationarmy.org

Exhibition to feature the art of laughter

FOR MANY, THE PROCESS OF healing can be measured by the return of laughter. This will be the theme for the fifth annual Jayne Wilson Memorial Arts Competition and Exhibition.

The First Floor Program operated by Wollongong Salvation Army is calling for entries in any artistic medium,

with prizes in open, youth and children's categories.

Jayne established the First Floor Program for families impacted by substance use, mental health issues and suicide, in 1996. Sadly, she passed away on Christmas Day 2013, from cancer.

In order to celebrate Jayne's service to the local community, the annual art competition and exhibition was established in her honour.

"We wanted to involve the community in honouring Jayne's legacy; she loved art and used

it frequently in our support groups and programs, so this was a way we could combine these elements and celebrate her passion for family, recovery and hospitality," says Marilyn Dunn, coordinator of the First Floor Program.

The exhibition, which now features works from all over Australia, is organised in conjunction with the Wilson family, who will judge the winning competition entry in the Wilson Family Award – for the work that best represents Jayne.

This year's exhibition will also feature a collection of new work by Wollongong artist Gennifer Anderson, who won the Wilson Family Prize in 2017.

Entry forms must be submitted by 7 January 2019. The exhibition will be held at Wollongong Corps from 18-29 January 2019.

For further details about the event or to download an entry form, go to firstfloorprogram.org.au/art-exhibition/ or call the First Floor Program on 02 4229 1079

– Maris Depers



^ (Top) The Australian contingent that travelled by ship to England for the 1956 Corps Cadet Congress.

(Above) The group of 15 that attended the reunion at Collaroy to celebrate the 1956 International Corps Cadet Congress.

Reunion reflects on 'life-changing' congress

A GROUP OF SALVATIONISTS from Australia and the United States held a reunion in Sydney recently to celebrate 62 years since they attended The Salvation Army's first international Corps Cadet Congress in London.

Fifteen Salvationists from Australia and the US reunited at The Collaroy Centre over the weekend of 6-7 October, to reminisce about the 13 days in July 1956 when they attended the congress, which was called by General Wilfred Kitching.

"Most of us met on the six-week voyage on the S.S. Otranto on our way to the congress in London," said Errol Duck-Chong. "For many it was a life-changing experience."

The voyage literally opened a new world for the delegates, encompassing Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Colombo (Sri Lanka), Egypt, the Suez Canal, Naples (Italy), and Marseille (France) before arriving at its final destination in Southampton, England.

Of the 46 original delegates, the 15 at the reunion reflected on the congress theme, "For Christ and Duty". Major Brian Watters led the reunion service, and Major Neil Saunders (USA) provided the message.

The reunion culminated at Sydney Congress Hall with the group attending an "Old Time Salvation Army Service" – a timely celebration of Salvation Army history for the close-knit group, which featured a live musical on the beginning of The Salvation Army in Australia in 1880, focusing on the pioneering work of Edward Saunders and John Gore.

Two descendants of these forebears were present over the weekend – Majors Saunders (Saunders) and Margaret Watters (Gore) – showing how rich Army heritage ran through the group.

"There was plenty of nostalgia during the weekend and gratitude to God!" said Errol.

– Jessica Morris



^ Gawler Corps was officially opened on Saturday 6 October. From left: Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Major Darren Cox (Corps Officer), Commissioner Tracey Tidd, and ribbon-cutters Abby Smyth and Joy Cameron.

National leaders open new facility in Gawler

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND Tracey Tidd, national leaders of The Salvation Army in Australia, officially opened and dedicated the Army's new Gawler East facility on Saturday 6 October.

Other special guests included Major Clint Castley (South Australia and Northern Territory Divisional Secretary), Karen Redman (Mayor of Gawler), Tony Piccolo (State Member for Labor), John

Dawkins (Liberal MP), as well as ministers from local churches, corps families, and people from the local community. About 220 people attended the opening, and more than 100

worshippers were at the Sunday morning meeting.

The new facility is located on the banks of the North Parra River, 52km north-west of Adelaide. It features a worship area, children's play area, a sensory room, space for emergency relief work, a café, and bush garden.

Since July 2016, the Gawler Salvation Army had operated out of temporary premises in Gawler's Warren St, after relocating from its long-standing site on Murray St.

"The new facilities will allow The Salvation Army to expand its services and better serve the community once the site is operational," said Major Darren Cox, Gawler Corps Officer.

