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*Truth,
and Justice
the Jesus way*



INSIDE :: PRODIGAL SON :: JUST CONNECTING :: COMMISSIONER VIC POKE :: OOTHUNGS AWARD



To view the International Vision Plan, go to <http://sar.my/one>

The Salvation Army
Australia Southern Territory
WILLIAM BOOTH, *Founder*



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magazine

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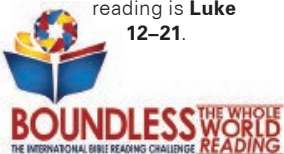
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For the fortnight starting 23 March, the required reading is **Luke 12–21**.



WELCOME

A plan for life

As I sit here and wonder what to say in the welcome this week, I've been looking at our content for the magazine for inspiration—I've just been reading the 'Prayer and Evangelism' supplement and information about the Surrender conference. I'm aware that we will also be celebrating the life of Commissioner Vic Poke.

The word that keeps coming to my mind is 'intentional'.

Major Marney Turner, echoing the words of Finney, reminds us that we need to intentionally pursue revivalist prayer, set time aside for it and consider what it is we are actually praying for and the outcomes we are hoping for.

Surrender:15 purposefully explores our role as agents of reconciliation in a broken world. It's ultimately about unity and relationship with God, but brings together different organisations that are passionate about 'Christians moving from interest to action by becoming personally involved in different expressions of Christ's mission amongst the poor'.

And Commissioner Poke will be incredibly missed. I remember listening to him speak at our Bible study some time ago, about his work in Sweden and the immense task he faced implementing structural change. He saw the task ahead, considered what was necessary and resolutely took the necessary course of action—not a job for the faint-hearted.

In all of the above, the desired outcome was the first thing to be considered. How to get there, and bring others along, was then intentionally implemented and, after consistent perseverance, the goal reached.

Sounds like a good plan for life generally. Where are you headed? What do you want to achieve? How are you going to get there? Some hints—stay focused on God, pray about it continually and stick at it until you get there.

June Knop

Captain June Knop
Editor-in-chief

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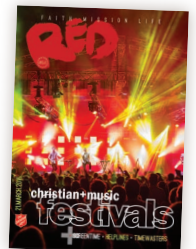
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From left: EPlus employees Kristy Zumpe, Barry Doyle, Albert Hegarty and Sally Simpson with mangaging director Greg Moul. (Note: 'mangaging' is misspelled in the original text)

Oothungs Mining program wins award

After winning the Queensland Premier's Award for Industry Collaboration in September 2014, The Oothungs (Sisters) in Mining won the Industry Collaboration section of the 2014 Australian Training Awards.

Oothungs is a unique collaboration between Salvation Army Employment Plus, Thiess and Wesfarmers Curragh, providing Indigenous women with a pre-employment program and pathway to permanent work in the central Queensland mining sector.

The program prepares participants for a career as a haul truck operator, at the end of which a competency-based traineeship is undertaken that contributes to a nationally recognised Certificate II in Surface Mine Extraction Operations, and a permanent, full-time position.

A pilot program of six participants began in

2010 and, based on its success, the current program was launched in 2013 and has been replicated at two coal mines.

As well as addressing the needs of the mining industry, the program was developed after engagement with the traditional owners of the land and various community organisations. In addition to training in technical competencies, the program provides non-vocational training in time management, negotiation and goal-setting.

Accepting the award, Employment Plus managing director Greg Moul said, 'All three organisations are incredibly proud of the inroads the program has made—building a more diverse and inclusive culture at a grassroots level, pushing stereotypical boundaries and creating a sustainable entry pathway for indigenous women into the mining industry.'

Salvo heritage tour of the UK

From 6–15 July 2015, Commissioner William Francis and Dr Roger Green will lead a Salvation Army Heritage Tour of the United Kingdom.

This custom-designed 10-day tour, beginning the day after the end of the Boundless Congress in London, will explore the sites and scenes of Salvationist beginnings in England. At the end of the tour, there is the opportunity to travel through Ireland for an extra five days.

This is the first time—in the Army's 150-year history—that a tour has been organised to all the major Salvation Army sites throughout England. Those taking the tour will visit 23 Army-linked sites and 13 sites linked to John

Wesley and William Booth's Methodist background—in addition to historic places like York Minister and St Paul's Cathedral in London.

With 16,000 Salvationists expected for the Congress, the tour is filling quickly and spaces are limited. The tour promises to be a lifetime memory and is a 'must see' for those interested in Salvation Army history.

Those who would like to join this unique and historic tour should register on line at www.eotours.co/slvtnarmy where a video featuring Commissioner Francis and Dr Green describes the sites that the tour will visit.



Appointment changes

Colonels Peter and Jennifer Walker (above), currently serving respectively as chief secretary and territorial secretary for women's ministries in the Australia Southern Territory, have been appointed as territorial leaders, Indonesia Territory—Colonel Peter Walker as territorial commander and Colonel Jennifer as territorial president of women's ministries.

They will take up their new appointments, with rank of commissioner, at the beginning of August.

Lieut-Colonels Graeme and Karyn Rigley (below), currently serving respectively as secretary for programme and officer development secretary in the Australia Southern Territory, have been appointed respectively as chief secretary and territorial secretary for women's ministries.

They will take up their new appointment responsibilities, each with the rank of colonel, from 1 August.



Truth, Justice and the Jesus way



A conference, a message and a network that's all about inspiring Christians on a journey from being believers to being disciples, SURRENDER:15 MAKING THINGS RIGHT is a place where people discover that salvation is bound up with the poor, the marginalised and those who suffer.

Maintaining that 'in their deepest form, poverty and sin come from our broken relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the Earth, and are expressed spiritually, socially, mentally, emotionally, economically, and in the Earth itself', the conference invites people on a journey towards great love and great suffering, from self-sufficiency to abandonment in God. It encourages believers to live out a radical discipleship that relates the Gospel to justice and mission, in neighbourhoods both locally and globally.

