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A candid conversation with the Army's world leader

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How William Booth used toys to train for 'spiritual warfare'

■ OPINION

Lucy Davis on how Indigenous healing starts with truth-telling

■ BIG PICTURE

Finding God's story among the summer movie blockbusters

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A New Year's resolution worth making.

SCOTT SIMPSON ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HOW ARE YOU GOING WITH YOUR NEW Year's resolutions? As you read this you may be a few days, a week or perhaps even a month into your well-intentioned campaign to turn over a new leaf in 2019. But what plans have you put in place to help you stay the course? Who or what are you relying on to generate your staying power? How are you going to ensure that you not only start the year strong, but finish it in the same manner?

The Bible has a lot to say about staying power. James 1:2-3 tells us, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." This passage of scripture goes on to say, "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (v.4).

God knows that if he can get that one thing – staying power – into our lives, he can equip us with everything else. Perseverance acts as the funnel through which God can pour innumerable blessings into our lives.

PRESSING ON

In this issue of *Others*, we bring you a comprehensive series of reports on the remarkable event that was Still Others, the historic occasion that ushered in the new Australia Territory of The Salvation Army. We've spoken to our Territorial Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, and asked him to elaborate on the bold initiatives that Commissioner Tracey Tidd and he announced at Still Others. You can read his response in our feature article that begins on page 14.

We've also got a fascinating interview with the Army's world leader, General Brian Peddle, who with Commissioner Rosalie Peddle were the special guests at Still Others. In a wide-ranging discussion with Editor-in-Chief Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson, the General talks candidly about the need for more officers, reviewing the Soldier's Covenant, women in leadership, the LGBTIQ community, and embracing young people in The Salvation Army.

He also makes a strong case for staying power. "If Australians – officers, soldiers – engage, put their shoulder to the wheel, I think we see in the future a stronger, vibrant, growing Salvation Army for the betterment of this nation," he says.

These are pivotal days for The Salvation Army in Australia. The transition to a national territory may be complete, but the transformation of the Army in Australia is an ongoing process. As we continue on this journey, one thing we're going to need in abundance is perseverance.

We've already experienced many peaks and valleys in this journey – experiences that we can draw upon to generate staying power and equip us to press on. Like Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, "But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus". I press on – that's perseverance. ●

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.



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The photo that many Salvationists have arguably longed to see: jazz superstar James Morrison with trumpet in hand, on stage performing in a Salvation Army 'uniform'. The lighthearted moment featured as part of the Our Christmas Gift concert spectacular, itself a main event at the memorable Still Others celebration that ushered in the new Australia Territory. Our extensive coverage of Still Others begins on page 14. Photo: Matt Holiday



Issue 01
January 2019
Cover photo: Carolyn Hide

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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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BE THE CHANGE

Self Denial Appeal 2019



General William Booth launched the first Self Denial Appeal in 1886. Please give one week's salary to support the appeal.

Watch stories from India, Malaysia, Ecuador and South Africa during the 2019 Self Denial Appeal. Catch up on videos and give your Altar Service gift at:

WWW.SELFDENIAL.INFO

Immeasurably more.

Step boldly into opportunities and challenges the new year will bring

WORDS COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

AS YOUNG KIDS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, we would plan for New Year's Day, believing that the way we spent 1 January would set the pattern for the whole year. Whatever we did on New Year's Day, we would continue to do for the rest of the year. Now, with more than five decades of New Year's Days under my belt, I admit that I am glad most years haven't mirrored the first day of the year!

How many times have you heard or said, "Happy New Year"? In 2019, let's anticipate more than a "happy new year" – immeasurably more! It is an appropriate time to glance back at the past year. It helps to understand where we are today and how we got here. In that glance, look for the hand of God, trace his fingerprints throughout the journey of the days with all they held.

So often, as we look back across the previous year, we see that the wishes for a "Happy New Year" didn't materialise in every day. As we look back, however, with eyes of faith and hindsight, we see more than we could have imagined at the beginning of the year, to have been our experience.

WALKING IN FAITH

As we look ahead, we choose to step boldly into the new opportunities and challenges that a new year will bring. Boldly because of a confident faith that "we can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps" (Proverbs 16:9 *NLT*). Regardless of what the first day of the year and the 364 days to follow may bring,

we hold on to a hope that will not disappoint for "God's love has been poured out into our hearts" (Romans 5:5).

We will step into our communities, open to the places of hardship and injustice, prepared to live, love and fight alongside others, sharing the love of Jesus. We know this new year before us is one in which God will continue to transform Australia one life at a time. As Salvos, we have the privilege of being partners with God in that work of transforming lives.