"This will include hospitality training, financial counselling and employment training. Our first brief, though, is to grow the church. We are mission-orientated and want our people to drive that."

– Simone Worthing

Loverings at heart of drought assistance

EXPERIENCING A CRIPPLING drought in their first appointment as Salvation Army officers has been a "baptism of fire" for Lieutenants Cameron and Maryanne Lovering, who were assigned to lead the Forbes-Parkes region earlier this year.

The region is in the heart of Central West NSW, which is suffering the effects of a long and sustained drought, and the Loverings are making sure The Salvation Army is a visible presence as relief efforts try to ease the burden on local farmers.

The Loverings have been working alongside various other community organisations and local businesses to distribute drought assistance and donations.

In August the corps received a donation of 33 tonnes of food from Mars Food, including non-perishable food items and pet food.

"It was all free and gives people who are struggling the essentials they need for family meals," said Lieut Cameron. "All they need is meat and vegetables."

Corps members are also working to distribute donations and assistance through its Family Stores in Parkes and Forbes.

The Salvation Army Community Fundraising Director, Andrew Hill, said



^ Lieutenants Cameron and Maryanne Lovering are working with other local organisations to assist people affected by the drought.

\$273,600 in assistance was provided to 110 farmers in the first 10 days of September alone, 94 per cent of which was by way of EFT payments.

"This is something that we believe gives families the respect, dignity and autonomy to make their own financial decisions based on their individual needs," said Andrew.

"It also allows families to spend money in their local community, supporting their local businesses in the towns also feeling the affects of this drought."

To support families affected by the drought, you can make a donation at: salvos.org.au/drought
– Lauren Martin

Enrolments

MILDURA CORPUS
VIC



CORPUS OFFICERS MAJOR BELINDA AND Captain David Davis recently enrolled Meliki Pickering (left) and Denise (Necy) Wilson as senior soldiers, and accepted Brad Andrews as an adherent.

TOWNSVILLE FAITHWORKS CORPUS
QLD



CORPUS OFFICER LIEUTENANT PERRY Lithgow, enrolled Lacey Elliott and re-enrolled Bethany Sheldrick as junior soldiers on Sunday 14 October. Pictured are Lieut Lithgow, Lieut Bronwyn Lithgow (Big Bud for Bethany), Bethany, Lacey, and Josie Scott (Big Bud for Lacey)

TUGGERAH LAKES CORPUS
NSW



CAPTAINS WILLIAM AND SUSANNE Geracia recently enrolled four junior soldiers (pictured left to right with their prayer pals), Tamsyn, Kiana, Riley, and Crosby.

GREATER LIVERPOOL CORPUS
NSW



CORPUS LEADERS JOEL AND KIANNA Spicer enrolled five new senior soldiers at Greater Liverpool on Sunday 23 September. Pictured are (from left) Wendy Cocks, Lizelda Reynolds, Mark Beecham, and Nicole and Anthony Bezzina, with the flagbearer John Keegan.

NOOSA/COOLUM CORPUS
QLD



CADET STEPHANIE SAVAGE, ASSISTANT to the Corps Officer, enrolled Chloe Charles (above right) as a senior soldier on Sunday 23 September.

CITY SALVOS ADELAIDE CORPUS
SA



CORPUS OFFICER, MAJOR SUSAN WALLACE, enrolled Renae Phillips as a senior soldier on Sunday 14 October. Pictured (from left) are Major Wallace, Renae, and her young adults leader Rachel Brinkley.



^ The Salvation Army is providing care to people outside its Woodward Hospital, who are simply receiving treatment on the streets.

Soldiering on amid tragedy in Indonesia

FOURTEEN SALVATIONISTS are among more than 2000 confirmed dead, and another four are among thousands still missing, in the tragic aftermath of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi on Friday 28 September.

It is expected that these numbers will increase as more rural and remote areas continue to be accessed.

Twenty-four corps and two Salvation Army-run schools were destroyed or severely damaged in the 7.7-magnitude that hit Central Sulawesi.

The Salvation Army Woodward Hospital, in the hardest-hit city of Palu, had to be evacuated due to quake damage, with temporary repairs keeping it operational.

More than 350 patients have been treated at the hospital and a further 545 by the outreach medical teams.

“Many sad stories have been shared,” said Australian officer, Commissioner Peter Walker, Indonesia Territorial Commander.

“We should all be very proud of the way Salvationists in this area have put aside their personal situations and concerns to reach out to their neighbours and others to provide comfort and support.

