

■ CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

General Brian Peddle says hope found in relationship with God

■ FEATURE

Christmas kettle experience leads Raewyn to new faith

■ OPINION

Dean Pallant asks if human rights will survive 21st century

■ SALVATION STORY

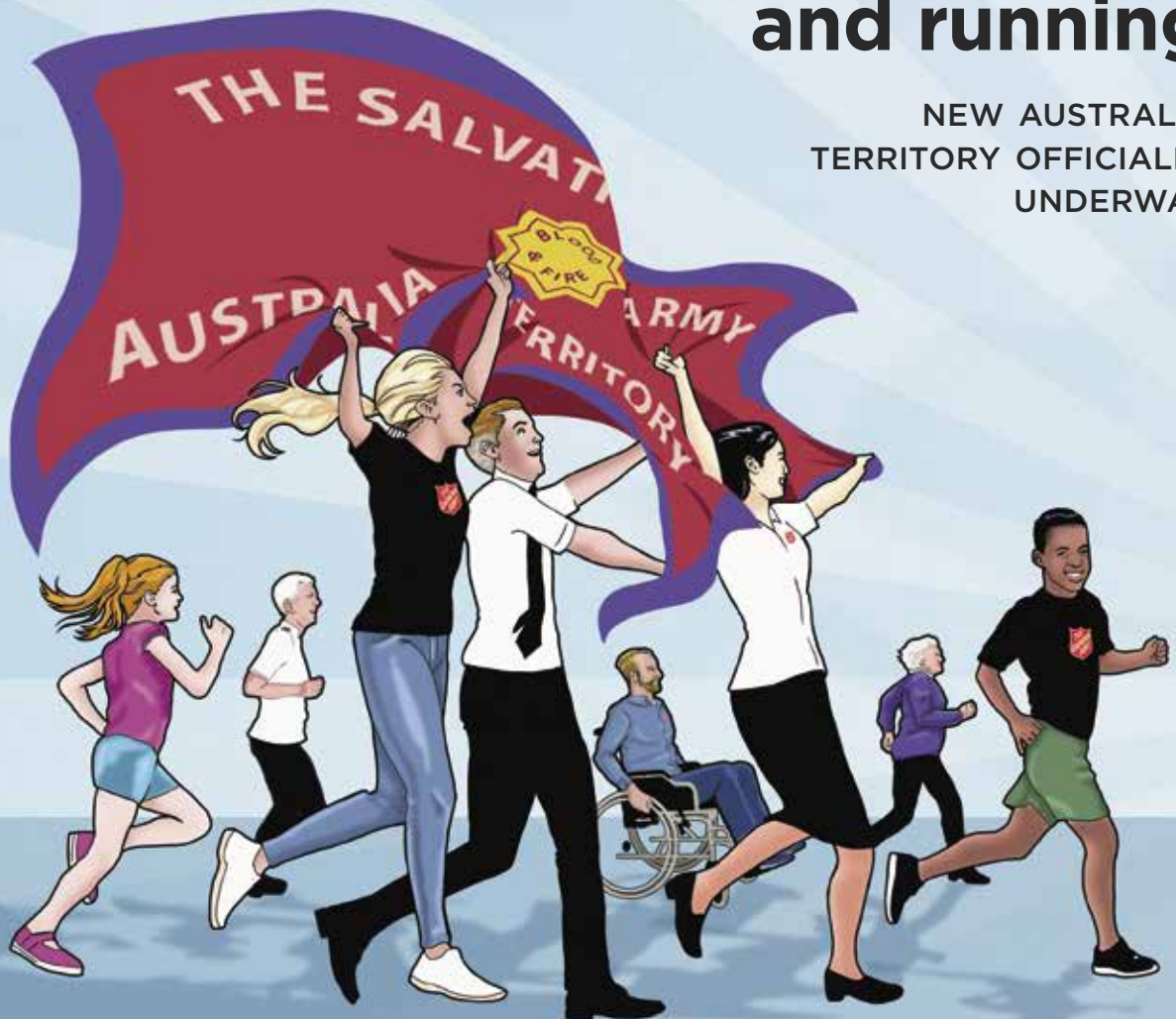
'I gave my heart to Jesus that day and never looked back!'

others

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DECEMBER
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Celebrating the true light of the world.

SCOTT SIMPSON | ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION HERE in Australia – and, indeed, around the world – is to illuminate the night with lights. Whole streets of houses, shopping malls, businesses and even churches all get into the festive spirit by lighting up their premises in a burst of vibrant colour.

And, of course, there's the joyous experience – especially if young children are involved – of decorating the Christmas tree, then turning out all the other lights in the room to enjoy the twinkling effect.

This tradition is well suited to the reason why we, as Christians, celebrate the season. The Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ was born, light came into the world (John 3:19). In fact, on more than 200 occasions in the Bible, God is described as light.

When we celebrate Christmas, what we are doing is remembering that phenomenal day in history when Jesus stepped from heaven to earth. In doing so he brought with him the light that drives out the darkness in our hearts.

Christ came to earth to offer us the greatest gift ever – the gift of life and light. In the Bible, Jesus says of himself, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

In this issue of *Others*, we meet a woman who has experienced this "light" in her life, thanks to the faithful witness of a Salvation Army Christmas kettle collector outside a supermarket.

Raewyn Hargraves always felt there was something more to life but was never quite able to identify just what that "more" was. That encounter with the Christmas kettle led her on a journey of discovery, which has included a new faith in Christ and a decision to pursue Salvation Army soldiery.

Over the past 18 months, Raewyn has now been on the other side of that kettle, collecting for The Salvation Army at the same supermarket last Christmas and at Red Shield Appeal times. "It's the best two hours a girl can spend having fun and engaging with the community," she says.

Suddenly, for her, Christmas has become so much more than simply decorations on a tree, the giving and receiving of cards and gifts, and some big fat guy with a bushy white beard dressed up in a silly red suit (apologies to any of our readers under 10).

Now, Raewyn – just as we all have the wonderful opportunity to do – can celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World" and the forgiveness of sin that can only be found in him. Her life has been illuminated by the radiant presence of God.

May you all have a merry, Christ-centred Christmas this year. •

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.





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A Salvation Army Christmas kettle experience has led Raewyn Hargraves to faith in Christ. Photo: Lena Pobjie



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

o Belinda Spicer



Saved and sent.

Christmas would not have happened but for God's decision to 'send'

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

As a young child growing up in a northern Canada town, the daily walk to the local post office to retrieve the mail was an exciting event. Bundled up in hat and scarf against the wind, wearing snowsuit pants and winter boots to trudge through the ice and snow, we would set off.

The walk to the post office in December featured an added element of excitement. The reason? It usually involved collecting gifts and cards that had arrived for Christmas. There was a sense of anticipation with each step through the snow; anticipation that someone either close to home, or often from far across the country had sent something to us.

December continues to bring a sense of anticipation today.

Into the world that first Christmas, God sent his Son, born of the virgin Mary and laid to rest in a manger in a cattle stall in Bethlehem. To a people who were waiting and watching for God to send a Messiah, the anticipating was over. He had sent the perfect gift for everyone.

Christmas would not have happened except for the choice made by God to "send". There would have been no Christmas card at the post office unless someone had taken the time and made the effort to send it. It all began with the sending. God sent because he loved: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The "sending" of Christmas continues. Jesus gave a gift to the world when he told his disciples that, "As

the Father has sent me, so I am sending you" (John 20:21). The One who was sent, now sends.

Salvationists wear on their uniforms two S's. It's a reminder that we are a "Saved to Save" people. We are well reminded from Jesus' words to his followers that we are also a "Saved and Sent" people. It is only as we choose to accept the position of being a "sent people" that we can live, love and fight alongside others sharing the love of Jesus wherever there is hardship and injustice.

This Christmas season, let us celebrate that God has sent his son Jesus and live lives that celebrate that Jesus has chosen to "send" us as the Father sent him. Let December be filled with the anticipation of being sent, for as we are sent then, as Howard Thurman, writes:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

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



South Australia and Northern Territory Division – embracing a unique opportunity.

As part of the transition to a national territory, The Salvation Army in Australia now has six divisions. Others has been profiling these divisions throughout 2018, and this month concludes the series with the South Australia and Northern Territory Division.

AMALGAMATION 2018

“From 1 January 2018, the South Australia Division was extended to include the Northern Territory Region,” explains Major Barry Casey, Divisional Commander. “What this means is that the division now covers the whole central strip of Australia and provides extreme diversity, stretching from Mt Gambier on the eastern border of Victoria to Darwin on the northern tip of the country.

“One of the challenges for us is the isolation for rural and remote expressions. This includes Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin.”

Captain Richard Parker is Regional Officer for the Northern Territory Region.

“As we look to the future we see unique opportunities for Indigenous engagement and as we set our missional plans we will be intentional in ensuring this becomes a priority for us as a division,” says Major Casey. “We must ensure we are all-inclusive as we seek to win Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

“Another priority for us is in the youth and young adult space. The division has a healthy, dedicated team of youth

and young adult leaders and we are looking to ensure we have development opportunities for them and ministry pathways that will enable them to serve in a variety of ways.”

Some of the highlights across the division include:

Riverland Corps, SA

Two years ago and without officers, the corps faced closure. The local Salvos Stores manager, Helen Adamczyk, who is a soldier of the corps, offered to step into the gap and keep the corps open.

In consultation with Matt Davis, CEO of Salvos Stores, a partnership was formed which would allow Helen to become a ministry assistant while also remaining as the store manager. Under Helen’s leadership the corps is making a huge impact on the local community and is experiencing growth.

Parafield Gardens, SA

In one of the state’s poorer postcodes, this corps is thriving. Under the visionary leadership of Captains Colin and Kylie Palstra, they now have three services a week, a community meal program, Messy Church and a thriving children’s program.

Ingle Farm, SA

Just over 12 months ago, a new Sunday evening congregation commenced under the leadership of Envoy Nathan Casey, in order to cater for young adults and young families. This new expression is drawing around 70 people, the majority of which are under the age of 35, and runs its own children’s program.

Katherine, NT

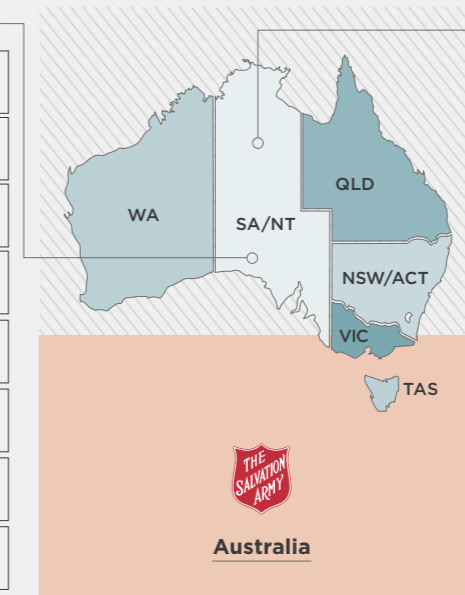
Early last year, the Katherine Salvation Army received funding through a Homelessness Innovation Grant. From this, “The Hub” was created on the site that also houses Katherine Corps and its Beacon drop-in centre.

Today, the centre sees between 80-100 people use the centre daily to have lunch, enjoy hot and cold drinks, and to use washing machines and showers. The Hub also offers case management, assistance with budgeting, life skills and a range of other services.

Under the leadership of Captains Julie Howard and Greg Howard (flying padre), The Salvation Army in Katherine has become an integral part of the town and is offering a place of community to some of the most disadvantaged people in the area. ●

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1326	Soldiers
180	Junior Soldiers
387	Adherents
67	Active Officers
80	Retired Officers
415	Employees
26	Corps
28	CSS/Social Centres



NORTHERN TERRITORY

54	Soldiers
15	Junior Soldiers
26	Adherents
12	Active Officers
3	Retired Officers
86	Employees
4	Corps
14	CSS/Social Centres

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

South Australia

South Australia holds a special place in the history of The Salvation Army. It was in Adelaide that John Gore and Edward Saunders, two Salvationists from England, met and agreed to fulfil The Salvation Army’s mission of reaching all people with the Christian message and love of God by offering material support to the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in society.

The now-famous story is of Gore and Saunders standing on the tailgate of a horse-drawn buggy in the Adelaide Botanic Park on 5 September 1880 and issuing the invitation: “If there is any man here who hasn’t had a meal today, let him come home with me.” Although there were meetings held prior to this date, it is now widely recognised that this is the day The Salvation Army in Australia was born.

Northern Territory

From 1863 to 1911, what is now the Northern Territory was part of South Australia. Interestingly, early Army open-air meetings in this region were described by onlookers as corroborees, with people standing in a circle and one-by-one coming to the centre of the ring to testify, sing or read verses of scripture.