Could the "immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20) for the coming year include more than a "happy" new year for you? God's work of transforming lives is an ongoing work – and not just for others.

It is my prayer that you will anticipate and embrace a new thing God has prepared to do in you and for you this coming year. You can expect more, so much more than a "Happy New Year", for he "is able to do immeasurably more than you could ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within you" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step" – Martin Luther King Jnr. •

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



The Australia Territory's global footprint.

Where our overseas personnel are serving in 2019



More than 40 Salvation Army officers and personnel from across the Australia Territory are currently serving overseas. This situation reflects the Army's international nature and commitment to serve in nations where the need is greatest, or where specific skills and experience is required.

Australian officers and personnel serve in places as diverse as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, United Kingdom, United States, Solomon Islands, Eastern Europe, Italy, and Malawi. They hold positions as

varied as territorial leaders, corps officers, teachers, medical staff, project officers and business developers, all contributing to the international work of The Salvation Army.

Throughout 2019, *Others* will be profiling the work of some of these officers and personnel, the countries in which they serve, and some of the joys, and challenges, they face. We begin with an overview, by way of a map representation, of just how widespread and diverse their appointments are.

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



Ending exploitation.

Know the warning signs

WORDS KAREN PUDDICOMBE

VANESSA* WAS RAISED BY A SINGLE mother who worked two jobs to make ends meet, so she often came home to an empty house. She dreamed about having nice things, but what she wanted most was someone to “see” her. Then her school bus driver started to take an interest in her life. He was kind and made her feel safe. When he told her about a great job opportunity, she was excited – but her excitement turned to fear and confusion when he took her to a local strip club. At the end of the night she received \$150. To a 15-year-old girl, it seemed like a fortune. For the next six years, Vanessa was trapped in the world of exploitation.

Vanessa was “groomed” by someone who should have been trustworthy. Statistics show that 93 per cent of victimised children and young people know their abuser, and the average age to recruit someone into exploitation is 13. Not in your backyard? Think again. It can happen in your own home.

Today’s youth have access to sexual images at their fingertips 24-7. Texting or posting risqué photos or videos on social media has become common. Recently, a police officer told me that even his daughter had been caught up in the trend. Teens yearn to fit in, to belong, to be noticed, and may not realise the consequences of their actions. They may

also lack the maturity to understand what a healthy relationship is, and settle for something that feels like love. This puts them at great risk.

There are often warning signs that a young person may be experiencing exploitation. There could be a change in attitude – withdrawing from family and friends, becoming secretive and reserved, exhibiting extreme mood swings and becoming angry and confrontational or abusive, or becoming protective of new boyfriends/girlfriends.

There could be changes in behaviour – coming home later than usual for unexplained reasons, binge eating or eating less resulting in weight loss; hanging around with new and a different group of friends, wearing expensive clothing or jewellery they can’t afford; wearing clothing that is bulky or provocative, using blocked or private phone numbers, carrying condoms or other sexual aids, or being secretive about internet sites and contact.

There could even be indications of physical abuse – unexplained bruises, cuts or broken bones, tattoos or branding symbols, particularly names tattooed on their neck, arms or legs, or marks like cigarette burns on their body.

So what can families do?

The first thing is to listen without judgment. Far too often, we are quick to judge and talk when someone needs to be heard. We need to listen intently with our ears and eyes.

Notice who is paying increased attention to your child (boy or girl) – teachers, coaches, neighbours or family members. These individuals may be “grooming” the youth and developing an unhealthy attachment with them.

Teach them to say no. We live in such a polite society. Teach your child that it is okay to say no and empower them to use their voice.

Be sensitive to changes in behaviour or attitude. Face it: the teen years are a rollercoaster of emotions and feelings that are often hard for parents to grasp. Don’t give up. Talk through these changes.

Talk about sex and sexuality in a healthy way. If we don’t teach our kids, they will learn from other kids or the internet. Have the difficult conversations. Create healthy boundaries. Help your children form a framework of what is healthy and what is not. Trust in the values of God’s Word to guide you.

Get to know their friends. Invite them over for meals, talk about activities and what your child will be doing during down times; discuss online safety. Many families have created a technology table where all electronics sit from 10pm until morning. And create a family code word. Every family needs a code word known only to them. If a teen is feeling uncomfortable or in danger, they can use the word to alert you that they need to be picked up right away.

Sexual exploitation is closer to home than we think. As parents, we want to respect our children’s years of learning and growing, but we are still their protectors. Know what is going on in your child’s life so you can support them. Pray that you will see signs of exploitation if it is happening. Pray for your children’s friends and acquaintances. Pray for justice for all children and youth, and take action. ●

**Not her real name*

Major Karen Puddicombe is the Corps Officer at New Hope Community Church in Orangeville, Canada. This article appeared at salvationist.ca



WORTH QUOTING.

“Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come for miles to see you burn.” - John Wesley

Indigenous healing.

It starts with truth-telling

WORDS LUCY DAVIS

MOST PEOPLE PREPARE AND PLAN for a new year by setting short and long-term goals. When it comes to New Year’s resolutions, everyone has a different approach. For me, I take a deep breath, ask the Lord for strength, then brace myself for two dates – 26 January (Australia Day) and 13 February (anniversary of the National Apology to Indigenous people).

It is hard work being a First Nations woman in this country and it’s even harder being a Christian woman. I am excited about the positive conversations that are taking place in regard to First Nations people, but I am always shocked by the lack of empathy and the complete ignorance that my fellow Australians – Christians and non-Christians – have towards the First Nations peoples of this land.

In the lead-up to these significant dates we are smothered by mainstream media engaging in conversations about whether we should change the date of Australia Day, or why can’t First Nations peoples just move on. And then there’s the classic, “We said sorry, what more do they want?” One night, I watched an interview with Indigenous politician Jacinta Price about why we shouldn’t change the date, then went to check on

my three young children. I stood in the doorway of their bedroom and prayed to God to protect them from racism. I asked God to keep my Gundooos (children) safe from people who may not understand why our people struggle or why the atrocities of our shared history have such an impact on First Nations people today.

I felt a real desperation in my heart. I asked God: “Why? Why are my people treated so badly, why can’t my fellow-Australian, non-Indigenous people empathise with our shared history?” I walked to my room, sat on my bed and was overcome with emotion. I felt the Lord’s reply: “Lucy, I created you, I gave you light and my light shines through you always. Remember, you can’t choose who you love, but you can choose who you hate.” I sat for a bit and started to reflect on my journey. I strongly believe I am a servant of God. My journey is to inform the uninformed of our shared history in the great country in which we share worship.

I continually give to God my fears of repercussions of racism and hate, and I will continue to speak the truth. Ephesians 4:15 says, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

My opinion on Australia Day – or Invasion Day – is quite simple. This day is an acknowledgement of one part of history, a history that haunts First Nations people daily. For many First Nations people this date represents an invasion by the British on 26 January 1788, when the British flag was raised by Governor Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove, and the beginning of slowly trying to eradicate an Indigenous people. I believe the most hurtful part of this truth is the treatment of First Nations people from the time of British settlement to now.

A point to make is that there were policies created to control First Nations people – to destroy a people. Some of these policies include The Aborigines Protection Act, The Assimilation Policy, and The Aboriginal Welfare Board. The results of these policies continue to have an impact on First Nations people across Australia today.

The lack of education on our shared history means that many non-Indigenous people do not know or understand the impact of Australia Day. This is why a process of “truth-telling” must occur for all of us as we now live in a shared country. As Australians, this part of history did not just happen to me and First Nations people, it happened to all of us. My hurt is your hurt – it’s our hurt and we can move forward together once that is acknowledged.

As Christians we feel the love of Jesus – we feel the pain and sacrifice he went through for us. Galatians 3:28-29, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

After I prayed and yarned to God about my feelings that night, I felt a real sense of peace and of hope. I felt like God had answered my questions, had taken my fear, and then I felt a need to apologise to for doubting him. And then I heard his reply: “It’s okay, Lucy, I never doubted you nor have I ever stop believing in you. I will love you forever.”●

Lucy Davis is The Salvation Army Indigenous Engagement Coordinator for South East Queensland.



WORTH
QUOTING.

“What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies.”
- Thomas Cranmer

Should missionaries just stay away?

Chau's island adventure evokes mixed reaction

WORDS JOHN STACKHOUSE

THE RECENT DEATH OF JOHN ALLEN Chau has focused world attention on the legitimacy of Christian missions. Chau arranged with local fishermen to get him to one of the Andaman Islands in the eastern Indian Ocean, North Sentinel Island, in order to evangelise the native people there. According to reports, he was killed by them shortly after he landed.

The islands and their inhabitants are officially protected by the Indian Government against the outside world. Part of the concern is that the native people would be harmed by exposure to diseases from elsewhere against which they would have no resistance, as is widely thought to have happened to vast numbers of native peoples in the Americas, and elsewhere.

Also part of the concern, however, is that shared by many anthropologists and activists on behalf of such people unexposed to modernity, namely, that contact with the contemporary world will only harm them and that they are better off left alone. And part of the concern seems to be that the whole enterprise of missionary work is inextricably entangled with colonialism, with both the attitude that “we know better” and the agenda of exploitation.