“They continue to seek God’s hand even in these extreme situations.”

Lieutenant Colonel Yusak Tampai, Indonesia Territory Chief Secretary, visited his devastated hometown of Palu a week after the earthquake, to help local teams make a detailed needs assessment and assist in coordinating The Salvation Army’s disaster response.

He shared his emotional reaction to the scenes of devastation he found there.

“I was crying,” he said. “I had a few family members who were missing, but eventually they were found – some who were injured as well. But seeing my hometown destroyed is very, very sad. Seeing my people being strong is, though, encouraging.”

Describing the courage and determination of local Salvationists and volunteers,



^ One of the many Salvation Army properties damaged during the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

Lieut-Colonel Tampai commended the “high spirit”, particularly of young people who went out in challenging conditions, and on foot, to search for people reported as missing.

Lieut-Colonel Tampai said the emergency phase of The Salvation Army’s response in Palu is expected to continue until at least the end of this month.

A significant aspect of this will be to provide pastoral and

emotional support to victims and their families.

Asked how people around the world can help The Salvation Army’s response in Palu, Lieut-Colonel Tampai responded: “Prayers would be the first. Secondly, please, please give your donations and we will greatly appreciate it.”

Donations can be made through the Australian fundraising site at salvos.org.au/indonesia

Army supports UN International Day of the Girl

THE SALVATION ARMY International Social Justice Commission raised awareness of the United Nations International Day of the Girl on 11 October, through an arts showcase featuring creations from girls around the world.

The art included paintings, drawings, poetry, songs and video, depicting the unique role girls play in the world.

The main aims of this UN day are to promote girls’ empowerment and fulfilment of their human rights while also highlighting the challenges that girls face all over the world.

International Theological Council meets in Hong Kong

THE SALVATION ARMY International Theological Council held its latest meeting in Hong Kong, where it took part in the launch of the Chinese translations of *The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine* and *Doctrine for Today* publications.

The translations are available for Salvationists and their ministry in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China, and also for Chinese corps and Salvationists worldwide.

The purpose of the council is to serve the General and the global Army by being faithful custodians of Army doctrinal positions, whether those positions are to be found in the 11 Articles of Faith, in official publications, or in formal statements approved by the General.



^ General Brian Peddle kneels to pray with junior soldiers at the corps in Kuwait.

General visits Middle East for 10-year anniversary

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, World President of Women’s Ministries, recently visited Kuwait in the Middle East to celebrate 10 years of The Salvation Army’s presence and

ministry in the region.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and United Emirates make up the Middle East Region the Army serves, led by regional leaders Majors Stewart and Heather Grinstead.

“The Salvation Army has a unique ministry in the region which reflects the best of the Army as it embraces people from many nations while responding to human need in the name of Christ,” said General Peddle.

Arizona corps ‘doing the roast good’

BUILDING RAPPORT WITH THE thousands of Arizona State University students by providing a safe place for them to recharge themselves, their laptops, and even grab a sandwich is the main focus of 1865 Coffee – a cosy shop operated by the Tempe Corps Community Centre in Arizona.

The shop even sells promotional T-shirts and coffee cups with the logo, “Doing the Roast Good”, a play on The Salvation Army’s mission in the United States of “Doing the Most Good”.



^ The Tempe Corps in Arizona is building relationships with students by providing a safe place to belong, food for thought and good coffee, while at the same time raising funds for other ministry.

Through the coffee shop, the corps also runs Psalm 34 Ministries that provides both physical and spiritual nourishment for students, those

experiencing homelessness, and others who attend. Proceeds from the coffee shop benefit the local Adult Rehabilitation Centre program.

LEN BETTERMAN



LEONARD NORMAN BETTERMAN was promoted to glory on 23 August 2018 in Kadina, South Australia, aged 94. Captain Karen Armstrong conducted the memorial service at Copper Coast Corps, with tributes from Len's daughter Carol, Major Kevin Grant (former Copper Coast corps officer), Darryl Rowley (corps tribute), and Jeannie Feuerherdt (RSL tribute).

Len was born on 19 March 1924, to Norman and Pearl Betterman. He grew up in Kapunda, and later moved to Kadina. After leaving school Len took up a trade and became a plumber. During World War Two he joined the Air Force and was sent to Darwin.

In 1947, Len married Audrey (dec) and they had four children; Lorraine (dec), Coral, Leonard (dec) and David. Later in life he met and married Glenda (dec). Len loved his family and they all have wonderful memories of a fun-loving dad who liked to play jokes.