In 1904, there was an officer holding weekly meetings at Iron Blow who would also visit Yam Creek, both goldmining settlements off the Margaret River in what is now the north-west of the Northern Territory. Nothing is known of what happened to this work.

In 1922, a party of two officers arrived to “start a branch of the Army locally”.

In August 1940, Major and Mrs Seaton,

divisional commanders from Perth, visited Darwin to look at commencing social work and call all Salvationists in the port to a meeting. In October 1940, the Seatons returned and purchased property in Smith St as a club for service personnel.

In January 1941, Adjutant Hanson and Captain Maslin joined the Seatons, and two months later The Salvation Army Red Shield Centre in Darwin was opened. Darwin Corps was commenced in 1948 by the flying padre, Vic Pedersen.

Katherine Corps opened in 1957, Alice Springs Corps in 1965 and Palmerston Corps in 1994.

– **Garth Hentzschel**

This article now ends our series that has profiled the six divisions of the new Australia Territory.

Viewpoint.

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



WORDS

DEAN PALLANT

The future of human rights.

Christians must raise their voices

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 70TH anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), signed on 10 December 1948 in Paris. This year, around the world, events have been held to mark the anniversary.

A few months ago, I was in Sao Paulo, where The Salvation Army in Brazil arranged a symposium to consider the future of human rights in the light of Christianity, migration and refugees, violence against women and human trafficking. As one of the speakers, I asked a provocative question: “Happy 70th birthday human rights – will you survive the 21st century?”

In recent years we have witnessed the rise of popularism and me-first politics. It is no longer crazy to ask if human rights is fit to be the glue that binds the world’s laws, politics and morality. Nations may want human rights for themselves and their friends, but there is declining concern for minorities and foreigners.

We are living at a time in world history where, according to Larry Cox, the former Deputy Secretary-General of Amnesty International, “increasingly interconnected global economic and social systems relentlessly and ruthlessly are creating truly obscene levels of riches, privilege and power for a tiny minority of mostly men. At the same time the income most people need to survive has stagnated or dramatically declined for decades.”

Many parts of the Christian Church have aligned with the UDHR. Pope John Paul II, when he addressed the UN General Assembly in 1979, defined it as “a true milestone on the path of humanity’s moral progress”. And in 1968, The Salvation Army published *Human Rights and The Salvation Army*.* General Frederick Coutts wrote in the foreword: “In Human Rights Year, Salvationists are identified with the high ideals of social justice and acceptance as the unchallenged right of every man as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

However, in recent years the embracing of human rights by Christians has become controversial. The Judaeo-Christian foundations on which the UDHR was built have been eroded, with one of the reasons for a crisis of confidence in those rights being the problem of how they are defined. We can no longer simply point to the 30 articles in the UDHR as the definition of human rights because, over 70 years, they have developed into a multifaceted, comprehensive way of thinking and living. Many new treaties – human rights instruments – have extended the meaning of those rights and the scope of human rights law. Human rights discourse is now viewed by some of its critics as “nothing more than individualism, secularism, and Western political imperialism in disguise” (Linda Hogan, *Keeping Faith in Human Rights*).

Despite the scepticism, I argued in my Brazil papers** that human rights needs religion to survive the 21st century. This is not the moment for Christians to give up; in fact, we must raise our voices. The future of human rights depends on people of faith promoting a richer, multilayered appreciation of what it means to be human. Christians believe every person is made in the image of God. We are integrated beings with body-soul-for-relations. We are created for a purpose that lasts into eternity.

*To mark the 70th anniversary of the UDHR, International Headquarters has published a new booklet, *Human Rights and The Salvation Army*, available for download at salvationarmy.org/isjc



**The four papers that Lieut-Colonel Pallant presented in Brazil are available for download at salvationarmy.org/isjc/braziliansymposium

With this appreciation of what it means to be human, we are better able to understand human rights as part of God’s gift to the world. An emphasis on rights and duties points to the importance of relationships for the future of human rights. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have believed that those of us with power – and that is most of you reading this – must be willing to give up some of our privileges for the benefit of the weak. This echoes *The Salvation Army Handbook Of Doctrine*: “Humanity is a special part of God’s good creation. Therefore, we must learn to value the worth of all human beings as having been made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:5). God will hold us accountable for how we live: in community, in relationship to all living creatures as well as to the whole of our natural environment. This knowledge will shape our moral choices and our stewardship of creation.”

This is the key point when we consider human rights. Relationships matter. Our choices matter. Not just our relationships with those we know but also relationships with foreigners. Understanding ourselves as relational beings helps us make better moral choices and be good stewards of creation. This commitment to live in relationship is at the heart of the covenant made by every Salvation Army soldier. Our



WORTH QUOTING.

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store? What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more?” – **Dr. Seuss (Ted Geisel)**

Soldier’s Covenant states, “I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others: my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow Salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.”

If the purpose of human rights is only to enable autonomous, rational individuals to have what they deserve, then human rights needs to die. However, if human rights can recapture a priority for the common good and use a rights-based approach grounded in relationships, then we all need to fight for human rights to flourish. ●

Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant is the Director of The Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission.

WORDS

CATRIONA MURRAY

Santa’s sinister side.

Jesus trumps god of consumerism

MY FATHER WAS SANTA CLAUS. I DIDN’T realise this until, one evening when I was about eight years old, he and my mother went out one evening “to visit friends”. Less than an hour later, I answered the door to a tall, portly gentleman, dressed in a red robe, and with a flowing white beard. His laughing green eyes gave it away – this was not Father Christmas, but mine. The costume was property of the County Hospital, where he worked and by virtue of being the only man on the staff, the festive duty fell to him each year: dispensing talc and soap to the women and aftershave to the men.

And then, years after, my future husband was Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve,

he donned the red suit and stood in front of his mother, who was suffering from advanced Alzheimer’s disease. She recognised him immediately, however. I don’t know how, but I suspect that it was the same thing again – the eyes. He had kind, brown eyes and an expression of mischief unique to himself.

Having had the great privilege of knowing and loving two Santas, I am well-placed to write a critique of the jolly fellow. His image is everywhere at this time of year and children are giddy with the excitement of meeting him. He has become the great focus of Christmas, the kindly, all-good fulfiller of wishes. If you ask Santa for something, then he will not refuse, because he is good.

I can remember what it felt like to believe in this mythical figure. It was lovely and it was magical, and there is certainly a place for that in the life of every child. But he was not always the ubiquitous figure that he has become, and I think that he has changed into something much more sinister than many of us realise.

It isn’t that once a year we positively encourage a complete stranger to enter our homes during the night, help himself to our food, before leaving without being seen. Surprisingly enough, that still seems to be an acceptable part of the Christmas narrative. No, it’s more that he has displaced the person who really gives Christmas its meaning. Gentle Jesus, meek and mild is all very well, but he doesn’t give presents, or grant wishes. He is just a nice wee adjunct to the main event, which is a frenzy of greed. Far from being the benevolent man of my childhood, Santa is now some sort of god of consumerism, granting wishes and handing over whatever goods your little ones may desire. How can Jesus hope to compare with that?

His birth was most unlike that of lesser

kings. It had none of the costly trappings of rank or display because from the very first, he was gently telling us that none of that matters. If it was of any real consequence, his would have been the richest of surroundings.

Yet, when the wise men came from the East, they brought expensive gifts. Why would a child born in such lowly circumstances require such costly and seemingly impractical gifts? They may have been mere men, but they were wise, after all, and their gifts were a recognition of who this child was. Gold was for his kingship; frankincense for his deity; and myrrh, commonly used as an embalming oil, recognised his mortality as one who was God, yet fully human. These gifts, now the background noise of “the Christmas story”, are actually a very significant part of it because they foreshadowed what this infant would be to mankind.

Last year, on the weekend before Christmas, I travelled into the city centre, which was a boiling frenzy of consumerism. People rushed about, beguiled by adverts promising the perfect Christmas Day. But it is not the presents we will open on Christmas Day, brought by the jolly man in the red suit which make Christmas perfect, however. That perfection was attained 2000 years ago, and began when a little child was offered gifts representing what he already possessed: deity, kingship, and the keys to death.

Those gifts already in his possession are now offered to us to share. We may benefit from his kingship and from his Godness, and we may accept his offer of freedom from the bonds of death. There will never be anything on Santa’s sleigh to compare with that. ●

.....
Catriona Murray blogs at posttenebrasluxweb.com
.....



WORTH
QUOTING.

“Christmas means not just hope for the world, despite all its unending problems, but hope for you and me, despite all our unending failings.” - **Tim Keller**

WORDS
JAMES READ

Political hijacking of an adjective.

Has the word ‘evangelical’ become an embarrassment?

THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS website tells the world that The Salvation Army is “an evangelical part of the universal Christian church”. That has been part of the identity statement since 1994, so it’s not new. But in the past year or so, I’ve wondered whether it’s a label we should be proud to wear.

That’s because “Evangelical” (with a capital E) seems to have taken on a new life and received a lot more attention in the media since the election of Donald Trump as United States president in 2016. Reliable polls report that more than 80 per cent of white American Evangelicals voted for him. That’s a huge bloc of supporters.

In the United States, “Evangelical” is now treated as a political word. One pastor said, “[Evangelical] is now a tribal, rather than a creedal, description.” He and several other pastors will no longer describe themselves as “Evangelical”. Last year, the campus organisation Princeton Evangelical Fellowship – a name it had held since 1937 – changed its name to Princeton Christian Fellowship. And we are told that African-American Christians cringe because of the racial overtones of the word “Evangelical.”

It may be different elsewhere in the world. When I chaired the social action commission for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), Brian Stiller, EFC’s president, told me he

frequently had to explain to the *Toronto Star* and other Canadian media that, in Canada, “Evangelical” was not synonymous with the “Christian Right” as it was in the US. Fast forward 20 years and Stiller is still explaining to *Christianity Today’s* readers that “Evangelical” is not a term owned by the US, and that whatever their internal angst may be, 600 million people elsewhere in the world are happy to own the term as a description of their faith commitments.

Those commitments were identified by David Bebbington in his research of the history of religion in Britain from the 1730s to the 1980s (a period that includes John Wesley, William and Catherine Booth, and John Stott). Bebbington claimed history shows that four features could be used to describe “evangelicals”:

1. A high view of the Bible’s authority;
2. An emphasis on the need for a personal, saving relationship with God;
3. A focus on Jesus’ sacrificial death; and
4. An activist faith that pursues personal sanctification and the improvement of society.

By those criteria, Salvationists should be OK with being called evangelicals. Bebbington’s four features fit.

1. We affirm that if there is a divine rule about faith or life, it will be found only in the Bible; other sources give knowledge but not divine rules.
2. Salvationists place an emphasis on personal faith in Christ. Belief, not a ceremony, makes someone a Christian.
3. From the beginning, The Salvation Army has said that Jesus alone is God-incarnate and that he suffered death in order to free all people from sin.
4. Activism is the Salvationist’s middle name. The heartbeat of the Salvationist is transformed people in a transformed society.

As William Booth put it, “We are a salvation people – this is our speciality – getting saved and keeping saved, and then getting somebody else saved, and then getting saved ourselves more and more until full salvation on earth makes the heaven within, which is finally perfected by the full salvation without, on the other side of the river.”

Despite the fact The Salvation Army fits Bebbington’s description, I still have a problem embracing the term. Part of that is because I can’t understand how “Evangelicals” could overwhelmingly vote for a man who is proudly not Christlike.

But even if I ignore what’s happening in the US right now, I rattle at the fact that “evangelical” is often used like a kind of membership card – one that is meant to exclude as much as include. If saying “I’m an evangelical Christian” is a way of looking down my nose – of implying that Catholics and Orthodox and members of the United Church couldn’t be real Christians – I don’t want the adjective. The Apostle Paul said, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:31). Any person or denomination that wants to boast about being “evangelical” should take note.

In the end, the question for me – and it’s a big one – is not whether a term can be salvaged, but whether people can discover through us that the gospel really is “good news.” That is, after all, what the Greek word “evangelion” means. ●

.....
Dr. James Read is the director of The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Winnipeg, Canada. This article appeared at salvationist.ca
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The views expressed in these opinion pieces are those of the writer and not necessarily those held by *Others* magazine.

Mailbox.



TRANSFORMING AUSTRALIA

Does “one life at a time” restrict our new vision and suggest The Salvation Army is abandoning the possibility that revivals may accelerate the transformation of Australia? Or, is it related to recently expressed enthusiasm for relaxing soldiership qualifications and the muted response which apparently omits any reference to Romans chapter 14 to support retaining high standards for enlistment? Are we facing a situation like that faced by Gideon many centuries ago?

Considering increased frequency with which Army terminology is equated with that commonly used in churches, does one life at a time signal reduced

enthusiasm, when compared with that of early Salvationists, for publicly standing with marginalised people and publicly challenging or critiquing the philosophies and practices of Principalities and Powers that marginalise them?