Many Christians have mixed feelings about Chau's adventure. Was he an imperialist, determined to impose his religion on others? Was he a headstrong fool, leaping into peril without proper preparation? Was he in fact a danger to the Sentinelese, bringing deadly plague in his body and an alien religion in his message?

The worry about disease has to be established by experts, of course, not merely by activists. Missionaries have contacted remote tribes all over the world without bringing them germy death, so – at least to this medical layman – each situation would have to be assessed responsibly by those with the relevant knowledge. Chau and his sending mission, All Nations, apparently were aware of this prudent concern and had taken appropriate steps to protect the people they were trying to bless.

Beyond the disease question, however, there seems little to argue against Chau's initiative – at least from the point of view of anyone not already hostile to Christianity. Christians believe – perhaps wrongly, but sincerely – that our message of salvation through Jesus Christ is the best news in the world, the solution to every culture's fundamental problem, the hope of flourishing in this life and in the next. Nothing, therefore, can be seen as more important than hearing this good news, and Chau risked his life accordingly.

Those who deplore what he did as paternalistic, as thinking he knew better than they did, have to be careful, since the charge of paternalism cuts both ways. Who among these anthropologists and activists want to return to the Stone Age themselves? Who wants to give up aspirin, let alone anaesthesia, or give up cold and hot running water, let alone refrigeration?

Bach? Shakespeare? Democracy? Books? Guitars? Ice cream? Eyeglasses? Cotton fabric? Sewing needles?

Yes, of course, the modern world is full of its own problems, some of them awful. But who seriously wants to trade it in for the problems of yesteryear? Who actually does? To insist, therefore, that the Sentinelese be left alone is to insist that they not be given a choice in their own

destiny – which will strike some ears as terribly condescending.

I once visited a native tribe in Panama, going upriver in dugout canoes manned by native guides. These people live in officially protected jungle and maintain an interesting blend of the old world and the new. They live in thatched huts, but they wear modern fabrics. They live off the land, but they have a radio in case of serious injury or illness. Their young people are given the choice of educational routes, including the opportunity to leave to strike out on their own in modern Panama.

I have no proper understanding of the deal these people struck with the government, having been given only the tourist's view of things. But surely there is something just and right about negotiating with people rather than deciding for them – whether to impose modernity upon them or to withhold it from them. And Chau clearly didn't intend to “civilise” the natives anyhow. His diaries show that he had been trained to live among them in their way, not his, and that he intended to bring them, so far as possible, only Jesus, not the whole package of modernity.

So here's to a brave young man doing what brave young Christians should. As for whether his body should be reclaimed, his family and the authorities will have to sort that out. But I hope it isn't cavalier to say that John Allen Chau himself won't mind either way, since he, like his fellow Christians around the world, looks for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. ●

John Stackhouse is Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University in New Brunswick, Canada.

The views expressed in these opinion pieces are those of the writer and not necessarily those held by *Others* magazine.

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Join the conversation

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

f Tracey Tidd

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

t Brian Peddle

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

f Peter Hobbs

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

i Belinda Spicer



To boldly go ...

Leaders use launch of new Australia Territory as catalyst for courageous change

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

Radical change is coming to The Salvation Army in Australia through exclusive youth worship style, soldiership qualification, new corps and the way Red Shield Appeal doorknock money is distributed. The Army's world leader, General Brian Peddle, and Australia Territory leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, signalled the initiatives at the official launch of the new single territory for Australia at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday night, 30 November.

The launch was part of a week-long Still Others conference, which included the Commissioning and Ordination of 15 new officers, a series of workshops and a spectacular Christmas Gift concert, featuring Silvie Paladino, James Morrison, Alana Conway, Isaiah and 3d Arts Company.

Commissioner Floyd Tidd has since expanded on the changes, for *Others* magazine. There will be "an intentional commitment" to establish a Gen Z-focused faith community in each state capital city in the next ▶

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd announce bold new initiatives for The Salvation Army during the official Recognition of the Australia Territory event in Melbourne. Photo: Carolyn Hide

“

*The numbers are in and the numbers don't lie ...
[The Salvation Army] is losing its young adults. Nearly two-thirds of those
who worship on any given Sunday with The Salvation Army are over 60.
– Commissioner Floyd Tidd*

”

two years. (Gen Z is defined as people born from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s.)

“The numbers are in and the numbers don't lie,” Commissioner Tidd told *Others*. “Both the Australian Bureau of Statistics results from the 2016 Census and the National Church Life Survey results provide a confronting picture of a movement [The Salvation Army] that is losing its young adults. Nearly two-thirds of those who worship on any given Sunday with The Salvation Army are over 60.