Len had a love for life and as a young boy accepted Jesus Christ into his life. He attended The Salvation Army and eventually became a senior soldier. Not long after Len became a soldier he was asked to become the corps sergeant major, a position he held for 50 years.

In retirement, Len was still a active member of The Salvation Army and right to the end he enjoyed writing in the history book for the Copper Coast Corps. Later in life he developed a passion for inventing, and enjoyed building spitfire

planes. He also built model airplanes for each of his grandchildren.

Len passed away peacefully and went to be in the arms of Jesus Christ his Saviour.

BRIAN GOLDING



MAJOR BRIAN GOLDING WAS promoted to glory from his home in Mont Albert,

Victoria, on 30 September, aged 84. A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Major Golding was held on 4 October at Camberwell Salvation Army, conducted by Major Brian Pratt.

Brian was born to Ray and Inez Golding in Western Australia, the second of three children who grew up at the Leederville Corps. Brian committed his life to following Jesus as a young boy and lived out this commitment as he served at the corps.

Having undertaken his schooling at Leederville Technical College, Brian became a joiner, carpenter and a builder, starting his apprenticeship at the original Bunnings in Perth. He also worked at Alco as a sales representative.

Brian married Evelyn Sedgman in April 1956 and they were blessed with the birth of two daughters, Lynette and Julie, before departing for The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne to join the *Heroes of the Faith* session in 1963. During their time in training, son Peter was born.

Upon their commissioning, Lieutenants Brian and Evelyn were appointed as the corps officers at Glenroy Corps, where

their fourth child Graeme was born, followed by an appointment to Footscray Corps. After a three-year appointment in the Public Relations Department at Territorial Headquarters (THQ), Brian was appointed as the public relations campaign director in South Australia.

In 1977, the family returned to Western Australia as corps officers at Morley Corps and then Perth Fortress Corps. After five years in "the West", Captains Brian and Evelyn returned to THQ, with Brian's appointment as the territorial youth and candidates secretary. A return to corps officership involved the Goldings returning to South Australia as the officers of Adelaide Congress Hall, before moving to Western Victoria as the divisional commander. Brian's final two appointments were as the director – program for growth and the director – planned maintenance. Majors Brian and Evelyn Golding retired from active service on 11 July 1999.

In their retirement, Brian and Evelyn soldiered at Camberwell where, over the years, Brian took on responsibility for the Red Shield Appeal, answered phone calls and made appointments for emergency relief clients and sang in the songster brigade. He also loved to greet and welcome people to worship on Sunday mornings.

Brian was very proud of his family, including his four children and their spouses, his eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was known as a joyful and devoted officer whose ability to connect with people had a wonderful impact on his ministry in Jesus' name. A truly gentle man.

About people

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 15 October 2018

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Belinda **Dobbie**, Assistant Corps Officer, Cairns Corps, Queensland Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant David **Dobbie**, Assistant Corps Officer, Cairns Corps, Queensland Division.

Effective 22 October 2018

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Matt **Cairns**, Corps Officer, Rockdale Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Renata **Davies**, Corps Officer, Rockdale Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant John **Collinson**, Corps Officer, Geelong Corps, Victoria Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Lisa **Wynne**, Associate Corps Officer, Ringwood Corps, Victoria Division.

Effective 1 December 2018

Major David **McMurray**, Public Relations Secretary, ACT/South NSW, Office of the Secretary for Communications.

Effective 9 January 2019

Major Tracey **English**, Chaplaincy Trainer, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel and Team Leader/Senior Chaplain for the Courts and Prison Chaplains (Victoria), Community Engagement Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (concurrent appointments).

ACCEPTED CANDIDATES

The following people have been accepted as cadets in the *Messengers of Grace* session 2019-2020:

- Bethany **Baillie** - Eastern Beaches Corps NSW/ACT.
- Benjamin **Baillie** - Eastern Beaches Corps NSW/ACT.
- Daniel **Jang** - Belmore Corps NSW/ACT.
- Anna **Kim** - Belmore Corps NSW/ACT.

The following people have been accepted to serve as Auxiliary-Lieutenants:

- John **Collinson** - Geelong Corps VIC.
- Belinda **Dobbie** - Bundamba Corps QLD.
- David **Dobbie** - Bundamba Corps QLD.