“Salvos” is well loved and highly respected for the “cups of cold water” it provides to thousands of marginalised, isolated and distressed people trying to survive on the fringes of society. Despite this, it appears that The Salvation Army’s profile is much lower today than in its early days when, by standing with the poor, it posed such a threat to the dominant culture that many of its soldiers were assaulted and imprisoned and several of its buildings were stormed.

Could the vision signal retreat to safety and security in citadels where privatised spirituality can be practised as an alternative to participating actively,

where God is working, in his mission to redeem creation by “removing mountains” of evil which marginalise people, creating the need for cups of cold water?

Because inequality, chaos and confusion are characteristics of the strange days in which we live many people desire a fairer society – a culture dominated by mountains of individualism and selfishness transformed into harmonious, interactive and supportive communities. Imagine Ferdinand de Quiros’ vision of “the great Southland of the Holy Spirit” becoming reality after several centuries. Could the hope of such change create a stream of recruits seeking to join an Army committed to transforming Australia one community at a time?

God needs us and others to participate in redeeming the whole creation!
- **Don Thompson**

others

Your opinion counts.
We want to hear from you!



If you’ve read something in Viewpoint, Mailbox 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
BRIAN PEDDLE



A world-changing relationship.

In his Christmas message to the international Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle says hope can only truly be found in Jesus

It's a privilege to greet you this Christmas, my first as the General of The Salvation Army. Throughout 131 countries around the world, The Salvation Army is bringing a message of hope as we seek to work for justice, righteousness and the extension of God's Kingdom – not in our own strength, you understand, only through his power.

Our hope this Christmas is founded in the person of Christ Jesus who is our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace and Everlasting Father. The titles are first found in the early verses of Isaiah 9 (2, 6-7), which contain a message of hope to a people living in darkness and death – hope of light and life which are only found in the promised Saviour. Into this situation comes not a theory or a method, but a person. A living, breathing human – born as a vulnerable baby.

Hope is found in relationship with Jesus – the Light of the World who shatters the darkness. Hope is found not in dead ritualistic religion, but in vibrant, life-giving relationship with God.

Who is this Jesus? He is God in human form – no longer distant and unreachable, but right here with us. He is our Wonderful Counsellor, who speaks words of wisdom and guides us into truth. He is our Mighty God for whom nothing is impossible – he forgives sins, heals diseases and raises the dead. He is our Prince of Peace, who comes in love, providing rest for the weary and comfort for the troubled. He is our Everlasting Father, offering a familial relationship that can last for eternity, including protection and provision in the here and now. This is the Jesus who was born in the manger, hangs on the Cross and bursts out of the grave!

You can know this Jesus today.

Jesus is all about justice, righteousness and salvation. The people who heard Isaiah's prophecy, the people who lived at the time of Jesus and we who are alive today are all too familiar with a broken world where injustices are prevalent and which is blighted by lack of morality. The person, message and method found in Jesus bring a countercultural perspective that transforms the dark and lifeless falsehood of the kingdom of this world into the gloriously bright, vivacious reality of the Kingdom of God.

You and I can experience this transformation and share the same with others when we live in relationship with Jesus.

It may sound like an idealistic vision or too good to be true. We can't achieve this on our own – if we could, humankind would have figured it out by now! As the words from Isaiah remind us, it can only be accomplished through the power of God – "The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this" (verse 7).

So this Christmas, let us trust God, rely on his power, live in relationship with him and partner with him to bring life, light and hope to our world.

May God bless you. •

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



Illustration: Rod Allen

WORDS
SCOTT SIMPSON

Marching as one.

New Australia Territory means a stronger,
more effective Salvation Army

From 1 December 2018, The Salvation Army in Australia will once again be one territory. Officially announced on 1 March 2016 by then-international Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, the process to unify the Australia Eastern and Southern territories has been a journey that has spanned more than two-and-a-half years.

Now the world leader of The Salvation Army, General Peddle has made the long journey from London again to officially launch the new Australia Territory during the week-long Still Others celebration in Melbourne that began on 27 November and continues until 3 December.

The transition to an Australia Territory has been a challenging journey; for senior leadership, Salvationists, employees, volunteers and others who have a strong connection to The Salvation Army. As Major Peter Farthing, a recently retired officer of the Australia Eastern Territory, wrote earlier this year: “A territory is bound together by an invisible social bond. And people feel an emotional attachment to the territory too. So it is inevitable that during transition many

may feel disconnected. And some will feel a loss.”

Major Farthing’s reflection is apt; the emotional energy expended by so many during this journey – particularly around the many hard decisions that have been made – has been significant. The long-term gain, however, far outweighs any short-term pain as The Salvation Army repositions itself for effective mission in 21st-century Australia.

UNIFICATION PROCESS

The Salvation Army in Australia was last one territory in 1921, when the Australia Eastern and Australia Southern territories were formed. From 1886, Australia was part of the Australasian Territory, which incorporated all of Australia and New Zealand, with headquarters in Melbourne. New Zealand became a single territory in 1912, leaving Australia as a stand-alone territory until the formation of the separate Australia Eastern and Southern territories on 1 January 1921.

Active discussion on the return to one territory for Australia has been going on for the past 25 years between leaders of ▶

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The long-term gain, however, far outweighs any short-term pain as The Salvation Army repositions itself for effective mission in 21st-century Australia.

”

the two current Australian territories and the Army’s International Headquarters, according to a document produced in 2015 and titled “Australia One”. The document was prepared to explain the decision and process to create a new, single Australia Territory.

Retired Canadian officer Colonel Glen Shepherd was engaged to conduct an independent review of the proposal in 2015. His task, according to the Australia One document, was to undertake “a study to determine the case for the unification of the two territories into one national administration”.

Colonel Shepherd consulted with territorial and divisional leaders, members of territorial advisory boards, key employees and officers. In all, 45 interviews were conducted, with 76 per cent of interviewees saying they either “fully endorsed” or would “support, with a need for certain cautions”, the unification. Just seven per cent of those interviewed were opposed.*

In January 2016, the then-territorial leaders of Australia Eastern (Commissioner James Condon) and Australia Southern (Commissioner Floyd Tidd), after consultation with cabinet members from both territories, and Colonel Shepherd recommended to The Salvation Army International Management Council that the two

territories commence the amalgamation process. Among the conclusions contained in the recommendation were:

- There is a case for unification of the two territories into one administration;
- There is no compelling case for the retention of two territories with a stronger national headquarters structure;
- Most historical reasons for the division of Australia into two territories seem to have been overcome with advances in transportation, communications and computerisation;
- Unification could reasonably be expected to produce annual savings of about \$20 million;
- The change should be structured to ensure that savings went into a new “Mission Development Endowment” to support mission development;
- Unification would produce other synergies in terms of fundraising, government relations, public messaging, purchasing contracts and competitiveness for government contracts to help Army mission.

The International Management Council agreed with the recommendation and then-world leader of the Army, General

André Cox, gave his approval. And so the process to create a new Australia Territory began in earnest.

The recommendation to establish a Mission Development Endowment is one that merits further explanation. It has been adopted by those charged with overseeing the transition to one territory and is now referred to as the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF).

The potential impact of the MEF is significant. Once realised, annual savings created by the unification will be placed in an endowment fund, with the proposal paper drawing projections (based on average investment returns) that 10 years from establishing the fund, it could be paying out in excess of \$10 million per year. All of that money would be used to support frontline mission. Additionally, the design of the MEF means that the amount available for mission support each year should continue to increase.

“One of the great concerns was that the study [independent review conducted by Colonel Shepherd] could be business-biased and not necessarily lead to enhanced mission effectiveness,” stated the document presented to the International Management Council. “... the [Mission Development Endowment] proposal is intended to ensure that unification leads to greater mission effectiveness.”



◉ The official launch of the Australia One process was held in Adelaide in September 2016, and was attended by the then-world leader of The Salvation Army, General André Cox.

To ensure that this objective is realised, an MEF Steering Committee, chaired by National Commander Commissioner Floyd Tidd, was established to help identify and capture cost efficiencies resulting from the amalgamation. The Mission Endowment Fund has been created and progress reports on contributions to, and the growth of, the fund will be regularly reported through to the Australia Territory Board.

BETTER TOGETHER

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd were officially installed as national leaders of The Salvation Army in Australia by General Cox in Adelaide on 17 September 2016. As National Commander, Commissioner Tidd has consistently emphasised the “why” of the creation of an Australia Territory.

Sitting alongside the development of a new National Vision Statement and a National Strategy, has been the creation of six “whys”. They are: Aligned Vision; Increased Innovation; United Voice; Stronger Partnerships; Better

Stewardship; and Greater Impact. In fact, these “whys” have been around since day one of the transition process, having been included in a staff information pack that was released on that momentous day in March 2016 when the unification was announced.

Commissioner Tidd has repeatedly referred to these six “whys” throughout the transition to one territory. “We are about building a stronger and more effective Salvation Army, ready and available to God for the new thing he is doing in this nation,” he says.

Accordingly, during the official launch of the new Australia Territory in Melbourne by General Peddle, these six key reasons have featured as the driving force behind this bold venture. They have directed this national journey, guiding The Salvation Army in Australia throughout the transformation. And they will continue to do so, recognising that the national transition process to date is just the start of a broader change journey.

The process to unify the Australia Eastern and Australia Southern territories into The Salvation Army Australia Territory, though, is perhaps most appropriately captured by the simple joint statement that Commissioner Tidd and Commissioner Condon made right back at the start of the process. “This decision can best be summarised,” they said, “by our shared conviction that we are better together.” ●

** The strong level of support for a single, united Australia Territory has been confirmed in the regular Pulse Surveys that have been conducted throughout the national transition process. In the most recent survey, 76 per cent of the 2257 people who responded agreed that the transition would benefit the people we serve and all Salvos. Additionally, 80 per cent said that they felt a personal connection to the new National Vision Statement, and 79 per cent said that felt motivated to contribute to the success of the Australia Territory.*

.....
Scott Simpson is the National Assistant Editor-in-Chief.

What does an Australia Territory mean for me?

Ten people, representing a cross-section of The Salvation Army, provide a snapshot of what impact the creation of a national territory will have on them.



“With a united Australia, The Salvation Army can be more effective in its mission, and I can also be more effective in my own mission to see the lives of youth changed for Jesus throughout Australia.”
- Samuel Higginbottom
 Youth leader, Western Australia



“I’m excited about the opportunity for The Salvation Army to have a united vision across the whole of Australia and a plan to progress into the future. The changes will hopefully improve our services at the frontline and allow us to quickly and more efficiently respond to people’s physical and spiritual needs.”
- Captain Carolyn O'Brien
 Associate Corps Officer,
 Sydney Congress Hall



“A united Australia Territory means holistic approaches and better outcomes for practising ministry. We will have purposeful ‘yarns’ and be able to contribute to national agendas like closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples and then share these ‘yarns’ with all levels of ministry.”
- Lucy Davis
 Divisional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Coordinator



“We can no longer be a force to be reckoned with if our resources are spread thinly. Coming together as one has meant that we have had to review what we do and stick to the things that we do well. For other things it means that we have to work more collaboratively with other agencies. Our Vision and Mission Statements encompass all of Australia, which makes it much easier for the Australian public to fully appreciate who we are.”
- Major Peter Sutcliffe
 Area Officer, Central Queensland



“As we get older I guess it’s harder to accept change, and it is a temptation to look back to ‘the good old days’. But as I learn more about Australia One, I believe the combining of our resources could revitalise our Army, providing we retain our core mission and values of ‘saving souls, growing saints and serving suffering humanity!’ To serve a present age we must always seek our calling to fulfil.”
- Major Margaret Watters
 Great-granddaughter of Australian pioneer Salvationist John Gore



“For Salvos Stores, it will mean bringing together the best retail practices from both territories so that we can consistently give our customers a great experience - implementing more consistent in-store promotions, product ranges and branding. We’ll also have a national presence with one website and national social media accounts.”
- Edwina Morgan
 General Manager, Strategy and Customer, Salvos Stores



“It will define unity; we will be one Salvation Army across Australia, one family.”
- Paul Hughes
 Volunteer, Western Australia



“My hope is it will mean greater unity in our diversity, with increased collaboration and resource-sharing that will maximise our influence, strengthen our national voice and result in us achieving our vision to the glory of God!”
- Captain Kim Haworth
 Corps Officer,
 Wyndham City-Werribee Corps



“When we form a united Australia Territory, having a governing body of aged care experts will be a huge advantage to me because I will have people with specific aged care experience to guide me and with whom I can consult and share the burden of responsibility. The current skill set will expand and diversify, and I anticipate having a pool of people to call upon as a resource, particularly in a crisis like when payroll is due and the only two staff really proficient in this are both absent!”
- Clare Jurasovic
 Aged care centre manager,
 Barrington Lodge



“I hope this opportunity allows The Salvation Army to reinvent itself, for corps to be more nimble in their ministries and most importantly, the good news of Jesus Christ proclaimed to our communities in a way that God will use for his glory.”
- Colin Sweeney
 Soldier, Campbelltown Corps



Photo: Lena Pobjie

WORDS
BILL SIMPSON

Christmas kettle conversion.