Started by Urban Neighbours of Hope as a missional movement, focusing on being incarnational in local communities, SURRENDER brings people together from many Christian denominations and non-government organisations—such as The Salvation Army. In this way, encouragement is given to the wider body of the Church, focusing on kingdom values more than specific denominational approaches.

Its primary purpose is to motivate people to move from interest to action, by becoming personally involved in expressions of Christ's mission among the poor. The conference affirms, encourages and inspires those already committed and involved in such work and mission.

Captain Craig Farrell says that SURRENDER 'is a great opportunity to sit alongside indigenous Christians'—with much to be learnt from their focus on community and communal faith.

The Salvation Army continues its involvement with SURRENDER through Just Salvos—as a hosting partner, and as a member of the council that shapes SURRENDER, thus contributing to the DNA of the movement.

As the social justice arm of The Salvation Army, Just Salvos seeks to bring transformation to a world weighed down by oppression and sadness. Just Salvos works toward this by engaging with those suffering in our communities, not only for better understanding of the conditions of injustice, but also to stand in solidarity with those in need.

They seek to break down the unjust structures and powers that perpetuate cycles of oppression. Just Salvos educates others to understand the radical social gospel that deeply roots us in the values of mercy, love and justice that must direct believers' daily lives—not just their mission work.

SURRENDER:15 is a space that encourages people to dream for their communities of faith and for the communities in which they live and work. As the Church, as a whole, loses more and more connection and traction in contemporary society, SURRENDER inspires Salvationists to explore how their local corps can live in the 'upside-down-ness' that Jesus spoke of, as the first become last, and the last first.

In 2014, Just Salvos had a tent with fair trade chocolate fondue, an op shop and musical act, The Hollands. Also, the 'Feast of Stories' informal panel discussion provided opportunity for Captains Nari and Stuart McGifford to share stories of asylum seekers from their corps at Dandenong, while Major Tracey English talked about chaplaincy and Matt Bell discussed his role with Indigenous Hospitality House.

After last year's **SURRENDER**, Major Marion Weymouth said, **'At SURRENDER we meet with people who care and are passionate about Christ in the brokenness of our neighbourhoods.** We can be inspired to a renewed sense of hope and commitment to seeing God's kingdom break out in our neighbourhoods.'

In 2015, **SURRENDER** is bringing together practitioners from overseas and around Australia. Key speakers are Ruth Padilla de Borst from Costa Rica; Paul Sparks, from the US; Sarah Thompson, also from the US; Reverend Neville Naden, from the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Australia; and Right Reverend Justin Duckworth, Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand.

RUTH PADILLA DE BORST currently serves as Director of Christian Formation and Leadership Development with World Vision International and as General Secretary of the Latin American Theological Fellowship. She lives in Costa Rica, where she shares parenting of their blended, multicultural family with her husband, James Padilla De Borst.

Ruth has been involved for many years in leadership development and theological education for integral mission in her native Latin America as a missionary with Christian Reformed World Missions.

PAUL SPARKS is co-founder of the Parish Collective, a network of over 200 churches and community organisations that are rooted in particular neighbourhoods, and linked across the US and Canada.

Paul lives in an urban neighbourhood at the heart of downtown Tacoma, Washington with his co-conspiring wife Elizabeth. They curate a growing faith community comprised of friends, artists and entrepreneurs seeking a common life together with their neighbours. Paul speaks for strong resilient relationships within neighbourhoods, and brave collaborative links across places.



SARAH THOMPSON, through her work in the international peace movement as a public speaker and community organiser, is adept at bringing people together across lines of difference and building momentum for positive social change.

Her Christian church involvement includes six years of volunteer work as the North American representative to Mennonite World Conference's Youth and Young Adult Executive Committee and Global Youth Summit planning group, as well as service with Mennonite Central Committee in Washington, D.C. advocacy office, and in her hometown of Elkhart, Indiana, USA.

NEVILLE NADEN and his wife Kathryn moved to Broken Hill (NSW) at the beginning of 2007. They pastor the Living Desert Indigenous Church, the only church in Broken Hill that specifically caters to the indigenous population.

They have been able to develop a number of ministries which include a booming youth ministry, Sunday church services, a youth drop-in centre and a community garden. Neville and Kathryn are seeing growth in all areas of their ministry with all services, including the youth Bible studies put on three times a month and the weekly church services, increasing in numbers.

RIGHT REVEREND JUSTIN DUCKWORTH, Bishop of Wellington, has been at the cutting edge of mission and ministry in Wellington for 25 years. He was a co-founder and leader of Urban Vision, which runs houses in some of Wellington's neighbourhoods, in which young Christians live alongside folk from the margins.

Justin and his wife Jenny also pioneered Ngatiawa, a contemporary monastery which provides a welcome to those who are struggling, seeking prayerful retreat, or pursuing a missional lifestyle.

BRON WILLIAMS

Making
THINGS
RIGHT

This year the three program streams are:

BEING MADE RIGHT—experiencing the inner journey of reconciliation and deep connection with God.

AMBASSADORS OF RIGHTNESS—as believers surrender to God's will they can be part of the process of seeing things made right in their streets, their nations and on the Earth.

RIGHT IN IT TOGETHER—believers are sustained and empowered as they are united by a shared heart, so that not just individuals, but whole communities, bring restoration.

SURRENDER:15 resonates with the DNA of The Salvation Army—of ministry and mission to those on the margins, of speaking out about injustice, and of concern expressed in practical action. It is an opportunity for Salvos to bring their stories of work in the community, of how God rescued them and shaped their lives, and of loving people 'on the margins', to encourage others and be encouraged.



Just connecting

Barry Gittins spoke to **Major Marion Weymouth** earlier this year about her tenure as territorial social justice secretary; her lessons, her liaisons and her legacy.



How has it been, looking back over your tenure as TSJS?

We came back home to Australia in January 2012, having served overseas for seven years in Hong Kong and Zambia; since then it's been a long three years of planning, campaigns and causes. 'Coming home' is hard at the beginning but it's good to reconnect with life in Australia, in a different way.