“Many of our young people resonate well with the claims and call of Jesus, and with the mission of The Salvation Army. Where they so often struggle is in finding places of Christian worship and community

within The Salvation Army, that match that with an approach that fits their generation. Creating a fresh expression of The Salvation Army focused on Gen Z will provide opportunity to address that disconnect.”

Who would run Gen Z Salvo faith communities was not a question for him to answer, Commissioner Tidd said. They were matters for the Gen Z generation themselves and those who partner with them, including territorial, divisional and local corps youth leaders. The role of his generation, he said, would be to pray, encourage and support.

SIGNIFICANT SHIFT

On soldiership qualification, General Peddle told an hour-long Coffee with the General question-and-answer session at Still Others, that International Headquarters was currently rewriting regulations requiring soldiership to be a “calling of God” rather than a “rite of passage”. General Peddle said soldiership should not be something a person did automatically when they turned 14. They should only become a soldier if they believed they were called by God to be a soldier. New international regulations for soldiership would reflect this change, “if the General gets his way”, General Peddle said. And he was hopeful he would.

On the issue of additional corps and faith expressions, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd told the Still Others conference there would be a review of the approaches to and the effectiveness of creating vibrant corps and communities of Christian faith in the 27 Areas across the Army's six divisions in Australia, looking at each Area opening a new corps or faith community within the next three years. Divisional, area and local Salvation Army



To read a full interview with Commissioner Floyd Tidd about exclusive youth worship style, new corps, the way Red Shield Appeal door-knock money will be distributed, and a new fund to enhance innovation on the front line of mission, go to: others.org.au/radicalchange



To read Editor-in-Chief Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson's interview with General Peddle, go to page 22



To access our full coverage of Still Others, go to others.org.au and search 'Still Others'



• The cadets of the *Messengers* sessions at their graduation ceremony held during Still Others. Photo: Carolyn Hide

leaders would determine how that happened. There would be “freedom” to create an expression of The Salvation Army in a given area that would share the love of Jesus by caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities and working together for justice.

In the area of the distribution of Red Shield Appeal door-knock collections, each corps or centre will have the opportunity to retain the net funds they collect as long as it is used for community and social service ministries. Details will be confirmed in the coming months. Commissioner Tidd said there was an expectation that up to \$5 million could be released for this purpose, dependent upon local efforts in collecting.

A further \$2 million will be made available in the first six months of 2019 to enhance innovation on the front line of mission through an Innovation Fund. “A group of proven innovators will be brought together to determine how we best facilitate the development of an innovating culture,” Commissioner Tidd said.

“It isn't just about money being released. The money is a helpful support, but the catalyst for innovation lies within individual soldiers, employees, volunteers and officers. We need to find ways to release that catalytic energy as people respond sacrificially in response to obedience to God's leading.”

MESSENGERS' MANDATE

Fifteen new lieutenants were presented at an Ordination and Commissioning on Sunday morning (2 December), making them the first officers of the new Australia Territory. They were cadets of the *Messengers of Compassion* and *Messengers of the Gospel* sessions of training through Eva Burrows College. The new officers are Peter and Andrea Martin, Ashley and Rita Biermann, Star Conliffe and Charlie Jung, Leanne Hardaker, Natalie and Scott Frame, Stephanie Savage, Danielle Starr, Keryn and Aaron Coombes, and Mitchell and Sally Stevens.

Addressing the new officers – and the congregation – Commissioner Rosalie Peddle referred to the significance of being a messenger. “God has a greater purpose for his message,” she said. His intention for his message was to transform lives.

Being a messenger for God, she said, required a declaration of the Gospel of Christ with clarity, conviction, confidence, compassion and celebration. It also required commitment to a holy life. Taking the message of Christ into the world should be done with confidence because God was a “more than enough God” and, because of that, his messengers could be “more than conquerors”.

In a separate ceremony following the commissioning and ordination, the new officers were sent out to their ▶

“

We leave [Australia] inspired and confident that God has The Salvation Army in Australia in his hands.
– General Brian Peddle.

”

appointments by General Peddle with a challenge. The challenge was also issued to Salvationists. “We [he and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle] leave [Australia] inspired and confident that God has The Salvation Army in Australia in his hands,” General Peddle said. “We are an Army on a march – not in reserve – and we are already conquerors. [But] we need to be ready to pay whatever it costs to deliver people from whatever oppresses them.”

During Coffee with the General, at which he answered questions submitted online in front of an audience of about 250, General Peddle made reference several times to his concerns for and about officers and soldiers serving in “unfriendly countries”, notably in south Asia, where they had to “look over their shoulder” while carrying out their service.