Supermarket experience
leads Raewyn to faith

Two years ago this Christmas, Raewyn Hargraves (pictured) went shopping at her local supermarket and her life began to change. It started with the sight of a Salvation Army officer standing beside a Christmas kettle, collecting for the needy in the community. Her first thought was to make her own contribution. As the officer spoke to other people around the kettle, she checked through leaflets and left.

She didn't get to speak to the officer. But on the walk home, she saw a sign that said The Salvation Army. It was pointing to a building just around the corner from where she lived. "Good heavens," she thought. "Is this a sign, as in a sign for me?" Even before she saw the officer and the sign that day, Raewyn had been thinking about the direction of her personal faith for some time. She wasn't a Christian, but something or someone was prompting her to think about life more seriously.

The following Sunday, she turned up at The Salvation Army Wollongong Corps, on the NSW South Coast, only a few hundred metres from her home. As she entered the building, people were friendly. Some spoke to her. During the morning meeting, ▶



she received a personal welcome – by name – from the platform. “This is amazing,” she thought. She went back the following Sunday. “A lovely lady called Marion took me under her wing. She watched out for me the next few Sundays.”

The officer she saw at the supermarket was leading the first meeting she attended. It was then-Captain (now Major) Phil Inglis, who leads the Wollongong Corps with his wife Rebecca. “I loved the meetings and the people,” she says. “I loved being in God’s house, I loved the people, the sermons, coffee, the band and songsters, the beautiful coloured cross on the wall, opportunities for giving ... I loved it all.”

Raewyn joined a life group (Bible study). She studied the Christianity Explained course. “It was then,” she says, “that I realised that what we do, we do through the grace of God. It’s all about the grace of God.”

NEW LIFE

For 50 or so years, she had never known about God’s grace. Raewyn was born and raised in Wainuiomata, a suburb of Wellington, New Zealand. She was the youngest of five children. The family did not attend church. When it was time for high school, Raewyn convinced her parents to allow her to attend a Catholic college.

“I wanted to go to the Catholic college because my best friend was going and it meant that I didn’t

have to take Japanese (at another school),” she says. “Religious education was my favourite subject, but I didn’t feel any connection to God at the time, and I didn’t retain anything that I learned.

“What I saw taught is not what I saw lived. It did not leave a good impression. I suppose that I was present, but didn’t take it on board. That was just as much about me as it was about others. I had no image of God; no relationship with him, at all.”

Raewyn moved to Sydney in 1986. Two of her sisters were already living in Australia. She became an Australian citizen in 1990, although still retained New Zealand citizenship as well. She moved to Wollongong in October 2016, one month before her supermarket experience.

After joining a life group and studying Christianity Explained, she became part of the Wollongong Corps English conversation classes, helping refugees and newcomers to Australia better understand English. Making visitors welcome was important to her – from personal experience – so she joined the corps team welcoming people at the front door on Sunday mornings. She attended corps camps and women’s weekend divisional conferences.

Raewyn has now been on the other side of the kettle, collecting for The Salvation Army at the same supermarket last Christmas and at Red

• (Above): Raewyn Hargraves and her friend Marion, who took Raewyn ‘under her wing’ when she first started attending the Wollongong Corps. (Above right): Volunteering and engaging with the community is now a regular part of Raewyn’s week. Photos: Lena Pobjie



“*I think the direction has always been there for me to come to faith and I can see it, now, in that encounter with The Salvation Army at the supermarket.*”

Shield Appeal times. “It’s the best two hours a girl can spend having fun and engaging with the community,” she says.

“I think that I have always been interested in the concept of faith and I’ve envied those who had it. I can see now that the things that have been happening to me over the past two years were part of a plan for me. I can see now that I am not alone in this world. I feel that I have lived a Christian-sort-of life. I have always assisted with time and money, but there was no relationship with God.

“It’s amazing to me now that I can talk with God without going through a whole lot of church rituals and traditions. I love that. I have a personal relationship with God now. Communication is immediate.

“I am still taking baby steps. I still don’t know how everything in the Bible fits together. I can’t quote verses like other people can. But I know it’s not all about what I know; it’s what’s in my heart that counts. I think the direction has always been there for me to come to faith and I can see it, now, in that encounter with The Salvation Army at the supermarket.”

GOD’S GRACE

Her experience with The Salvation Army has convinced her that God has a place for her in his world, after all. “I had always felt that I was never good enough. I had always had issues with my image.

I had that from childhood. But I am becoming aware that I am enough and that it’s because of God’s grace that I can feel good about myself.”

This awareness has come through discovering that ordinary people like her have done extraordinary things through the grace of God. “Self Denial in The Salvation Army has impacted me. A few months after starting at The Salvation Army, I saw videos of what Salvation Army people are doing in overseas countries where there is real need.

“I saw Salvation Army people in Papua New Guinea working under terrible conditions, yet they had big smiles on their faces as they did their work. I saw photos of a young woman officer from Wollongong who, with her husband, gave her life to serve in Papua New Guinea. She died while serving there. But she gave her life for those people. And it’s the everyday stuff The Salvation Army and others do that moves me.”

Each week, Raewyn commits herself to providing groceries for welfare workers at the Wollongong Salvation Army to give to needy community members. As a job, she provides in-home care to elderly people. Her next step in The Salvation Army, she says, is soldiership. •

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for Others.

WORDS

SIMONE WORTHING

The wilderness inside us.

Filling the void of loneliness

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, connect with loved ones, and enjoy the gift of giving. It's the season of joy and peace to the world. But for many, sadly, it can feel the opposite, serving only as an unwanted reminder of a social ill that exists all year round

“Ever wondered where the worst place in the world is? Loneliness.” This was the updated Facebook status of someone with a caring spouse, healthy children, and friends in the community. Heartbreaking comments like these are not rare.

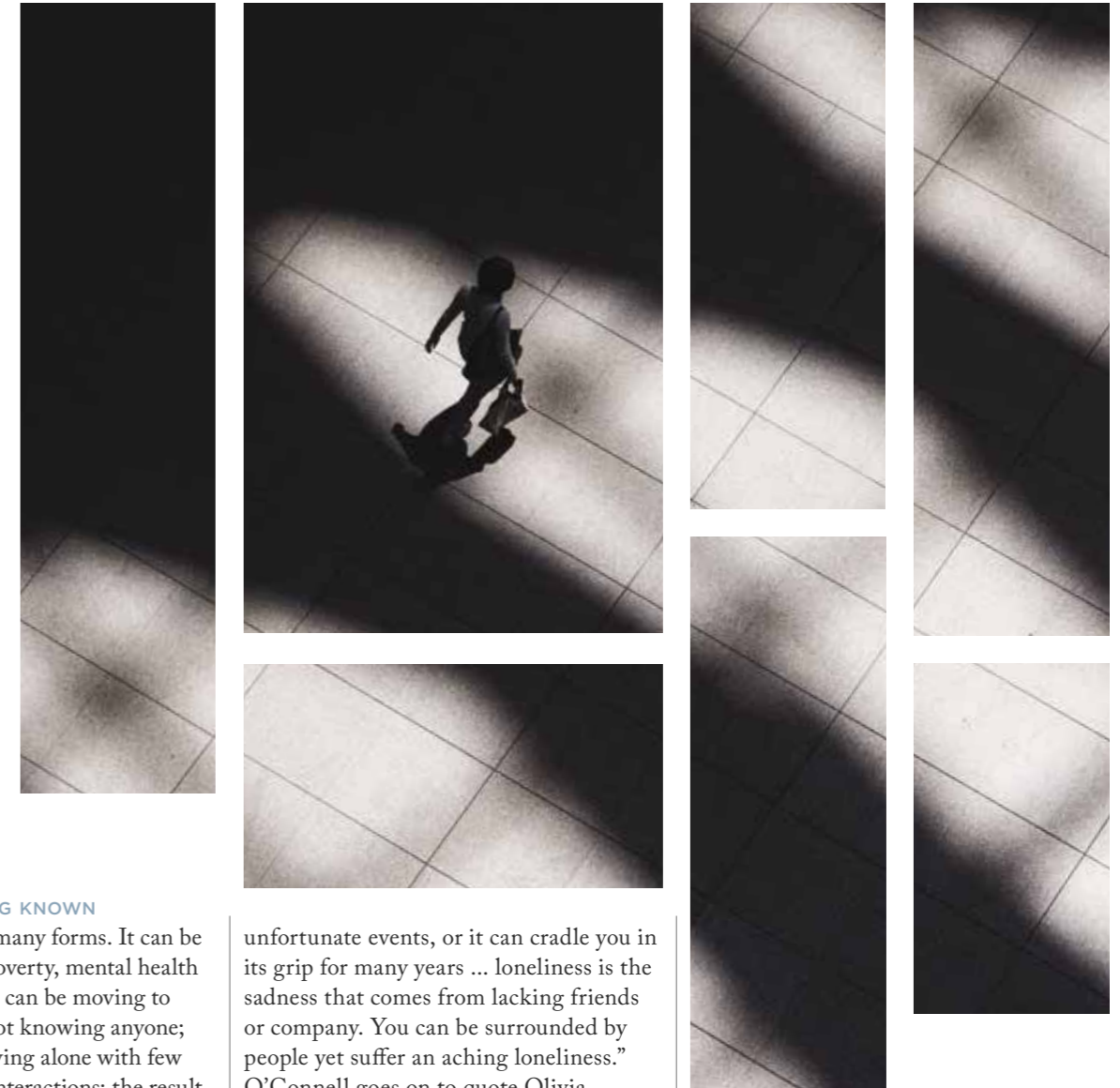
“I have loving family and friends, but nobody I can talk to about my deepest, innermost feelings, thoughts and fears,” said a busy and active young mother. In a similar comment, a middle-aged businessman shared, “Nobody really knows me, the real me, and I have nobody to connect with at the soul level.” Another woman said, “I have nobody to share the sad and scary places of my life with; I have friends, but our relationships are pretty superficial.”

Loneliness.

It has been called twice as deadly as obesity and more dangerous than smoking 15 cigarettes a day*. According to a 2016 survey by Lifeline Australia, 60 per cent of Australians often feel lonely, and lonelier than they've ever felt before. Sixty per cent! From the

3100 people who responded to the survey, 82.5 per cent felt loneliness was on the rise in society. A large number of the survey's online participants lived with a partner or other family member, but still reported feeling isolated.

Graham Long, recently retired pastor and chief executive officer at the Wayside Chapel in inner-city Sydney's Kings Cross, says loneliness is *the* epidemic of our times. This epidemic of loneliness is sweeping the western world. Former United States Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy, says the most common pathology he saw during his years of service “was not heart disease or diabetes; it was loneliness”. British Prime Minister Theresa May has set her sights on “combating” loneliness and appointed a minister of loneliness to do just that. Similarly, there is a national “Campaign to End Loneliness,” to help the nine million lonely people in the United Kingdom. In this country, the Australian Coalition to End Loneliness, which The Salvation Army has joined, aims to raise awareness of, and address, loneliness and physical social isolation through evidence-based interventions and advocacy.



KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

Loneliness can take many forms. It can be isolation caused by poverty, mental health issues or addiction; it can be moving to a new location and not knowing anyone; losing a loved one; living alone with few meaningful human interactions; the result of abandonment, abuse, illness or injury; family breakdown; the sadness that comes from not having friends or feeling unable to connect with people; and, as is increasingly common today, being surrounded by people yet suffering the searing loneliness that comes from not connecting on the deep and intimate level that fills the soul emotionally, mentally, spiritually and even physically. It is not truly knowing anyone, or being truly known.

Jennifer O'Connell, in a 2017 article on loneliness for *The Irish Times*, described loneliness as, “a sneaky, capricious beast that can overwhelm you at 4am, as the world around you sleeps. It can be transient, a passing state precipitated by

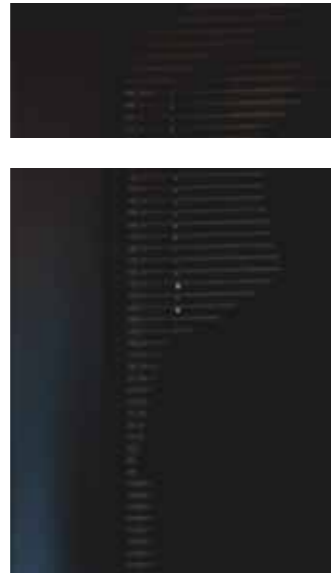
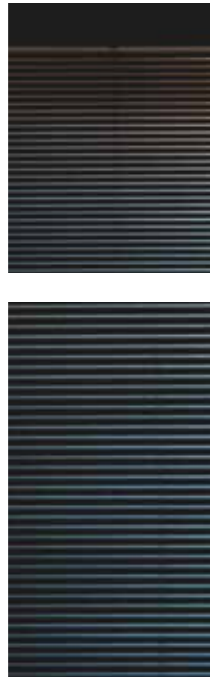
unfortunate events, or it can cradle you in its grip for many years ... loneliness is the sadness that comes from lacking friends or company. You can be surrounded by people yet suffer an aching loneliness.” O'Connell goes on to quote Olivia Laing's *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone* on what it feels like to be lonely: “It feels like being hungry when everyone around you is readying for a feast. It feels shameful and alarming, and over time these feelings radiate outwards, making the lonely person increasingly isolated, increasingly estranged. It advances cold as ice and clear as glass, enclosing and engulfing.”