Having served extensively in other cultures you brought a different understanding and perspective, and your own strengths, to the social justice role; and certainly a holistic understanding of human beings, also, with your pre-officership background as a physiotherapist. What have you most enjoyed in your role?

I've loved the partnerships we've formed over that time. I've worked with many people that I respect and have learnt that others offer much to the social justice space. One example is our partners at Uniting Justice at Little Collins Street. Their research and resourcing have helped so much.

My vision in the area of pursuing social justice was a partnership model, whereby each community is reformed by connecting. The word 'connections' is vital. Connecting happens when we acknowledge our limitations and we know that we do need others to reform society, which is one of our territory's mission goals.

Territorial commander Commissioner Floyd Tidd, at a 2013 conference, engaged with and recognised the fact that social justice is an inherent aspect of The Salvation Army's theology and history...

And that came through quite strongly—his keynote address affirmed that social justice thinking and 'acting' are critical aspects to how we reshape ourselves, what we believe and how we behave. Social justice leads to changes in ourselves and in others.

He shared a beautiful quote, that no-one gets to heaven without a letter of recommendation 'from the poor'; you've seen The Salvation Army trying to engage with marginalised people. What are the highlights?

Helping people to connect and unite in efforts; refugees and asylum seekers; petitions to senators; and mission experience with volunteers at Melbourne Sexpo, whose understanding was broadened.

There is also the 'shaping' side, when you have enough contact with people and round-table conversations, to talk things through. A person's thinking and practices/behaviours can change when you get them to see life from someone else's perspective. As we are engaged, so we are changed. We see life through a different lens. We go on to help and change others.

We would see this kind of social justice participation squarely in the biblical context of being 'leaven in the dough', in terms of Christ's parable, but does that also apply to the social justice impact upon The Salvation Army itself?

Yes; as the commissioner said at that conference, he would love to think that every person in The Salvation Army could be a social justice champion; an agent of change. It's an aspirational statement that rings true.

We have also built up our connections and relationships, and trust, with our divisional social justice coordinators (DSJCs) who are placed to be agents of change. I have found that they are really good people who have a passion for social justice and are able to link that passion for change to their other work. Often they are doing two or three other jobs as well; they are not doing huge amounts of extra work as social justice is not an 'optional extra'—it is a thread present in the work they are already doing. The DSJCs have managed to do that well and have been able to facilitate the same passion in others, through events or partnerships. It comes back to that word 'connections'.

In terms of your tenure, what have been the highlights?

Harmony Day last year... I went to Carrum Downs for the launch of Captain Rachael Castle's third children's book on social justice issues, *Jemima's Lullaby*. By combining the launch with that setting, with the Harmony Day celebration, we were able to mix with diverse people from the community and recognise the significance of local, neighbourhood connections.

There have been some good fair trade initiatives, such as a university fair trade fair in 2012 when cadets from the training college served chocolate fondue and spoke with people about fair trade chocolate.

SURRENDER is a major annual event for Just Salvos, engaging with the broader church and para-church/NGO community. SURRENDER looks at the realities facing poor and marginalised people from Christ's perspective. Specifically it engages those who are marginalised and those doing the reaching out—there is a 'gelling' going on there, and good interaction with the Indigenous community.

I am a member of the Army's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group, where connecting with others and building relationships has been a highlight. It's been a big learning curve for me, engaging with Indigenous people who are very good teachers. Non-Indigenous people will do well to listen to them as to how we go about living our lives, and how we 'programmatised' stuff. The 'white fella' perspective is markedly different from theirs. As we engage in Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) I believe it will help us overcome discrimination and disadvantage.

A valuable event was recognising identity through an Aboriginal and Indigenous engagement with Major Pam Marshall, where we dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags during the reconciliation week in 2014. Our reconciliation statements were distributed to all of our corps. The effectiveness of my role was more to engage in actions than drive them.

Supplying images for publication

When sending photos to *On Fire* via email, please ensure they are high-resolution—the larger the better (if your image’s longest side is 1,000 pixels or more, or the file size is 750k–1mb, that’s a good start).

Send images as separate email attachments (and please **DO NOT EMBED IMAGES** in a Word document or similar). Photographic prints will be returned after publication.

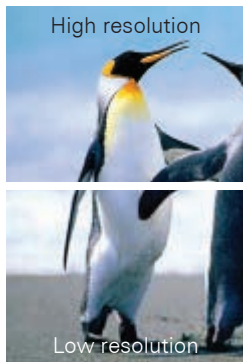
■ Photos should provide visual interest and context (e.g. someone holding a can of food for a food bank story).

■ Get close to your subjects—you may have to ask people to regroup for a staged photograph.

■ If possible avoid harsh shadows on faces (moving your subject under a tree or covered portico may help).

■ Provide clear, correctly spelt captions.

Email your articles and photos to onfire@aus.salvationarmy.org or post to *On Fire*, PO Box 479, Blackburn 3130. Thanks.



HOUSEMATE WANTED



A 40-year-old man, living in Melbourne's eastern region, is looking for a supportive housemate to join his community of support to assist him to live in his own home.

He has a good sense of humour, is caring of others and has a strong sense of justice. He has a very supportive and loving family and an extended community of support which includes paid workers, friends and allies who assist him with the smooth running of his life.

We are looking for a mature and responsible person who is confident and caring, has excellent communication skills, lives according to Christian values and embraces a commitment to supporting and sharing life with vulnerable community members.

This role would provide you with an opportunity to experience living in community, and an opportunity to join with others dedicated to supporting the rights of people with a disability. Accommodation rent-free; utility costs shared.

For further information contact: **Teresa Micallef**,
Community Facilitator of Living Distinctive Lives, on 0408 034 036
or email ldlcommunity@optusnet.com.au

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Excelling in the grace of giving

A few years ago I was impressed to hear about a Salvationist who made provision in her will for 13 children she had sponsored through The Salvation Army's child sponsorship program. After her death, these children continued to receive sponsorship and other gifts until they reached adulthood.