His heart was broken for officers serving in countries where the playing field, in terms of the international Army, was not level. “The majority of financial resources are in territories where we may not be growing,” he said. “[But] where the Army is bursting with life, resources may not be available ...”

To a question about updating Army doctrines in a modern world, he said: “Our doctrines are rock solid.”

Asked what could be done to keep young people in the Army, he recommended creative thinking, referring to a Cowra Corps program called Kids in the Kitchen and the Just Brass concept of teaching children music. “I would be a more independent man if I had encountered [Kids in the Kitchen] years ago,” he said.



• Captain Nesan Kistan evokes a humorous response from General Brian Peddle during Coffee With the General. Photo: Carolyn Hide

Asked what the Army needed to do to regain the trust of the LGBTQI community, he said: “First of all, we need to acknowledge our part in creating pain and mistrust. We made judgments, statements and took positions for which we must say that we are sorry. Nobody should be outside The Salvation Army’s care. Nobody is outside God’s care.” He encouraged Salvationists to show more grace in discussions on the subject.

Now that the Australia Territory has been officially launched, Commissioner Floyd Tidd told *Others* that leadership would continue to evaluate what the Army is doing.

“This will lead us to understand and commit to the next steps necessary in transforming to be a movement that General Peddle describes as ‘battle ready, being engaged, taking responsibility’ that we might be best prepared and available to God as he transforms Australia one life at a time through the love of Jesus.” •

.....
Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.
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• Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd make commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the presence of Salvationist Uncle Vinle Ross and Wurundjeri elder Uncle Norm Terrick. Photo: Bruce Redman

Giving voice to First Nations people.

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

The Salvation Army’s Indigenous ministry leadership has praised a series of commitments made by the Army to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. During the launch of the Australia Territory on 30 November, territorial leaders Commissioner Floyd and Tracey Tidd outlined the Army’s commitment to First Nations people, and its plans for working and ministering more effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Shirli Congo, The Salvation Army Territorial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry Coordinator, based in Townsville, said that by giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the National Reference Group and ministry leaders more access to the wider Salvation Army, “the organisation will develop in its cultural intelligence, ministry opportunities and impact”.

“[These announcements] will give Indigenous people a voice in a responsible and self-determined way nationally, divisionally and in a local context,” said Shirli. “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people who attended the [Still Others] celebrations and spoke with us at our ministry booth, walked away with a renewed sense of inclusiveness, reconciliation and motivation to a continued commitment to educating, equipping and empowering Salvation Army social programs and mission expressions.”

The commitments made by the territorial leaders are:

“There are some wonderful stories, both from the past and present, where relationships have been built and together we have accomplished great things. Yet we must also acknowledge that there are decisions and actions for which we are deeply sorry and repentant. We would not want to ignore this reality and on this occasion we would want to offer a sincere apology for those times when we have failed both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and, indeed, God.

“As we step into the future we make an intentional and renewed commitment to “actively journey and partner in mutual respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples. We do this recognising that it is for our mutual flourishing.

“We will work together because we believe that God calls us to stand alongside those struggling for recognition, reconciliation and social justice. Ours is a spiritual journey that must be undertaken together. We know that we cannot truly flourish in an Australian context without the wisdom, patience and guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“As the leaders of the Australia Territory we commit to The Salvation Army taking

the important step towards understanding, respecting and considering the worldviews of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, encouraging culturally appropriate working and ministry practices, and valuing the cultural diversity that enriches, motivates and will move us forward.

“We commit to reconciliation and self-determination by giving a voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through representation at the executive board level, the continuation of our National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board, the growth of our National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry Team of First Nations staff members who will oversight building the cultural capability of our social programs and ministry expressions at a national, state and local level.

“We want to be courageous – and we need strong champions within to drive it – and be open to the advice and influences of strong First Nations community people who can sit at the table with us to share challenges and give us valuable insights, which give us an opportunity to grow, and to also sit with us to share our successes.

It is our sincere desire to listen, to learn and to respect your contribution and guidance as we seek to live up to the calling God has placed on The Salvation Army in Australia.” •

Still Others pictorial

Photos by Carolyn Hide, Matt Holliday and Bruce Redman.





Photo: Carolyn Hide

Q&A with the General.

A new Australia Territory, the need for more officers, reviewing the Soldier's Covenant, women in leadership, the LGBTIQ community, and embracing young people in The Salvation Army. Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson engages in a wide-ranging discussion with the world leader of the Army, General Brian Peddle

LR: Australia has been on a journey to one territory again after almost 100 years of being two. There's been a lot of work to get us to this starting point. Now, what do you think The Salvation Army in all its layers needs to do from this point on?