In the 17th century, when loneliness was usually relegated to being in the space outside the city, solving it was easy. It merely required a physical return to society. However, as Amelia S. Worsley writes in *A History of Loneliness*, “... loneliness has since moved inward

— and has become much harder to cure. Because it's taken up residence inside minds, even the minds of people living in bustling cities, it can't always be solved by company. Modern loneliness isn't just about being physically removed from other people. Instead, it's an emotional state of feeling apart from others — without necessarily being so. The wilderness is now inside of us.”

FRAGMENTED SOCIETY

The causes of loneliness are many and complex, and vary from person. Hugh Mackay, one of Australia's leading social researchers and commentators, ▶



SALVOS RESPOND TO LONELINESS

The Salvation Army has a wide variety of programs and personnel around the nation to work with people of all ages and backgrounds suffering from loneliness. These include:

- Local corps officers and community programs
- Doorways case workers
- Chaplaincy network
- Missions
- Street programs
- Youth outreach services
- Salvos Stores
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres
- Multicultural ministries
- Salvationists serving in their local communities.

Go to salvationarmy.org.au for more information.

believes that the deep loneliness many of us experience and see all around us, is largely due to the fragmentation of our society. “You can look at specific factors in individual cases and say, this person is anxious because of rent stress, or because of job insecurity, or because of relationship breakdown, or loss of faith ... but when you’ve got epidemic proportions, I think you have to look at society,” he says in *The Conversation’s 2017 Yearbook – Articles from Australia’s top thinkers*. “We need to live in communities that sustain us and nurture us, protect us and give us a sense of identity. When we feel cut off from the herd, anxiety goes up.”

It’s not, as society would have us believe, all about the individual. In his latest book, *Australia Reimagined: Towards a more compassionate, less anxious society*, Mackay addresses some of the forces at work in our communities – including disappointment in political leadership, loss of faith in once-respected institutions like the Church, dropping education standards, and the explosion of social media – that are causing us to experience, sometimes paradoxically, more loneliness.

Part of the solution to repairing our fragmented and lonely society, he argues, is to “get off our screens and connect with the people in our local neighbourhoods ... We’re all friendly with our friends and we all know how to be nice to people we like. The great thing about neighbourhoods is they’re full of people we may like or dislike, very different from us. It’s very good for our moral development to have to learn how to rub along with people you didn’t choose.”

Mackay also suggests that faith will play a role in the renewal of our communities towards a more compassionate and less anxious society. “Even among people who don’t have any religious faith, they admire it and often envy it,” he says. “People recognise that the expression of faith, whether in medical care, social services, or education, is likely to be of a very high standard because it’s driven by this faith in the higher being, this higher power.”

And, as Christians we know that this “higher power”, our great and personal God, will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b).

GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS

The Salvation Army’s Matt Cairns, Corps Officer at Rockdale in Sydney, also believes that it’s only through deep and genuine relationships that people can break through the barriers of loneliness.

“This means including the excluded, of course, but also challenging our own cultural practices in terms of who we engage with, and how,” he says. “Developing deep and genuine relationships can be hard, and costly, but learning to engage with people is what faith requires, and is what it means to love thy neighbour.

“This can be uncomfortable at times, especially for us introverts, but we can’t build relationships with the lonely, lost and broken hiding away in our own safety zones. We have to step out in faith. It’s those deep relationships that are built and the genuine friendships that develop, that can help people through loneliness and tough times. Engaging with those suffering loneliness and social exclusion is a calling we must be obedient to.”

Matt shares that it’s human nature to want to avoid certain people, but the challenge is to go and love that person. “We see that in Jesus,” he says “He didn’t just engage with his chosen 12 and extended family. He went to the ‘unclean’, the mentally ill, the sick and the excluded. If it’s good

enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for us as well. Church should be the ultimate family expression where no one eats alone, no one is left out of celebrations, no one suffers alone, and no one does life alone. In the Kingdom of God, nobody is lonely.”

BARRIERS TO AUTHENTICITY

Lauren Martin, a Salvation Army journalist who runs Red Shield community events, small groups and the Positive Lifestyle Program in the Wollongong suburb of Helensburgh, says that although The Salvation Army comes alongside people who are lonely and isolated due to poverty, mental health issues and disadvantage, the deep loneliness she sees in her community is not related to those struggles.

“This is not a low socio-economic area [Helensburgh], and most people I speak with have lots of friends, yet loneliness and isolation is still a huge issue,” she says. “These community members don’t have a lack of people to hang out with, have coffee with, or speak with on a surface level, but their conversations don’t run deep. They are isolated with the hardships they can’t tell people about, with the pain, shame or fear that they’re dealing with, family issues that they don’t want to share.”

Lauren says that many people talk to her about what is going on in their lives because they know she is from The

Salvation Army, can be trusted, and that their sharing will be confidential. “It’s so sad that, in a lot of cases, people don’t feel like they can share their deepest fears or struggles with friends. Maybe it’s because they feel like they have to live up to their Facebook image,” she shares.

“The more we invest in our social media-self, the less authentic we are with the people around us, and that creates severe loneliness and isolation.”

Lauren believes the busyness of life is also a huge barrier to developing the deeply connected relationships that encourage open sharing, truly knowing another person and being known by them.

“People don’t have the time to respond when their friends really need them,” she says. “When a crisis happens, the real gift people can give is their time – immediate response, a listening ear, confidentiality and non-judgmental compassion. That’s all I’m offering and it’s received with overwhelming gratitude. To help combat loneliness, people need to know that someone has heard them, is not judging them and stands alongside them with encouragement and care. It’s time, and it’s love – wherever you live. It’s not rocket science yet it’s incredibly powerful.” •

* (*Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England, 2013*)



USEFUL WEBSITES

There are many excellent sources of help in a crisis. They include:

Lifeline
13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

Headspace
headspace.org.au

Beyondblue
1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au

MensLine Australia
1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

SANE Australia
1800 187 263
sane.org

Neighbour Day
neighbourday.org



ADDITIONAL READING

Laing, Olivia, *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone*, (Canongate Books Ltd, March 2017)

Mackay, Hugh, *Australia Reimagined: Towards a more compassionate, less anxious society*, (Pan Macmillan Australia, April 2018).

Park, Simon, *Solitude* (White Crow Books, 2011)

<https://www.jocoxloneliness.org/>

FANTASTIC HEROES, GREAT CONVERSATIONS

words
Mark Hadley

The school holidays are almost upon us, and so too the avalanche of family films that mark the end of the year. Trips to the cinemas are a welcome part of the Australian summer, but they're not usually the best chance to relate to the youngest members of our society. But with a little thought, you can prepare yourself for a fantastic chat when the lights come up. Others culture writer Mark Hadley offers three top starters to fuel meaningful conversations ...



01. FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

The latest instalment in the *Fantastic Beasts* saga incorporates numerous nods to the previous Harry Potter and Newt Scamander films, as well as “deep lore” references from all seven of the original novels. For those who’ll need a primer, the plot is now stretched across several characters. Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) has been recruited by a much younger Dumbledore (Jude Law) to track down the powerful novice Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller) before he can be recruited by the arch-evil Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp). Each has their own developing storyline, which eventually intersect in a climactic encounter on the streets of Paris.

Grindelwald is presented as something of a Hitler in

his early days – passionate but reasonable, recruiting supporters from disaffected wizards who feel as though life has denied them the happiness they deserve. Interestingly, scriptwriter JK Rowling has him constantly justifying his actions in the name of freedom, which goes to show how easily that concept can be used to cloak ultimately selfish and harmful actions. The moral struggle, though, centres on Newt, who is determined to do what is right but tells Dumbledore, “I don’t do sides”. He fails to realise that “right” requires a standard, and our choices will put us on one side of it or the other. So, the best conversation starter is to ask your younger companions, “If everyone says they’re in the right, where do you get your idea of ‘right’ from?”

02. THE GRINCH

This is the third time that Dr. Seuss’ best known Christmas tale has made it to the screen, but for first-timers, here’s a crash course. The Grinch is a solitary grump who lives with his dog, Max, atop a mountain overlooking the happy town of Whoville – a place he only ventures into when he wants groceries and is in the mood for mischief. Christmas represents an annual bad mood because the festivities get on the Grinch’s nerves, and when he hears the townsfolk plan to make their celebrations “three times bigger this year”, he decides to steal their happiness.

The twist in the tale is that even though the Grinch makes off with all the physical reminders of Christmas, a little girl called Cindy-Lou

helps him see Whoville is still full of happiness – because there’s a “deeper meaning” to Christmas. If you’re thinking stars over mangers, though, you’ll be sadly disappointed. The happiness at the heart of the Grinch’s holiday is that supplied by family and friends. It’s a long way from the real joy the angel announced at the very first Christmas: “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12). And not a grinch in sight. But on the plus side, it does supply adults an open invitation to retell that tale, and let kids know the real sources of happiness at Christmas.



03. THE NUTCRACKER: THE FOUR REALMS

Clara is a teenage girl living in Dickensian England who has lost her mother. However, a Christmas visit to her rich uncle (Morgan Freeman) puts her on the pathway to a magical world where four fairytale realms are embroiled in a terrible conflict. What follows is an “Alice down the rabbit hole” adventure that reveals Clara is actually the heir to this fantastic kingdom – if, that is, she can restore peace, with the help of her daring friends, the Nutcracker Soldier and the Mouse King.

The Nutcracker is visually gorgeous, and full of the sorts of elements that captivate little girls – but not too little. The plot is sufficiently complex that I wouldn’t recommend taking anyone in early primary school. There are plenty of buried

morals to unearth, including an attack on militarism and the necessity of living in the real world. However, the best lesson centres on the duty of a ruler:

Sugar Plum: “A true queen does what’s best for herself!”

Clara: “No, a true queen does what’s best for her people. And I am every inch my mother’s daughter.”

In that line lies an open invitation for parents to talk to kids about the sort of king the King of Christmas is. Jesus deserves our obedience because he put the needs of his people first, dying so that we might live forever. If Clara can see that’s the best sort of ruler to give your loyalty to, then I’m sure it’s not above any young person.

THREE TOP STARTER TIPS

Now, you might think the sort of conversations I’ve suggested are well beyond you and your pint-sized acquaintances. Let me assure you as a film reviewer *and* a dad, no one finds it easy. But if you’re going to try and wrest some meaning from that time away together, here are three hints that should help:

1. Talk soon.

Kids’ memories can be as short as their attention spans, so start chatting as soon as you can. I like the car trip home. It’s a great place to ask something simple like, “Who was your favourite character?”

2. Don’t expect too much

It might not be a long talk, but you can start them on the road to bigger reflections just by asking them about their reactions. Like, “What did you like the most?”

3. Follow their lead.

You might have a point you want to make, but no lesson sticks longer than the one you come to together. You’ll be surprised with insights they have to offer if you can get them to consider, “What was that film about?” ●

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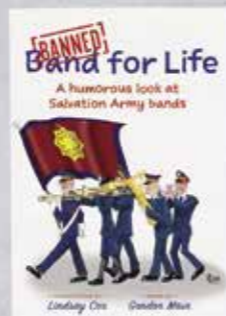
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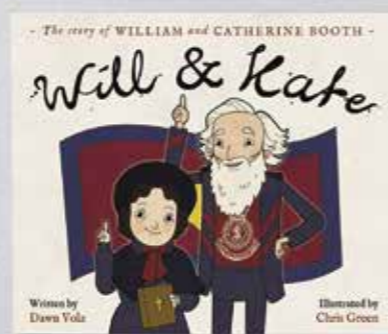
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O1.

THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY AND BLACK DYKE BAND

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Words: Andrew Blyth



One of the aims of music ministry within The Salvation Army is to provide music that seeks to be a connection and invitation to the gospel of Jesus Christ. For many Salvationist musicians it also provides a source of strength and encouragement so that one can communicate who we are and what we believe in.