On reflection, I am sure this elderly lady didn't start out sponsoring 13 children at once, but gradually added to her 'family' over time. This is a perfect example of what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote to the multi-gifted Corinthian church. He says:

'But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving' (2 Corinthians 8:7).

The word 'excel' in this verse means 'to distinguish oneself, to surpass, exceed or go beyond a limit or standard'. Put simply, it means to get better at something. And that is exactly what we are encouraged to do in the act of giving. As we grow in grace, then we grow in our capacity and willingness to give.

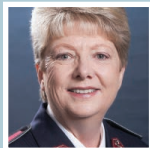
Our giving should never be static or unalterable. As we learn more about God's grace and abounding generosity towards us, then we are motivated and challenged to set new standards in our giving—to out-rival ourselves and exceed our expectations. Giving is a heart response to God's work of grace in us. Grace in, grace out!

Brian Kluth (inspirational author and speaker) says that wherever we are on our journey to a more generous life, God wants to take us further. He says, 'I have discovered that the Lord will draw a new line in the sand for each of us to cross over in order to live more generously and to experience him more fully.'

What new line in the sand is the Holy Spirit calling you to cross over in the grace of giving? As we consider our contribution to the Self Denial Appeal this month let us be challenged to 'excel in the grace of giving'.

J. K. Walker

Colonel Jennifer Walker
Territorial secretary for women's ministries



The instructing Jesus

Geoff Webb shares a series on Mark's gospel focusing on special words or phrases that give insight into Jesus, his mission, and his call to be his disciples.

~ MARK 4:1-34 ~

'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land...'

In Jesus' time, however, they sowed first and ploughed it in later. Handfuls of seed were thrown in a sweeping arc, and landed in various places. Some landed on the path—the well-worn track through the field as people crossed it—which the plough would break up later. Some fell among rocky places—which the plough might later break up, or which might be avoided completely. Some settled among weeds, which would also be ploughed under. If birds came before the plough, or if the seed germinated too quickly, the end results would be as Jesus described.

The different soils have sometimes been likened to different people within the Gospel. But what should we make of the sower's identity? What about the seed? What are we to make of Jesus' comment that parables are his chosen method, so that 'seeing they may see and not perceive...lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven'?

The parable of the sower, and the related parables of chapter four, find echoes in Isaiah 6:9-13. Jesus is quoting from the prophet, and uses words about hardness of heart to show how his own ministry would appear. For Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah, their ministry involved dealing with unwilling hearers—so too for Jesus.

But Isaiah 6:13 speaks of the holy seed that God would sow. Perhaps Mark is indicating God was sowing the holy seed in Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom—the reign of God. To be part of the reign of God requires the proclaimed 'seed' to be received by women, men and children. But hearing is more than temporary. It is a life of faithfulness, unlike the seed on rocky ground—those people who hear with joy but don't endure. Jesus' parables make clear that such joy is not enough: something has to be done—we have to produce. Discipleship—being part of the reign of God—is a call to continued obedient hearing, resulting in radical cross-bearing.

Major Dr Geoff Webb is the Western Victoria divisional commander and vice-chair of the Army's International Theological Council.



Commissioner Allan (Victor) Poke



Allan (Victor) Poke was born on 8 January 1946 in Tasmania's north-west, the third child of Luke Poke and Victoria (Torie) Austin. He grew up in a farming family, with siblings Nada, Gordon, Ian (dec.), John and Lilian. Vic, as he was lovingly known, reluctantly joined The Salvation Army as a 16-year-old with his

family, but later talked of this experience as 'finding his destiny'.

Vic spent his formative years in Burnie, Tasmania and upon completion of high school he was employed by the Burnie Pulp and Paper Mill as a scientific instrument maker. Responding to God's call upon his life, he entered The Salvation Army Training College from the Burnie Corps in 1967 as part of the 'Messengers of the Faith' session of cadets, where he met and fell in love with fellow cadet, Roslyn (Ros) Pengilly. Vic's first appointment was corps officer at Briar Hill, where he was later joined by his wife Ros following their marriage on 17 January 1970.

Fourteen years were spent as corps officers, firstly at Alamein in Eastern Victoria; followed by Bendigo, Northern Victoria; Alice Springs in the Northern Territory and Elizabeth, Renown Park and Unley in South Australia. During this time they were blessed with the arrival of their two children, Michelle and Darren.

After two years as divisional youth secretary and divisional guard organiser, Vic and Ros were appointed as corps officers of the Camberwell Corps for a term of five years. Here they were privileged to see considerable corps growth—particularly in the area of youth ministries and the introduction of multiple congregations. In 1991 Vic became the territorial youth and candidates secretary with Ros as the territorial guard organiser. After three years at Territorial Headquarters they were appointed to the Salvation Army Training College with Vic becoming the training principal. Vic loved his five years in youth work at both divisional and territorial level, as he had a great heart for young people.

In August 1997, Vic and Ros became the divisional commander and divisional director of women's ministries in the South Australian Division. Five years later, in November 2002, they were appointed to the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, as chief secretary and territorial secretary of women's ministries. Their final appointment, with the rank of commissioner, was as territorial commander and territorial president of women's ministries in Sweden and Latvia.

In all appointments, Vic's natural leadership capabilities drew additional responsibilities—for example, while serving in South Australia, he was made Moderator of the South Australian Council of Churches and Chair of the Heads of Christian Churches. As a consequence the Australian Government awarded him the 1988 Centennial Medal for services to the Church and community.

His spiritual dignity and depth were recognised by all, and his last task as an active officer was a significant acknowledgement of these qualities—attendance at the High Council and leading delegates in worship and prayer as their chaplain.

Vic and Ros officially retired after 42 years of active service on 1 February 2011. Retirement proved to be quite a busy time as they continued assisting as needed in both Australian territories, as well as Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong and Indonesia, and Vic took seriously the coordinating role for the Administration Leadership Training Course. He was also a valued board member of Scripture Union Victoria.