- Matt **Cairns** - Rockdale Corps NSW/ACT.
- Renata **Davies** - Rockdale Corps NSW/ACT.
- Esther **Atkins** - Reservoir Corps VIC.
- Matt **Atkins** - Reservoir Corps VIC.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Yvonne **Slade**, on 19 September; Major Brian **Golding**, on 30 September; Lieut-Colonel Carl **Schmidtke**, on 4 October.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Eva **Hill** and Major Thelma **Fischle**, of their brother, Arthur Fitness, on 27 September.

RETIREMENT

Majors Russell and June **Grice**, on 31 December 2018.

Engagement calendar

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD (NATIONAL LEADERS)

- Sydney Sat 3-Sun 4 Nov - Commissioning and Covenant of Enviys Randall and Glenda Brown, Chatswood Corps.
- Melbourne Mon 5 Nov - World Mission Fellowship group gathering, Inala Village, Blackburn South.
- Brisbane Fri 16 Nov - Christmas gathering, Qld Retired Officer's Fellowship, North Brisbane Corps.
- Melbourne Tues 27-Mon 3 Dec - Still Others.

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

- Melbourne Tues 27-Mon 3 Dec - Still Others.
- Sydney Thur 1 Nov - Leadership lecture, Eva Burrows College Sydney (Mark only).
- Coffs Harbour Sat 10 Nov - Retirement Service of Majors June and Russell Grice.
- Newcastle Mon 12 Nov - Retired Officers Fellowship North NSW.
- Dooralong Wed 14 Nov - Dooralong Chapel, Dooralong Transformation Centre.
- NSW Sat 24 Nov - NSW divisional event.
- Queensland Sun 25 Nov - Qld divisional event.
- Melbourne Tues 27 Nov-Mon 3 Dec - Still Others.

WORDS
LUKE

Jesus driving me to become a better person.

I'VE BEEN IN ADDICTION CLOSE TO 17 years. I grew up in a really good family. I waterskied, and we had things in life that a lot of kids don't have. I'm not sure what started my (marijuana) use. I think I was always a bit attracted to the "wild" kids. I remember my mum saying you shouldn't hang around this person or that person, they are a bad influence – and she was right.

My drug-taking started recreationally on weekends. I enjoyed it, but soon you find you can't go a day without it. For me, marijuana was definitely the "gateway drug". I honestly believe if I had not started I wouldn't have gone to other, much heavier drugs.

I did a trade, but the more money I earned, the more I had to spend on drugs and (increasingly) distanced myself from family and friends. When I was taking drugs I didn't care if I was hurting my family. Drugs became my only priority in life. I didn't care about anything else. It was frightening.

Early in addiction I did my first rehab – just a week – and stayed clean for about three years. Then my relationship broke down and I went straight back into drug use, probably as a way to deal with my feelings.

Last year, I ended up in trouble with the law and went on the "merit program", and through that entered The Salvation Army Dooralong Transformation Centre on the NSW Central Coast. I completed the mandatory three months, but I have stayed on and plan to be here for the full 10-month program.

Dooralong definitely has something that other rehabs don't, and that's the spiritual side. Before then, I'd had no Christian/church background except going to church with my nan, when I was about six. As a grew older, I became the guy standing across the road, looking at all the families going into church and wanting a piece of that, but never actually going in through the doors.

The first chapel at Dooralong was an eye-opener, seeing people singing and worshipping. I was the participant sitting at the back. These days I am front row – hands in the air. I'd done a lot of things in my recovery trying to find a higher power and nothing had worked for me. But being open to Jesus is now what's driving me to become a better person.

☞ Luke is completing a 10-month recovery program at The Salvation Army Dooralong Transformation Centre.

I also go to Northlakes Salvos. It's a great church and I love worshipping to the Christian rock. That's where I feel closest to God – through that worship. We also do a lot of courses including a healthy relationships course and look closely at our own issues through the program.

My family has seen a change. Today I have a really close relationship with my mum and step-dad. Mum stood by me all the way and she is still my rock. My dream for the future is to retrain now to do something that really helps others. I recently went home for my three-year-old son's birthday and just being able to be present and get down on the floor, play games with him, was just beautiful. That was a natural high!

I am trying to be a better man, a better father, a better son and better partner – for my family. I believe God's got a plan for me and I am where I am meant to be. This time last year I was living in my car in addiction, weighing only 48kg and in trouble with the law. The man I am today is completely different to that man. ●

Based on an interview with Rhema Central Coast 94.9FM radio

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