Christmas is one such time, when The Salvation Army band is seen in shopping centres and on street corners playing carols and Christmas songs and giving a reminder to the public of the significance of such a season. Originally, Salvation Army bands used "Carol Cards" with well-known carols, but it was not until 1964 that the Army published its first carol book entitled *Christmas Praise*, which included 78 carols and Christmas songs. In 1994, *New Christmas Praise* was published, which included 115 carols and Christmas songs.

Now, 24 years on, The Salvation Army has published a new book entitled *Christmas Collection*. This new edition has 143 carols and Christmas songs, which include all the standard favourites along with many updated arrangements and popular Christmas repertoire.

This exciting venture has been boosted by the support of The International Staff Band and Black Dyke Band who have graciously agreed to record some of the material contained within the book. All of these arrangements can be played with just a quartet, or a full ensemble as presented on this recording.

If you enjoy playing all types of Christmas music, this collection will meet your musical needs. *Christmas Collection*, both the CD and music, is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).

O2.

BERYL LINGARD

THE LODGE - STANMORE

Words: David Woodbury



The Salvation Army has never indulged in giant cathedrals or religious shrines. Its attitude to real estate is epitomised in the historic use of a heritage mansion at Stanmore, in Sydney's inner west. For well over a century this magnificent old building has exuded an ambience of peace and tranquillity in what is now, a very busy area.

Like many social complexes owned by The Salvation Army, the mansion has served as a centre of effective ministry throughout its lifetime in a variety of roles, often reflecting the changing needs of the community and the adaptability and pragmatism of the organisation. From a refuge for prostitutes wanting to change their lifestyle, to a women's industrial home for young female offenders and women on probation, to a home for children from dysfunctional families, and finally to a superb educational, training and conference facility.

The history of Stanmore House, as it is now known, reaches back to perhaps the most significant and influential era in The Salvation Army's development in Australia; the leadership of Herbert Booth, son of the Army's founders, William and Catherine Booth.

This book carefully traces the history and development, not only in a part

of early Sydney, with its colourful and entrepreneurial characters, but also the growth of Salvation Army ministry across the wide expanse of Christian mission fields.

As you wander through the halls and rooms of this old building you sense an atmosphere of a bygone era, but perhaps more importantly, the surreal presence of struggling humanity and Christian compassion, epitomised by the common sense and practical use of bricks and mortar by The Salvation Army.

The Lodge is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).

O3.

THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS OF THE SALVATION ARMY

WHEN LOVE WAS BORN

Words: Dorothy Nancekievev



Over the years, I have found myself looking forward to the season of advent, as it encourages us to reflect on God's promise to take us from darkness to light, through the birth of his son, Jesus. *When Love Was Born*, the title track of this album, sums up the sense of wonder of that first Christmas and the love that is available for all who choose to receive it.

This compilation of carols includes songs old and new, joyous and thoughtful. I hope that you will enjoy listening to, and singing along with, the International Staff Songsters throughout the festive period and that those actions will enhance your own Christmas experience.

When Love Was Born is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).

*Dorothy Nancekievev is the International Staff Songster Leader.



^ Salvation Army cadets ventured to different parts of Australia to experience a week of 'indigenous cultural immersion.'

Cadets immerse themselves in cultural training

A WEEK OF INDIGENOUS cultural immersion training for all Australian Salvation Army cadets took place from 29 September to 7 October. The cadets were divided into groups and sent to four different locations: Brisbane, Katherine, Melbourne and Sydney.

"The aim of this training is for cadets to listen and learn in order to gain a better understanding of our indigenous community and to effectively minister to and walk alongside them," said Major Deborah Robinson, Assistant Training Principal and Academic Program Officer at the School for Officer Training at Bexley North, Eva Burrows College.

In Sydney, Shirli Congoo and Sue Hodges – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry

and NSW and ACT Divisional Engagement Coordinators, respectively – facilitated the cultural immersion training.

Shirli explained that the training was an important starting point, and there remained much yet to be done.

"This training was to promote an awareness of historical, cultural and contemporary issues impacting our people from the time our ways were interrupted by colonisation, but more importantly, that our people are resilient and are in an era of self-determination," she said.

"The hope was to assist cadets to be respectful, understanding, supportive and responsive to our people through ministry, social programs and their general areas of influence.

"There is a fear of getting engagement wrong but we reinforced that building their cultural competence is a journey, not a destination, and learning is continuous as each of our Aboriginal nations and Torres Strait Island communities are unique in their own way."

Captain Julie Howard, along with flying padre Captain Greg Howard, hosted seven cadets in Katherine, in the Northern Territory.

"Having the cadets was a great blessing to us," she said. "For some, it was the first real encounter with indigenous people. We have made eight new friends who have gone back enthusiastic about this ministry."

"Our timeless God has

seen many people from many different nations come to live on this great land," said cadet Min-Hwan Oh, who spent the week meeting with indigenous community members in Melbourne.

"We must learn to all be one before God, whilst simultaneously understanding and respecting each other's differences. We must learn to put aside ourselves and see the other."

Cadet Andrew Johnson participated in indigenous ministries at Ipswich in South East Queensland.

"It was an emotional and thought-provoking insight to Australian history and how it is still impacting the nation today," he said.

– Simone Worthing

Rigleys honoured with retirement service

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND Finger led a celebration meeting at Moreland Corps in Melbourne on Sunday 28 October to mark the retirement of Colonels Graeme and Karyn Rigley following more than 30 years of service.

Family and representative speakers highlighted the selflessness, people-oriented and quality ministry of the Rigleys, who officially retired on 1 September.

Married in 1981, the Rigleys



^ Commissioners Raymond and Ayelene Finger look on as Colonels Karyn and Graeme Rigley receive their retirement certificates from Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Merrett.

took sons Adam and Caleb to Officer Training College in Melbourne from Norwood Corps, Adelaide, and were commissioned as *Messengers of Peace* in 1988. Their third son, Luke, was born in 1989.

The Rigleys served as corps officers together early in their ministry at Werribee and Traralgon Corps in Victoria, before embarking on many years serving in leadership roles at divisional and territorial

level in the Australia Southern Territory.

During the service, Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Merrett, Secretary for Personnel, presented the colonels with their retirement certificates.

Salvos present social justice as a lifestyle

DELEGATES REPRESENTING The Salvation Army from all over Australia attended the annual Justice Conference in Melbourne on 26-27 October.

The Justice Conference is a global platform for the faith and justice community, bringing together world-class speakers and artists into gatherings designed to catalyse emerging works of justice around the world.

The Salvation Army is a contributing partner to the Justice Conference through Casey O'Brien-Machado, Social Justice Coordinator based in Sydney.

"All Things New" was the theme for this year's conference, based on Revelation 21:5: "... Behold, I am making all things new".

Major Brendan Nottle, Amanda Merrett, Lieutenant

Brad McIver and Captain Kris Halliday presented an elective workshop, moderated by Casey, on the first day of the conference, entitled "Social Justice as a Lifestyle".

The workshop focused on the invitation to participate in God's restoring work and that this invitation extends to all, not just the qualified or missionaries.

Interested delegates were asked to "join Salvos engaged in community transformation as well as policy to discuss what it means to seek justice in all the spaces of our lives", with panel members answering questions focusing on what a lifestyle of justice looks like in their workplace, neighbourhood, and even their home.

Amanda, assistant to the social justice secretary based in Melbourne, shared her



^ (From right) Lieutenant Brad McIver, Captain Kris Halliday, Amanda Merrett and Major Brendan Nottle, speak about living social justice as a lifestyle every day during their session at the Justice Conference.

experience of being part of the Justice Conference.

"People like to hear about the work of the Salvos because we jump right into the hard places and commit to journeying alongside communities as they experience hardship and injustice. I think it is a privilege to share our knowledge and experiences in a way that empowers people to do the

same," she said.

"And that's what we wanted to do – give people practical suggestions on how they could make social justice a part of their lifestyle in all its different aspects.

"The conference itself did a great job in bringing the wider church together for the Kingdom of God."

– Simone Worthing

Discipleship conference empowers Salvationists

“LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF YOUR calling,” the apostle Paul urged Christians at Ephesus. Those words were at heart of the Axios conference in Parramatta.

Held at the Kings School from Friday to Sunday 26-28 October, delegates from all over Australia gathered to better understand and learn how to put into practice the call to be God’s holy people in the world.

Opening the conference on the Saturday morning was Sophie Renton from McCrindle Research, who gave a powerful overview of the way Australians had changed over the past decade, based on McCrindle’s social research and census data. While more and more Australians were identifying themselves as having “no religion”, she urged Christians not to be dismayed.



^ Ryde Corps Team Leader Greig Whittaker, author Michael Frost, Aaron Campbell and NSW/ACT Divisional Commander, Lieut-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, at the Axios Discipleship Conference in Sydney.

“We need to learn how to work within this new context and bring Jesus to people where they are,” she said, and emphasised that Christians needed to be “real, relevant, responsive and relational” in order to reach Australians in the current culture.

Parramatta soldier and one of the Axios organisers, Richard Eden, said hearing speakers like Sophie Renton and applying the learnings were key if Salvationists wanted to remain relevant.

“As a Salvationist living in 2018, it’s really about trying to find the heart of what it is to be a soldier,” he said. “A lot of the work that’s done now is done by professionals, but as soldiers, really, what’s our calling?”

“It comes from Ephesians 4:18, ‘I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling that you have received’. So, really, it’s about us discovering what our calling is and being inspired to do something about it.”

Parramatta Corps Officer, Major Grant Sandercock-Brown,

said if each of the delegates at Axios gained empowerment to step into the life that Jesus called them to, lives would be transformed as a result.

“Our hope is that something speaks into their heart and God reminds them or prompts them ... it could be a specific skill, it could be an affirmation about their journey that they’re already on,” he said.

“We leave it up to God to do his work in people’s hearts through this [conference].”

– Lauren Martin

Fellows scholarship creates Exponential opportunities

AGED CARE PLUS FELLOWS Program scholarship recipients, Nina Sampson and Lauren Martin from 2508 Salvos in Helensburgh, south of Sydney, recently attended the Exponential discipleship multiplication conference in Los Angeles, United States.

Nina, a part-time Salvation Army community worker, and Lauren, a volunteer ministry leader, say the experience was foundational to the formation of their ministry and wouldn’t

have been possible without The Salvation Army’s Fellows Program.

“When we applied for a Fellows scholarship last year, we really didn’t think we’d get it,” said Lauren. “We’re just two Salvos, passionate about Jesus and passionate about people, running a ‘start-up’ ministry in our home town. We knew that going to Exponential would be an experience that would shape the future of our ministry, so we thought we’d just throw our hat

in the ring and if God wanted us there then we’d be given a grant to go. And we were!”

During Exponential, Nina and Lauren sat under teaching from the Forge, a mission-training network that started in Australia and has now spread across the world.

“For me, the workshops with Forge were the highlight,” said Nina. “We heard real-life stories from people who are taking ‘church’ outside the building ... just being church in

their community, loving others in radical ways and partnering with God in his work every day, not just on Sundays.”

The teaching focused on encouraging all Christians, not just ministry leaders or clergy, to step into the great commission that God has for everyone. “Evangelism goes much further than simply inviting people to church,” said Lauren. “It’s about empowering Christians to be disciple-makers themselves.”

– Simone Worthing

National recognition for social research team

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS WON a national award for its work measuring the social impact of its Moneycare financial counselling and capability services.

The Social Impact Measurement Network Australia Awards recognise the best, most innovative and collaborative social outcomes measurement in Australia. The Salvation Army Research Team (NSW, Queensland and the ACT) won in the Changemaker category for its Moneycare Outcomes Measurement Project.

Territorial Research Manager, Johana Susanto, said The Salvation Army has only recently shifted towards outcomes measurement, so to win the national award just two years into implementation of the new process is encouraging.

“It’s really such a privilege for our team, and for those on the frontline as well,” said Johana.

“We’re not just acting as a consultant to impose a measurement tool, we’re



^ Salvation Army Research and Moneycare team members at the Social Impact Measurement Network Australia awards.

actually working together in genuine partnership with the frontline team to really understand why they’re doing what they’re doing, what the service is like, and learning with them how we should measure and report on the progress of people that are receiving our support.”

The Moneycare Outcomes Measurement Project journeyed with community members using the service and asked questions about their financial resilience situation in

a holistic way, both before they began with Moneycare, and afterwards.

Chief Executive Officer of Financial Counselling Australia, Fiona Guthrie, said the Moneycare award is a boost to the sector as a whole.

“Financial counsellors know that financial counselling works, because we see it at first hand and our clients tell us,” she said. “But we’ve always had a big gap in ongoing and effective outcomes measurement.

“The Salvation Army approach is incredibly important because it is based on such a sound methodology, using client and counsellor assessment that is rigorous and tested.”

Johana said The Salvation Army’s research team will continue to partner with frontline services and mission expressions to implement outcomes measurement across the entire organisation, “in a way that is accessible to all”.