Vic was a delightful person to know. He had an abiding love for all people that was reflection of his love for his Lord. He was a fit man who ran the London marathon, enjoyed a round or two of golf with friends, and enjoyed a laugh. His bright cheery nature blessed many, and he was a devoted family man, loyal friend and a great encourager to all.

In retirement, golfer Vic continued his pursuit of lowering his handicap, and enjoyed the fellowship of club members and mates. Vic's gourmet cooking benefited from his garden produce, and the influence of many cooking shows. During this time, Vic and Ros re-joined the membership ranks and cheered loudly for their beloved St Kilda AFL team. Another joint passion was bird watching, their most recent escapades being to Lord Howe Island and a pelagic trip off the Port Fairy coast. Being back in Australia close to family and friends was a great blessing to them both, as was re-joining the Camberwell Corps. Vic and Ros also kept in close contact with international friends and colleagues.

Vic created his own personal mission statement—resolving to make a difference by being listener, a learner and a leader—and lived up to his high standards throughout both his active officership and into retirement. A hallmark of Vic's ministry was regular mentoring and coaching, and this continued even through his recent illness.

Commissioner Allan (Victor) Poke was promoted to Glory from Epworth Eastern Hospital, Box Hill, Victoria on 11 February, aged 69.

A service of thanksgiving was held on 16 February at Camberwell Corps, conducted by corps officer Major Brian Pratt. After a prayer from Justin Simpson, numerous tributes to life lived in service to the Lord and to the Army were delivered—including a Salvationist tribute from Ian Lingard, an officer tribute from Major Kelvin Merrett and the territorial commander's tribute presented by Commissioner Floyd Tidd. Vic's brother, Gordon Poke, read from Colossians 3:1–4, with a commentary on the scripture from Major Pratt. During the service, the congregation joined in with a number of well-known songs—including 'I Know Thee Who Thou Art' and 'Blessed Be Your Name'—and the band delivered a special message with 'Thy Holy Wings'. Vic's wife, Commissioner Ros Poke, and daughter Michelle delivered a family tribute, before the service concluded with 'O Love That Will Not Let Me Go'.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are extended to Vic's wife Ros, daughter Michelle, son Darren and daughter-in-law Karen, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

GOING HOME

David Parker re-imagines the story of **the Prodigal Son** for a modern world

The road stretched before me as the car settled into a comfortable cruising speed. I've driven this highway many times, but lately my trips have anticipated a confrontation at the end rather than peace and relaxation. The words of my 30-year-old son still echo in my mind.

His frantic phone call last night got me up early to make this unplanned journey: 'Dad, you just don't understand...I had to come back. I just can't do it anymore!'

It's only 10 days since he packed his truck and took off north, abandoning the country cottage that we had provided for him. He declared he wouldn't return. Now he expects to just move back in and not pay rent. He's broke. No job, no savings, just a lot of debts and some shady types chasing him for cash, probably drug money.

I thought about all the hopes and dreams we had held for him. All that potential just wasted.

Then I yelled at God...but suddenly realised what I was doing. For years I've treated God like he wasn't there. It's easy when you're angry at someone to pretend they don't matter and, worse, that they aren't really there—that they don't exist. Now the tears are flowing so hard I have to pull off the road.

He treated me like I don't matter. I'm his father, but it's like I did not exist in his eyes. Look at everything I've done for him. For years he just got angry, yelled at me, then left home again. Lately he just hasn't spoken to me at all. Now he's begging for help.

What's that story in the gospels about the wayward son, the one who leaves home and breaks his father's heart? I've been there—and he's still breaking my heart.

In Luke Chapter 15 we read: 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."... But the father said: "Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.'

As I sat in my car on the side of the road I imagined that prodigal son returning home to the welcoming arms of his father. But it wasn't my son that I was thinking about now. It was me! I'm the one that needs to go home, to go back to my father, back to the loving arms of God—my heavenly Father.



David Parker
works in education
and attends
Mornington
Corps (Vic.)

[BOOK] FINDING FAITH IN THE DARK

LAURIE SHORT ★★★

Self-disclosure can be a potent weapon in the hands of a writer. It can disarm, and shape a reader's reception of concepts and tales.

Author, speaker and associate pastor Laurie Short, in her 175-page homily (subtitled 'When the story of your life takes a turn you didn't plan'), freely and bravely shares excerpts of her own life, the lives of others and her interpretations of biblical figures' lives and motivations to make such an impact on her intended audience—Christians rendered uneasy at the lack of an easy ride through existence.

'By looking at others' stories, we find courage to live our own story,' she rightly contends, 'and we are often infused with hope...'

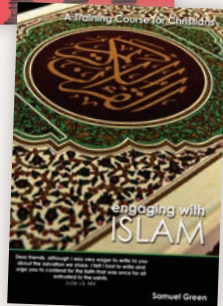
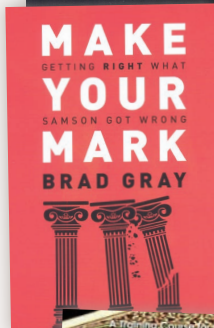
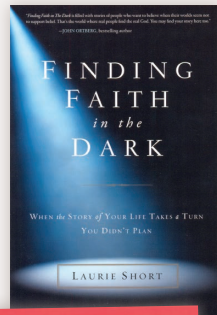
My concern with her cruisy view of discipleship is that, by doing thusly, she fosters a deterministic validation of suffering as one of God's favourite strategies to make us the best possible believers we can be.

It's a limited and limiting understanding of the Son, the Father and the Spirit. And it's an ill-grasped projection of the role of suffering in our lives.

An aspiring mainstay of American Christendom, Short offers genuine if stunted depictions of the grace given to help us endure the pains and vicissitudes we grow through towards God.