BP: I want to go back a little bit if I could. I showed up in Australia two years ago to announce on behalf of the international Army the coming together of the two territories – Australia One. I was intrigued at that particular point with regard to the possibilities that were being presented with two territories coming together, one nation, one voice, one Salvation Army moving forward together. I want to say to Australians particularly that this is the beginning of something absolutely incredible. I believe it's God-ordained. That means it will be God-blessed. If Australians, officers, soldiers, engage, put their shoulder to the wheel, I think we see in the future a stronger, vibrant, growing Salvation Army for the betterment of this nation.

Is there anything practical that ... if I'm a Salvation Army soldier, what's going to be different for me?

I believe that at the heart of The Salvation Army is its mission. Across this territory, there are so many dimensions of mission, which will enable all of The Salvation Army to share and enjoy and be a part of

to such an extent that pathways towards faith will get created. The whole Salvation Army benefits when we're engaged in God's mission. As a soldier, I would want to find my place in that. I would want to be on the winning side, as it were. I would want to be a part of every opportunity given through what we do to create a sacred encounter for the countless Australians who will come through our doors. I'd want to be in there.

One of the things that's happened over the years is that many of the roles that our Salvationists previously did are now having to be done professionally. What do you think is the role for the soldiers and the friends and adherents of the Army in the future?

I don't have any difficulty with the fact that Salvation Army officers will always be needed, covenanted, ordained, and equipped to serve as clergy in The Salvation Army. We still need our soldiers to be called people of God. But we also need people who can come alongside us with expertise and professionalism that we don't necessarily have within those two groups that I've just referenced. What is really neat about that, in my view, is that many people choose to work with us because they believe in our message. They believe in our mission. I'm absolutely excited as an international ▶



◉ The General prepares for his interview with Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson. Photos: Carolyn Hide

leader that around the world and even in Australia there are countless people that are finding their vocational calling by working with us in advancing the gospel and advancing the mission. I'm not the least bit intimidated by that or challenged by that because I think that together, all of that mixed in together – officership, soldiership, employees, volunteers, friends – we're all making possible the mobilisation of The Salvation Army in our communities and in this nation.

As you said, in our community and in our nation. Is that the role of the Salvationist, to actually make a difference in the community?

I sure hope so. Salt and light is just that. I hope that Salvationists, the 27,000-plus of you Salvos here in Australia, will actually take seriously that you have a responsibility to make a difference in this nation.

You mentioned officers are needed. Officership is changing a lot as well. Why would someone want to be an officer?

The Salvation Army is one instrument through which a person can serve. I think when calling becomes a reality and you're around The Salvation

Army, you're connected with The Salvation Army, often God connects your calling with the Army itself. Many of us find ourselves serving ... I believe if I wasn't serving in The Salvation Army, I'd be serving somewhere, because I think every Christian has to figure out where they serve. Officership and that whole calling piece is beautifully nuanced and worked out with The Salvation Army for me. I believe that's so for many others as well. I think in the age in which we are living, Salvation Army officers are taking a different place than we did when I began 41 years ago. We are very much community-centric. We are very much aware of social issues and social needs. We ought to be fronting up and saying hello to our politicians and influencing how they react around tables of policy and so on. Still, we have the preacher on Sunday. We still have to get by the bedside when somebody's sick or dying. We still have to do the traditional pastoral care of people. All that mixed in together, you want variety of life? Join The Salvation Army, become an officer and see what happens.

Has there been any thought in recent times to look at the Soldier's Covenant and review it? Again, why would someone really want to sign up to be a soldier?

I think there are systemic problems with how we've presented soldiership. Yes to the first part of the question; soldiership is being looked at in its presentation. The orders and regulations for soldiers is being written into a modern-day context. It doesn't take away from the conduct and lifestyle and all of those kinds of important pieces that shape soldiership, but they have to be relevant for today. Soldiership was often seen as this is what you do to join a band or to serve in the corps, you have to be a soldier. I don't quite view soldiership in the same way any more. I really believe that soldiership is a service-connected relationship with The Salvation Army. If it is, then it has to be a calling, a calling to service, a calling to soldiership. It's not mandatory. You don't have to be a soldier to be a Salvo, right? We don't want to lessen the significance of soldiership. Personally, I would lift it. I would ask young people: "Do you want to serve in this way? Do you sense God calling you to serve a soldier in The Salvation Army?" And let it be. That's a faithfulness. That's an obedient faith. We take it from there.

There was an opinion piece in an issue of *Others* magazine a handful of months ago, "The Soldiership Dilemma", which ...

No, sorry, I'm not on that page. I did read the article and I'm not on that page. I'd lift it [requirements for soldiership]. I'd make it something quite significant for our young people, young people who want to identify with something worth living for or even dying for. It's a cause; it's a calling. If God's calling me to that, don't dumb it down.