– Lauren Martin

Hobart Salvationist joins Australia Territory Board

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE HAS approved the appointment of Hobart Salvationist Felicity Natoli (pictured) to the Australia Territory Board.

Felicity, who has had a distinguished legal career, will begin her tenure on the board in February.

She is currently Group Senior Manager, Deposit-takers, Credit and Insurers at the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

Felicity graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Laws in 1989 and with a Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice in 1990.

She was admitted as a barrister and solicitor to the Supreme Court of Tasmania in 1991 and the High Court of Australia in 1993. She was then admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1999.

Throughout her legal career, Felicity has worked in private practice as well as in the corporate sector. Other roles held by Felicity include manager of The Salvation Army Prison Support

Service and teacher/gallery interpreter at the National Maritime Museum in London.

Felicity is actively involved in Hobart Corps, and is leader of the children’s ministry.





^ Danny chats with Joan* at Sydney Congress Hall's Thursday morning drop-in centre.

Belonging leads to believing at Sydney Congress Hall

IT'S A THURSDAY MORNING in Sydney. Up on level four of Sydney Congress Hall it's warm and the smell of toast is in the air. A TV is showing the news and several tables are full of people having breakfast, their mobile phones charging on nearby power outlets. Some are experiencing homelessness, some are lonely, others are simply hungry – their Centrelink payment not enough to get them through the week. All of them are welcome and comfortable.

Community worker Danny is a dedicated volunteer, as well as a part-time paid worker at Sydney Congress Hall, helping with its Wednesday night outreach to people experiencing homelessness, and its new Thursday morning drop-in centre.

"I can sort of understand what these people are going through to a certain degree," he said.

"We have our regulars that pop in that just like to sit down and watch a bit of television, charge their phones, have a bit of breakfast ... you can sit down and have a connection with people and they tell you what's going on.

"Some people, I don't know if they have anybody to talk to, so we lend them an ear and we can work with them to find out their needs and refer them to places or help them ourselves with what they need."

Thursday mornings are about connecting on a deeper level with the people they meet and deliver meals to the night before.

It's a warm, safe space for

people to relax and take time off the streets, where a person's alert levels are constantly high. It's also a place where friendships are formed.

For Joan*, Sydney Congress Hall's Wednesday Night Hope Chapel and Thursday morning drop-in centre are a vital lifeline for her.

"Last year, I popped into the reception downstairs just asking if I could get some help with some food assistance," she said.

"I live in a housing commission accommodation and I'm on Newstart (income support allowance). It's very difficult. Once my payment for child support is taken out plus fines that I've got, then my rent, water bill, electricity bill, gas ... there's not much left."

It wasn't long after Joan started attending the drop-in

centre that she asked if she could become involved and volunteer. Now, she's part of the team. At the drop-in centre, there is very little distinction between the "helper" and the "helped". Jesus didn't put people into categories, so neither do they.

"It used to be that uniformed Salvationists or officers were the only missionaries engaging in our public-facing services," said Sydney Congress Hall Corps Officer, Major Bruce Harmer.

"That's no longer the case. Today many of our missionaries are not Salvationists but are energetic and very committed either employees or volunteers. They are Salvos in my book, and they are engaged often in front-line mission expressions, serving like there's no tomorrow!"

– Lauren Martin
*not her real name.

Somerville school knits up a storm for Salvos

THE SALVATION ARMY IN Melbourne has found an entirely new approach to community outreach, and it involves knitting.

The Salvos were given the opportunity to partner with Somerville Primary School on the Mornington Peninsula, when school chaplain Kylie Nicholas started a knitting club to build better relationships with students.

Kylie got in contact with local Salvos Stores chief operating officer Neil Lund, who donated knitting needles and wool to the "Thursday Lunchtime Knitting Club".

The result has been the creation of more than 10 patchwork blankets for The Salvation Army Westernport Mission Centre.

Neil informed Salvation Army chaplain Graeme Hallett of the club, and Graeme was able to organise a Salvos gift pack for every student involved. With the additional donation of supplies and time from the local



^ Salvos Stores chief operations officer Neil Lund, Somerville Primary School chaplain Kylie Nicholas and Salvation Army chaplain Graeme Hallett pictured with the knitting club. Photo: Yanni.

community, primary school students have been able to learn how to knit for a cause.

"The children love being involved, and it has been wonderful to see them developing their skills, making new friends and developing a sense of pride in contributing to a project that is helping others," Kylie told the *Mornington Peninsula News*.

"Staff morale and student morale now is amazing," added Graeme. "There's a new excitement at the school. They're all really chuffed about it. The school principal has fallen behind it as well, and it is really entrenched in the school community now."

The knitting club started

small, with three students initially turning up, but they were able to produce the first blanket. As popularity and club numbers grew, so did the end goal. Now, more than 20 students are a part of the Thursday Lunchtime Knitting Club, and with the assistance of school staff, mums, aunts and nanas, they have completed another 10 blankets for the mission centre.

The blankets will be officially presented to The Salvation Army at an upcoming assembly, where Neil and Graeme will thank students and emphasise the importance of their contribution.

"We want to tell them what we're about and what we do; particularly Salvos Stores, but

The Salvation Army in general. We also hope to give them some donation bags for a partnership program where Salvos Stores pays \$5 for good donations and we'll sell them," said Graeme.

The knitting club is just the first step in further partnering with the local community. Graeme and the team are excited to share the mission of The Salvation Army, with Salvos Stores as a bridge to the services and church in the area.

"We want to continue the relationship of course, and build ongoing relationships with the community. Salvos Stores is just a step in our endeavour to embrace and become involved in the wider community."

– Jessica Morris

Drought response raised in Queensland

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS appointed a drought coordinator for the state of Queensland, as the crippling drought continues despite recent coastal rainfall.

Major Sue Hopper has been

given the additional responsibility of Queensland Drought Response Coordinator, for a period of six months. She will work alongside Major Robin Pullen who is coordinating the drought response in NSW and ACT.

"We want to make sure all of our mission expressions are aware of the funding that is available to help people affected

by the drought," Major Hopper said. "I'll be contacting all corps in drought-affected areas."

Currently, rural chaplains are supporting people affected by drought in southern Queensland, central-west and north-west Queensland. Major Mark Bulow, The Salvation Army's south-west Queensland Flying Service chaplain, based in Dalby, said the drought has been

going for so long in his area that people have nearly lost hope.

"Keep praying for rain," he said. "Pray for substantial rain throughout Queensland. And continue to donate. A lot of people think that because some parts of Australia have had a fair bit of rain that it's going to be okay, but it takes years for the properties to come back."

– Lauren Martin

Kistans California dreamin' for the Kingdom

AUSTRALIAN SALVATION ARMY officers, Captains Cheryl and Nesan Kistan, have been ministering in the USA Western Territory for just over a year, but say God has already opened doors to opportunities they couldn't have imagined.

The couple and their four children arrived in their appointment at Tustin Ranch Corps, California, in June last year, after spending the majority of their decade as Salvation Army officers in corps appointments at Auburn and Ryde in Sydney.

Tustin Ranch Corps is situated in Orange County, one of the wealthiest areas of California, yet, like most of the United States, homelessness is a huge issue. It's estimated that 554,000 people are homeless across the US on any given night.

In Orange County, the discrepancies between those that "have" and those that "have not" are stark. Not far outside Disneyland in Anaheim, dubbed the "happiest place on earth", people experiencing homelessness can be seen at the bus shelter. In Santa Ana and Anaheim, hundreds of people live in a "tent city" on a dry riverbed.

"We got on our bikes and rode down there," said Cheryl. "Just to meet the people who live there and get a sense of what it's like."



^ The Kistan family have settled into their new appointment in the USA Western Territory where Captains Nesan and Cheryl are corps officers at Tustin Ranch in Orange County.

As well as being corps officers, Cheryl and Nesan hold the titles of Orange County Coordinators, County Coordinator (Cheryl) and Divisional Secretary of Orange County (Nesan). Essentially, Nesan's title sees him as the CEO for The Salvation Army Orange County.

"My responsibility and ministry is to the entire Orange County, a population of just over four million people. Growing the mission and ministry of Orange County provides us with an incredible challenge and opportunity," Nesan said.

The Kistans oversee more than 100 staff across four corps and numerous social services, including recovery services, family services, homelessness

services, anti-trafficking programs and shelters, street outreach and youth and community centres.

"Our vision is bringing spiritual, emotional and physical transformation to the 34 cities in Orange County, one life at a time," said Nesan. "The key for us is to collaborate, to network, not to build an empire, but to build God's Kingdom."

"Our vision and dreams are ambitious, really ambitious," Nesan continued.

"We proposed a vision to the City of Anaheim to create a 'Centre of Hope', a 600-bed homeless shelter in Orange County, which would have wrap-around services – medical, mental, dental, it would have case managers, a pet-care shelter because a lot

of homeless people have pets – a really holistic approach to homelessness."

Nesan and Cheryl are expecting to open an initial 200-bed shelter with wrap-around services by the end of this year, with the expectation that it will grow to 600 beds within two years.

Other cities within Orange County have heard about the planned Centre of Hope and are approaching The Salvation Army to talk about how they could partner with it to tackle the issue of homelessness in their areas.

"We're looking at what we're doing here being rolled out across the county and potentially in other parts of the United States," said Nesan.

– Lauren Martin

Enrolments

NOOSA/COOLUM CORPS
QLD



CORPS OFFICER, MAJOR WARREN Parkinson, accepted Barbara and Ryan Fenner as adherents on Sunday 14 October. Pictured (from left) are Cadet Stephanie Savage, Major Warren Parkinson, Ryan Fenner, Barbara Fenner, and Major Denise Parkinson.

TUGGERAH LAKES CORPS
NSW



CORPS OFFICER, CAPTAIN WILLIAM Geracia, recently enrolled Margie Linklater as a senior soldier. Pictured (from left) are Andy Lorenz (soldiership class leader), Joy Woodbury (support person), Margie and Captain Geracia.

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES
VIC



CAPTAIN MANIKYA MERA ENROLLED SIX junior soldiers, Aydin, Arad, Samyar, Prisha, Vania and Vera on 16 October.

KALGOORLIE BOULDER CORPS
WA



LIEUTENANT GAVIN JONES ENROLLED adherent Cameron Mallory as a senior soldier on Sunday 21 October. You can read Cameron's story in Salvation Story on page 46.

WOLLONGONG CORPS
NSW



FIVE TEENAGERS, INCLUDING TWINS, were enrolled as senior soldiers of the Wollongong Corps on 28 October. (From left) Jordyn Walker, Chloe Inglis, Abby Adlington, Libby-May Priest and Emily Inglis were enrolled by Corps Officer Major Phil Inglis. All five already have serving roles in the corps.

KABRA OUTPOST
QLD



CAPTAIN DALE BROOKS, CAPRICORN Region Corps Officer, recently accepted six adherents at Kabra Outpost. They are (from left) Rovena Rodgers, Janette and Trevor Holland, Chris Hatch, and Ruth and Graham Robertson, with Captains Dale and Ros Brooks. Graham Ivers is the flagbearer.

Salvation Army recognised as a church in Georgia

THE SALVATION ARMY IN THE Republic of Georgia recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of ministry in the country.

During the weekend celebrations in the capital, Tbilisi, The Salvation Army received its official national certification as a church in the eastern European country.

Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham, and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham (World Secretary for Women's Ministries)



^ Lieutenant-Colonels Kelvin and Cheralynne Pethybridge (far right), receive a Georgian welcome, along with the Buckinghamams (far left) and territorial leaders Colonels Jostein and Mangna Våje Nielsen.

were special guests for the celebrations.

Australian officers, Lieut-Colonels Kelvin and Cheralynne

Pethybridge, Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries in the Eastern Europe Territory [of

which Georgia is a Region], also attended the anniversary weekend as part of the new roles they took up this year.

Earthquake response targets mental health, trauma

MORE THAN THREE MONTHS on from the devastating earthquake that struck Indonesia's Central Sulawesi region, The Salvation Army's disaster response continues with a focus on mental health and wellbeing.

To date, trauma-healing sessions have been implemented in 15 separate locations and attended by 1200 people.

To meet demand, The Salvation Army's Indonesia Territory is training a further 20 officers in trauma counselling, and these reinforcements will be sent to Central Sulawesi to support the team already on the ground.

International Emergency Services Deputy Coordinator, Damaris Frick, and Australian Project Officer, Major Drew

Ruthven, bolstered the Indonesian team in Palu.

Both liaised regularly with Indonesian government disaster response officials, and participated in regular "hub" meetings

that coordinated the activities of the aid agencies and other non-governmental organisations that are involved in the large-scale response to the disaster.



^ The Salvation Army is providing ongoing support for people displaced by the earthquake that struck Indonesia.

Inter-faith forum focuses on displaced children

THE SALVATION ARMY WAS ONE of 14 faith-based organisations that participated in an international forum to consider how to improve the lives of 28 million children worldwide that, through a variety of reasons, are forced to live away from their homes.