Barry Gittins

Available at Koorong, \$13.59, ebook \$10.99

**[BOOK] MAKE YOUR MARK:**

GETTING RIGHT WHAT SAMSON GOT WRONG

BRAD GRAY ★★★★★

Make Your Mark: Getting Right What Samson Got Wrong extensively explores the story of Samson to bring its teachings into today. This is Brad Gray's first book and he clearly knows the subject.

The historical, geographical and cultural contexts are explored, with considerations of language translations and story structure. It is exhaustive; at times too much, leaving me feeling—like Gray—that enthusiastic analysis had overstretched the Samson story beyond reason or belief.

Gray lightens the read with anecdotes about his personal experience with the lessons to be learnt through Samson; in forgiveness, pride, struggle and living life's calling. He writes about these in a practical, personable and easy to understand way.

Personally poignant were the teachings on struggle—Gray advises to struggle in relationships, but not struggle against each other, rather

to struggle together and grow. Regardless of what triggered something in me, each chapter is insightful and provokes introspection, building steadily into the hard-hitting questions in the last chapter of 'Who are you?', 'What are you doing here?' and 'How can you leverage your gifts for God, others and yourself?'

It's a transformative book that challenges and helps us to make changes in our own lives.

Samantha Jones

Available at Koorong, \$18.99.

[DVD+DOWNLOAD]**ENGAGING WITH ISLAM**

SAMUEL GREEN ★★★★★

Reflecting the needs in our increasingly multicultural society, Samuel Green, of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical students (AFES), has developed resources to help us engage with our Muslim friends and neighbours.

He initially produced a seven-session program on DVDs in 2005. In 2013 he upgraded this to 12 excellent sessions available via the internet. The program is suitable for individual, group or congregational study. Anyone can lead a group because teachers' and participants' notes are available for download.

The first six sessions deal with understanding the history, beliefs and practices of Islam. Sessions seven to 12 focus on talking with Muslims, answering their questions about the Christian faith and, ideally, leading

them to a commitment to Christ.

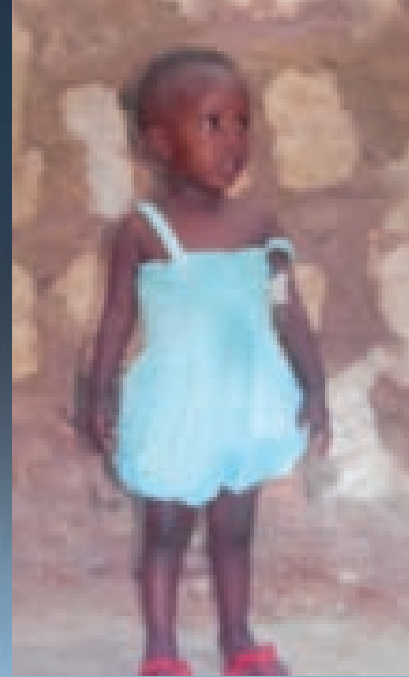
Each participant needs their own set of notes, undertaking some preliminary reading and attempting answers to a few introductory questions before attending a session of about one hour.

After discussing the reading and answers to the questions, the rest of each session consists of a video presentation and further discussion, including suggestions for relevant group and individual activities.

Engaging with Islam strikes the correct balance needed for effective cross-cultural Christian mission anywhere—a loving attitude, an informed mind and practical strategies. Having used the program, I recommend it highly.

Ian Southwell

Freely available for download from: www.engagingwithislam.org/training. AFES welcomes donations. DVDs of the 2013 version's visual presentations should be available for purchase at Christian bookshops from May this year.

**Bringing back joy**

Joy Sibongaya, the daughter of Lieutenant Jean Baptist Sibongaya and Lieutenant Maria Rose Uwimana from Runda Corps in Rwanda, is two years old. Sadly, Lieutenant Uwimana passed away in January 2015, leaving Joy in the care of her father. Joy is a very active girl; however since the death of her mother she has lost a great deal of her joy in life. She witnessed her mother being burnt while cooking, and continues to talk about and relive the memory, as her mother never recovered.

Foremost, we would ask that you keep Joy and her father in your prayers. We are also raising money to send to the family to help provide for Joy's education, clothing and food.

If you are touched by Joy's story, and able to give a one-off donation to help this family during such a difficult time, it would make a huge difference in their lives.

If you are able to help, please let us know by contacting the team:

(03) 8878 4543

PO Box 479, Blackburn,
Vic. 3130childsponsorship@
aus.salvationarmy.orgwww.salvationarmy.org.au/
childsponsorship

EASTERN VICTORIA DIVISION

MAJOR WINSOME MERRETT // On Sunday 1 February, the 2015 Divisional Celebration was held at Camberwell Corps. This celebration included musical support from the Waverley Temple Band and Berwick Contemporary Group.

During the meeting, divisional youth secretary Captain Craig Exon farewelled Dale and Fiona Allan from Rowville Corps, and Elizabeth Kang and Reak Deng from Berwick Corps, as they undertake officership training. Divisional candidates secretary Captain Leanne Smith prayed a prayer of dedication over the new cadets.

Divisional commander Major Winsome Merrett presented Envoy Amanda Ballantyne with her envoy's warrant, as Amanda takes up her new appointment as corps officer of Traralgon Corps.

The offering was allocated to South America West, EVD's 'Partner in Mission' territory, to fund a quarters project in the south of Chile —more than \$1,000 was raised.

Right, L-R: **Dale** and **Fiona Allan**, **Elizabeth Kang** and **Reak Deng**.



BELLARINE PENINSULA, VIC.

LIEUTENANTS DIANE AND PETER HOBBS // In partnership with the Department of Justice, Bellarine Salvos is using some donated raised garden beds for a community garden. These garden beds will be used to provide food, as well as a safe space for building a caring community.

Community garden coordinator Diane Feldman said, 'We are really grateful for the help of the Department of Justice and we hope this will be the beginning of a wonderful partnership.'



Lieutenant Peter Hobbs with the garden team.

CATHERINE BOOTH HOUSE, NT

JENNY GABEL // Ladies at Catherine Booth House have begun craft sessions, creating some wonderful paintings and making animals out of driftwood, sea shells and oyster shells.



DONCASTER, VIC.

CAPTAINS ANNE AND RAILTON HILL // Although not held on 26 January itself, the first 2015 young adults' gathering was an 'Aussie Day' BBQ, followed by a screening of the classic Australian movie *The Castle*.

The group of around 25 young adults, who come to the corps at various times during the week, are all from the local community. They desire to give back some of what they've received at Doncaster corps and be a part of something bigger than themselves.

DARWIN RED SHIELD HOSTEL, NT

OLIVIA CRUZ-KELLY // On 16 January, Darwin Red Shield Hostel held a volunteer appreciation day to give thanks to all those residents who had volunteered and given their assistance in making the DRSH resident Christmas lunch successful.



MURRAY BRIDGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES, SA

FIONA HORSNELL // In early February, Captain Clyde Colls introduced the Emergency Relief and Financial Counselling team members to the corps. The corps members pledged to walk with the team and assist where possible.

'To reach out and assist those in need is the responsibility of everyone in The Salvation Army at Murray Bridge,' said Captain Clyde.

Right, L-R: **Captains Clyde** and **Margaret Colls**, **Linda Dorward**, **Janet Emmins**, **Margaret Davies**, **Fiona Horsnell** and **Major Sue Wallace**.





VICTOR HARBOR, SA

LIEUTENANT AMANDA HART // On 4 January, Samuel Shepherd was sworn in as a senior soldier by Lieutenant Amanda Hart. Samuel has attended the corps for the past four years, and shared his testimony about the influence of growing up in a Christian home. Conversations with his brother and sister around taking this step only when he was sure that God was at the centre of it led to him seriously thinking and praying about it, until he was sure that it was what God wanted of him.

Left, L-R: back: **Major David Bartlett** (Samuel's prayer partner), **David Inns** (colour sergeant) and **David Smoker** (recruiting sergeant); front: **Samuel Shepherd, Lieutenant Amanda Hart.**

TEA TREE GULLY, SA

MAJOR HOWARD AND CAPTAIN ELAINE TRENDELL // On Sunday 8 February, a special service was held to recognise the contribution that Tea Tree Gully's emergency service workers and volunteers had made during the recent bushfire emergency.

The service was attended by over 120 people and including representatives from the emergency services, Mr Tony Zappia MP—Federal Member for Makin, Frances Bedford MP—State Member for Florey, **Kevin Knight** (right)—mayor of the City of Tea Tree Gully, deputy mayor Bernie Keane and councillor for Hillcott Ward, Sandy Keane.

The service was followed by a barbecue, Country Fire Service (CFS) display and children's activities. The CFS fire engine was popular with children and adults alike.



PLAYFORD, SA

MAJOR GLENDA DADDOW AND MAJOR CINDY SHELLENBERGER // On Sunday 4 January, Ashley and Janet Hallett were reinstated as senior soldiers. It was a day of celebration, with family and friends travelling from NSW and Adelaide to witness the event.



Ashley and Janet Hallett, holding the flag is daughter **Katherine Mckay.**

275 infants in her 30-plus years of caring. She described the joy of seeing children she raised go on to have children of their own.

The hardest part of fostering, says Leonie, is the 'giving up of the child' but she also emphasised the importance of children moving to 'forever' families.

Another carer praised the close-knit network Westcare's Foster Care Program has created, saying, 'These people are our family.' The difference seen in young people who have come into care was also emphasised.

The day was completed by a visit to a residential unit in St Albans. Established in 2014, this facility is Westcare's latest therapeutic unit, which works with young people who have experienced significant trauma in their childhood.

WESTCARE, VIC.

PETER MULHOLLAND // On Monday 23 February, Westcare welcomed territorial commanders Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, MCD leaders Majors Mike and Annette Coleman and DSPS Major Jenny Begent to an introductory information session on its community garden.

The garden supports the community by making donations to local charities and gives surplus crops to food vans for the homeless in Sunshine.

The commissioners then travelled to Melton Foster Care to meet with volunteers, carers and foster care staff. Jill Wain, senior manager for home-based care in Melton, hosted the informal forum which saw carers share their personal experiences in fostering.

Foster carer Leonie spoke of raising more than



Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd with **Peter Mulholland** (centre).

ABOUT PEOPLE

Bereaved Captain Greg Howard (NTR) of his father, Leslie Howard, on 10 February. Major Mervyn Lincoln (WVD) of his wife, Major Annette Lincoln, on 27 February.

Birth Captain Simon Pickens (NTR) and wife Renee, a son, Jonathon Scott Pickens, on 17 February. Majors Andrew and Jenny Craib (WAD) and Majors Barry and Ros Casey (IHQ/UKT), a grandson, Rowdy Junior Casey, on 8 February. Majors Denis and Kathleen White (SAD), a grandson, Noah Graham White, on 19 February. Majors Mairi and Gerald Mitchell (NTR), a grandson, Henry Phillip Mitchell, on 24 February.

Promoted to Glory Major Annette Lincoln from Geelong Hospital, Victoria on 27 February, aged 63.

Retirements Effective 1 March: Major Ken Agnew, Major Margaret Maxfield, Major Colin Medling, Major Marilyn Medling, Major Marion Weymouth. **Effective 11 March:** Major Margaret Collins, Major Peter Collins.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd

21 March—NVD: Historical Society Meeting, Echuca, Vic.

22 March—Morning Meeting, Rochester, Northern Vic.

25–26 March—THQ Officers Fellowship, Geelong, Vic.

29 March—Corps Visit, Box Hill, Eastern Vic.

1–8 April—Easter Meetings, WA

Colonels Peter and Jennifer Walker

25–26 March—THQ Officers Fellowship, Geelong, Vic.