The Faith Action for Children on the Move: Global Partners Forum, took place in October in Vatican City.

Participants learned more about the issue and planned ways to increase awareness, strengthen partnerships, improve delivery, scale up interventions and influence decision-making.

Therapy dogs join US hurricane response

FOR WHAT'S BELIEVED TO BE the first time in its history of disaster response, The Salvation Army has invited Therapy Dogs International to work alongside them in the wake of Hurricane Florence.

Therapy Dogs International is a volunteer organisation dedicated to helping handlers get their therapy dogs to wherever they're needed most.

From nursing homes to hospitals – and now disaster relief sites such as Wilmington, North Carolina – the dogs provide comfort and care in a way only they can.

"The therapy dogs add another level to our emotional and spiritual care efforts. It's another connection we're making with people that have just experienced trauma," said



^ Therapy Dogs International handlers have been working with The Salvation Army in the US to offer a special level of emotional care, especially for children, in the wake of Hurricane Florence.

Kevin Chinault, Director of Social Services for The Salvation Army of Clearwater and Upper Pinellas County, Florida.

"Even when people won't talk,

they'll connect. The therapy dogs are truly helping us provide the much-needed ministry of presence. A dog can actually make people feel better."

General goes on air in Northern Ireland visit

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND Commissioner Rosalie Peddle (World President of Women's Ministries) shared freely of themselves and their passion for The Salvation Army and God when they led meetings at Belfast Sydenham Corps in Northern Ireland.

Sunday began with a live interview with the General on the BBC Radio Ulster program *Sunday Sequence*, where a wide range of topics was covered, including the cross-community nature of The Salvation Army's work in Northern Ireland.

Many people responded to the General's message at the mercy seat during the morning meeting, which was live-streamed on Facebook. The final gathering was built around "In Conversation" interviews with the international leaders, hosted by prominent broadcaster Paul Clark.

Princess remembers Salvation Army on wedding day

SALVATION ARMY STAFF AND volunteers, along with two victims of modern slavery from England and Nigeria who have received support from the Army, were invited to celebrate the royal wedding between Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank at Windsor Castle on Friday 12 October.

Among the wedding guests was Norree Webb, 70, who is a lifelong member of The Salvation Army.

Since retiring, Norree has thrown herself into a voluntary

role as a first responder within The Salvation Army Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery unit.

Princess Eugenie has taken a personal interest in advocating for victims of modern slavery, having visited two of The Salvation Army's safe houses in the United Kingdom and lent her support to one of the movement's campaigns to raise public awareness of modern slavery and encourage greater scrutiny of modern slavery in supply chains.



^ Princess Eugenie, who has visited two of The Salvation Army's safe houses in the United Kingdom, invited Salvation Army staff, volunteers and two victims of modern slavery to her wedding.

CARL SCHMIDTKE



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CARL Schmidtke was promoted to glory from Geelong on 4 October, aged 80. A

thanksgiving service for Lieut-Colonel Schmidtke was held on 12 October at South Barwon Corps, conducted by Captain Mal Davies.

Carl was born in Hong Kong to Captains Ernst and Frieda Schmidtke while they were appointed to the South China Command. He was one of six children. The family moved to Australia in 1948 and were appointed to Ballarat West and then Geelong West. Following his secondary schooling, Carl studied as a telegraphist and was employed at Australia Post and the Geelong Harbour Trust.

As a child, Carl committed his life to following Jesus and stayed true to this commitment for more than 70 years. Carl met Valerie when he was 15 and they married eight years later, in December 1961. Three months later, the young couple were packing their bags in preparation for a move to The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne. They joined the *Servants of Christ* session.

While cadets, Carl and Valerie had terms of oversighting both the Bairnsdale and Alamein Corps before they were commissioned as lieutenants and sent to South Australia. Over the next nine years, they served as corps officers at Elizabeth, Port Lincoln, Renmark and Whyalla and also welcomed their three children – Derek, Belinda and Stephen – during this time.

In 1973, the family moved to Victoria as corps officers at Camberwell and then to the Hobart Corps in Tasmania. A return to Melbourne saw Carl commence as the field training officer at the training college, followed by divisional secretary of Eastern Victoria Division, and then was appointed to the new Church Growth Department. Major Carl served as divisional commander over 12 years in Western Victoria, South

Australia and Sydney East and Illawarra (Australia Eastern Territory) before returning to Melbourne as the training principal where they served for four years prior to their retirement in January 2004.

In their retirement, Carl and Valerie settled in Geelong. As a soldier of South Barwon Corps, Carl has assisted with pastoral care, coordinated the local Red Shield Appeal, wrote the corps prayer newsletter, led the weekly prayer meeting, volunteered with Mainly Music and led Bible studies. He also held several short-term appointments in retirement.

Carl was known as a gentle and pastoral man who lived a prayerful life that enabled him to possess and speak with spiritual authority and to always be Jesus-focused. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Lieut-Colonel Valerie Schmidtke, Derek and Melinda, Belinda and Geoff, Stephen and Katrina, and grandchildren.

LIONEL LING



MAJOR LIONEL ARTHUR LING was promoted to glory from Melbourne on 6 October, aged 82. A thanksgiving service

for Major Ling was held on 17 October at Bentleigh Corps, conducted by Commissioner Brian Morgan.

Lionel was the fifth child born to Edward (Ted) and Bertha Ling in Midland, Western Australia. He undertook his schooling at Thebarton Technical School and worked as a fitter and turner at FW Hercus from 1954-1958. Having recommitted his life to following Jesus when he was 17 years of age, Lionel then answered the call to officership when he was 22. In 1959, he farewelled the Colonial Light Gardens Corps, South Australia, and headed to Melbourne to The Salvation Army Training College to join the *Pioneers* session.

Upon being commissioned, Lieutenant Lionel was appointed as the corps officer

at Seymour Corps, followed by Kerang Corps in Victoria. In December 1961, Lionel married Lieut Verity Waldron and they continued in corps officership at Beechworth and Golden Square in Victoria, then Geraldton and Kalgoorlie/Boulder in Western Australia. In each of these appointments, they also celebrated the birth of their children – Sydney (David), Evan, Antony and Karina.

A return to Lionel's home state of South Australia saw the Ling family lead corps at Port Pirie, Kadina-Wallaroo-Moonta circuit, Thebarton and Elizabeth before moving to Victoria as corps officers at Mooroolbark, Ballarat West, Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully.

In 1985, Majors Lionel and Verity Ling moved into Social Services and Lionel was appointed as the migrant services and refugee officer in Victoria, followed by manager of the Red Shield Hostel in Darwin, chaplain at The Gill Memorial Home and The Open Door in Melbourne, then assistant officer to the assistant secretary for program (THQ).

Lionel's final appointment was as information officer for the Melbourne Central Division where he served for two years. Majors Lionel and Verity Ling retired in November 2001.

In retirement, Lionel and Verity settled in Mildura where they enjoyed their 16 years. As soldiers of Mildura Corps, Lionel assisted with band and songsters and appeals. He also served as chaplain to the National Servicemen's Association for 14 years. Lionel and Verity moved to Melbourne in 2017 to soldier at Bentleigh Corps.

Lionel was known as a faithful, sincere and hardworking officer who spent many years in corps appointments where he was appreciated as a good pastor. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Major Verity Ling, Sydney (David), Evan and Bridget, Antony and Jane, and Majors Karina and Peter Wood, grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

About people

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 22 October

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

Effective 7 November

Captain Amy Jones, Assistant Corps Officer, Sunshine Corps, Victoria Division.

Effective 9 January

Major Sue Davies, Officer Personnel Secretary, NSW/ACT Officer Personnel Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Major Trevor Nicol, Officer Personnel Secretary, Team Leader, NSW/ACT, Officer Personnel Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Major Darrell Slater, Chaplain, THQ – Redfern, Officer Personnel Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel (additional appointment); Major Colin Young, Associate Strategic Emergency and Disaster Management Coordinator, NSW/ACT Community Engagement Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Esther Atkins, Corps Officer, Reservoir Corps, Victoria Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Matthew Atkins, Corps Officer, Reservoir Corps, Victoria Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Alison Templar, Corps Officer, Brunswick Corps, Victoria Division.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Effective 5 December

Major Peter Davey, Territorial Finance Secretary, Brazil Territory.

Effective 11 January 2019

Captain Jason Dannock, Corps and Community Services Officer, Temiskaming Community Church, New Liskeard, Ontario Great Lakes Division, Canada and Bermuda Territory; Major Sharon Dannock, Corps and Community Services Officer, Temiskaming Community Church, New Liskeard, Ontario Great Lakes Division, Canada and Bermuda Territory.

Effective 1 February

Major Gregory Morgan, Divisional Commander, Southern Division, United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland Territory; Major Priya Morgan, Divisional Leader for Leader Development, Southern Division, United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland Territory.

RETIREMENTS

Major Glenn Whittaker, Captain Joy Lotty, Major Ian Henry, Majors Bruce and Glenys Domrow, Major Maurie Clarke-Pearce, Major Allan Kerr, Majors Les and Sharon Coulter, Majors June and Russell Grice, Captain Phil Cardew, Major Isabel Beckett.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Albert Everitt, on 13 November.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Greg Saunders, of his father, Keith Saunders, on 6 November.

Engagement calendar

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD

(TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

Melbourne Wed 28 Nov-Mon 3 Dec - Still Others events.
Brisbane Sat 15 Dec - Community Christmas lunch, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.
Sydney Thur 20 December - THQ Redfern Christmas gathering.

COLONELS MARK (CHIEF SECRETARY) AND

JULIE CAMPBELL (TSWM/GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE)

Melbourne Wed 28 Nov-Mon 3 Dec - Still Others events.
*Melbourne Thur 6-Sun 7 Dec - Women in Leadership Summit.
NSW Mon 10 Dec - Retired Officers Fellowship, Sydney and South NSW.
Melbourne Thur 13 Dec - THQ Blackburn and Glen Waverley Christmas gathering.
Sydney Sat 15 Dec - Celebration and Thanksgiving Service, School for Officer Training, Bexley North.
Sydney Thur 20 December - THQ Redfern Christmas gathering.

*Colonel Julie Campbell only

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WORDS

CAMERON MALLORY

No longer an angry man.

I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DEALING WITH The Salvation Army as a contractor for years. I run the technical side of my family's security business and we installed an alarm about 10 years ago at Kalgoorlie Corps, and I've been in and out as a contractor since then. From that I built up a good friendship with Captain Mark Schatz [former Kalgoorlie Corps Officer.]

In 2016, my wife and I were having issues. Mark suggested coming in for marriage counselling. [When the marriage didn't work], it turned from relationship counselling to anger management counselling. I was very angry at the time and I had started drinking a lot – I was drinking up to three bottles of Jack Daniels a week. It was getting to the point where I would have considered myself a functioning alcoholic.

Mark suggested I do The Salvation Army's Positive Lifestyle Program (PLP). I agreed, but I said to Mark, "Do not try to get me to come to church." My whole life I'd never had any form of faith. Over the Christmas period we decided to put the PLP program in recess, but then I took a backward step. On New Year's Eve, I ended up drinking to the point where I still don't remember parts of the night. I told Mark that, and he said to me, "Well, we need to get back into PLP."

The first PLP session back, Mark said, "You obviously feel very comfortable here", because I had been spending a lot of time installing a CCTV system at the corps and just hanging out with the guys that were staying in the temporary accommodation there. So, he ended up



◆ Cameron with his daughter, at Kalgoorlie Corps where he found a spiritual home.

inviting me to church. He said, "You don't have to believe, just rock up."

I came to church and felt very comfortable and Mark gave me a four-week challenge, which he's well known for. Basically, I would rock up for four weeks in a row, even if I did not like it, just rock up and at the end of that four weeks if I still did not think it was for me then there would be nothing mentioned of it after that. At the end of that four weeks I decided that it was the place for me, but I still wasn't a 100 per cent believer.

During Easter 2017, we had a Passover meal on the Saturday night. It was about an hour after I got home from that event, I experienced a miracle. All of a sudden, I believed! I went to the service on Sunday and I was seeing things completely different. I gave my heart to Jesus that day and never looked back!

My outlook has changed significantly. I look at the world with a lot more purpose; I'm a lot happier within myself; I feel more content within myself. For several years I had apparently been known as a very angry and hostile person, but now people say I am happier, friendlier and not angry all the time.

I was enrolled as a soldier this year and I've preached a sermon. Next year I'm starting a certificate four in ministry and theology. I feel like I'm being led towards youth pastoral care. It's nothing I'd ever considered before, but I feel that's where I'm being led by God. I can see myself going to college and becoming a Salvation Army officer one day. I feel that it's a little while away, but I do feel that it's somewhere that I am heading. ●

As told to Lauren Martin

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