3 April—Good Friday Meeting, Eastern Vic.

Melbourne Staff Songsters

22 March—Corps Visit, Greensborough (am), Reservoir (pm), both Vic.

Finney's Revival Lectures ~ Edited by Commissioner Frederick Booth-Tucker

Praying to prevail

'During the earlier half of the nineteenth century, Charles Finney, the well-known American Evangelist—described by the General as a Presbyterian Salvationist—delivered a series of lectures on "Revival of Religion" to his own congregation in New York.

'Upon publication the lectures attained wide circulation, and, although wellnigh a century has since elapsed, they still exert a far-reaching influence, the principles they set forth being little affected by changing conditions.

'Finney was strongly of the opinion that spiritual harvests can be gathered with as much certainty as harvests of wheat or rice or potatoes, and that it is wrong in soul-saving to work to cast upon God the responsibility of our failure. "He that winneth souls is wise," not, he that tries to win them and fails. The causes of failure, also the conditions of success, are herein fully explained.'

~ Frederick Booth-Tucker, August 1926



“BROUGHT TO KNEEL IN REPENTANCE AT THE DRUMHEAD IN THE PUBLIC STREET.”

PREVAILING PRAYER

Two things are necessary to promote a revival:

1. Prayer to influence God.
2. Truth to influence men.

God's mind is not changed by prayer, but prayer produces such a change in us as renders it right for God to answer prayer. For instance, when a sinner repents, this makes it right for God to forgive. God is ready to forgive, but cannot properly do so until the sinner repents. So when Christians offer effectual prayer, this is an essential link in revivals, just as much as truth. Some have zealously used truth but have laid little stress on prayer; hence

the results have been poor. Truth by itself will only harden hearts. It is not necessarily always the same person who exercises prayer effectually as the one who uses truth. On the other hand, to rely solely on prayer is to tempt God. Both are necessary.

WHAT IS PREVAILING PRAYER?

Not merely benevolent desires. These are pleasing to God, but prevailing prayer is something more.

Prevailing prayer is prayer which obtains the blessing it seeks; prayer which effectively moves God; prayer which effects the objective which it seeks.

ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES OF PRAYER

You must pray for a definite object: not at random, not merely 'saying prayer'. Indefinite prayer is like sending up petitions to the legislature without a definite object. The mind is so constituted that it is impossible to pray for a variety of objects at the same time. All instances of answered prayer have been for some definite object.

Prevailing prayer must be in accordance with the revealed will of God. This revelation of his will may be in any of the following ways:

- By express promises or prophecies in the Bible.
- By special providences which those who have spiritual discernment can understand.
- By his spirit. When God's people are at a loss what to pray for, the Holy Ghost helps, guides, teaches and inspires them.
- There must be submission to God's will. Submission does not mean indifference.
- Your desires must be in line with the importance of the object.
- Then if they are benevolent, and not contrary to the revealed will of God, there is reason to believe they will be granted. First because of the benevolence of God; and secondly because there is reason to believe that the Spirit himself is exciting these desires.
- The motives must be right. They must not be selfish. There must a supreme regard for God's glory.
- Prayer, to prevail, must be persevering. When Christians have lost the spirit of prayer, the mind is apt to wander, and it is usually only brought back by prolonged effort. But when filled with anxiety for sinners a Christian is like a mother praying over her sick child. She will go about the house groaning out her desire to God. Jonathan Edwards says, 'If distress is allowable in case of fire or calamity, why not for souls?'
- To pray effectually you must pray a great deal. The apostles of old are said to have prayed so much that they had calloused knees.
- Prayer must be in the name of Christ. He authorises the use of his name in prayer.
- There must be renunciation of all sin forever.
- Prayer must be in faith. Faith must rest on evidence, but having such evidence we are bound to believe God's promises or his providences, or his special revelations; otherwise we make him a liar. To follow the leadings of God's spirit is not fanaticism. Some may make that mistake, but this is so with all things. 'As many are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'

WHY GOD REQUIRES PREVAILING PRAYER

- It illustrates the strength of God's feelings.
- It is the natural result of a clear view of guilt and danger of sinners.
- The soul of the Christian thus exercised must have relief. When he is thus exercised he must come to God for relief. It is like the case of a convicted sinner. His conviction increases to agony. So the Christian comes again and again to God. There is no relief. He becomes desperate. Then finally, he rolls the burden on to Christ and with childlike faith, receives the wonderful assurance that his prayer is answered. Such an experience is often followed by the sweetest and liveliest feelings of joy unspeakable and full glory.
- This strong desire forms a bond of union between Christ and the church. Christians feel just as Christ feels. They receive the outpouring of his own great benevolent heart. Thus with the preacher, words come fresh and warm from his lips as though from the very heart of Christ. Then the souls of his hearers are moved.
- It constitutes a wonderful bond between warm-hearted Christians and their converts. Their love resembles that of a mother for her infant. The converts are very dear to the heart of those who have prayed for them.
- This kind of prayer is the only way in which the church can be properly prepared to receive great blessings, without being puffed up with pride. This agony humbles Christians in the dust before God. Then they are ready to receive blessing, and the blessing increases their holiness, their love, and their humility.

PRACTICAL COUNSEL

- Much prayer is lost because when persons have their hearts exercised they do not persevere. They allow their attention to be delivered to other things.
- Don't grieve the spirit.
- Don't be diverted to other objects. Follow the leadings of the spirit until prevailing prayer has been offered.
- Without prevailing prayer, leaders will do little good. They need not expect success unless and until they offer such prayer. Sometimes the prayer may be offered by others, but usually the success of the leader depends on offering it himself.
- The church must co-operate in offering prevailing prayer. Christians must confess their sins and get them put out of the way. And then the spirit of God will surely come down upon them.

TO BE CONTINUED...

To read the original lecture in full visit · www.charlesgfinney.com/1868Lect_on_Rev_of_Rel/68revlec03.htm

Or Wessel Helen (ed.), *The Autobiography of Charles G. Finney: The life story of America's greatest Evangelist—in his own words*, Minnesota: Bethany House, 1977



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