The role of women in The Salvation Army in Australia and everywhere is vital. They make up 60 per cent of our congregations overall. How can we fully utilise their gifts and their abilities, especially in leadership in all the different levels in corps and social areas and leadership? How can we utilise their abilities?

I think that's a very active conversation, one that's been around the Army without a lot of acknowledgement or action. That's not to cast an aspersion on anyone who's preceded me. It's just to say that today, the age that we are living in, I just don't think we're going to be able to acknowledge our numbers without giving opportunity for our ladies to take their place. That statistic of 60 per cent is international. It is particularly daunting when you look at our 17,000 active Salvation Army officers, that a very large number of those, more than 50 per cent, are female. A very large number of that

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*We need an Army that's on the move.
We need an Army that's a praying Army,
that's an engaging Army, an Army that's
quite comfortable with costly compassion.*

”

group are, indeed, married officers. We have been viewed as an organisation, as a church that's given a place to women. But I'm sitting here today fully acknowledging that what we have done is a mere pittance compared to what we should do if you look at the averages. It is not good enough. We do not have a proper number of women leaders, officers, trained and in position, comparative to the force that we have available. We are still a male-dominated army, which we have to face and deal with and change.

There's much discussion around in our society at the moment regarding the LGBTIQ community and churches. Have you anything encouraging that you can say to us as a Salvation Army in how we engage in this area?

The first thing I want to acknowledge is that groups, churches like The Salvation Army, many of us exist in a context where we're struggling with this particular issue. The extreme of the struggle is how inclusive can we be; same-sex marriage, opening up sacred membership realities, officership. It's not at all possible to be that inclusive at this point. I think my concern for The Salvation Army is that we have yet to fully understand among ourselves how we actually feel about somebody who, for whatever reason, seems to be different than us. When I talk about inclusion, I'm starting at the very beginning where I'm asking Salvationists to welcome people into worship, into relationship, to understand, to listen to, and to be very dismissive about judgmental thoughts when we approach one another. The pain and the hardship that we've imposed upon those communities of people is absolutely wrong. We should not as The Salvation Army, or anybody else for that matter, be party to that. If there are things we don't understand or if there are things we are uncertain of, we have to engage in dialogue. I was asked on the internet the other day, what's my position on LGBTIQ people? That's not a sensible question. I don't have a position on anybody in the world. I know that ▶

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I so long for an Australian Salvation Army that's making such an impactful difference day by day by day that the whole world would notice what's happening in Australia.

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Jesus died for the whole world. I've got to figure out how that application of grace, mercy, and love is made available to everyone. There's no such thing as positive exclusion. But the Church struggles with some of the internal things of same-sex marriage and leadership in the Church and those kinds of things. We haven't got that all sorted. There will be a time, but I go back and say let's talk to each other about what we do understand, what we can do, what we can be as a Salvation Army that welcomes everyone.

For those who do call The Salvation Army their spiritual home, how would you encourage them to stay close to Jesus Christ? How they can keep on track?

Be obedient, get involved in the mission of God in the world. I fear that we have too many ... oh dear, I'm going to say it anyways, so I'll say it out loud. We have too many spectators, too many people that enjoy the fellowship of the Army, the ambience of the Army, the belonging to the Army. We need an Army that's on the move. We need an Army that's a praying Army, that's an engaging Army, an Army that's quite comfortable with costly compassion. We need an Army that creates those sacred spaces in the midst of a not so sacred world where people can actually understand who Jesus is and what he could mean to them.

How do you think The Salvation Army is embracing young people and emerging generations?

Not well enough. I think we know of an Army of past days where our focus on children and young people, youth, was much more clearly defined than it is today. I look around the international Army and even in places where we're bursting – Africa or Asia – we still have some real challenges as to how well we're doing, because I watch the numbers and our engagement and our care for young people. In the 'General's Call' that will be expressed to the international Army in January, there is in the call under the heading 'Take Responsibility'. It's a call



to The Salvation Army to find its place in the care and nurture for children and young people and to position ourselves to embrace emerging leaders today. Our failure in this area will point to a weaker, lesser Army in decades to come.

Finally, what words, what encouragement, would you like to leave with Salvos in Australia?

I so long for an Australian Salvation Army that's making such an impactful difference day by day by day that the whole world would notice what's happening in Australia. And that's because Australian Salvos have simply said yes to God. That means there is nothing impossible. That means we notice when God is doing a new thing amongst us. It means that we've got obedient faith, and it's in him.

Totally united as we go forward in Australia?

Absolutely. Absolutely.

And worldwide?

Yes. ●



To watch Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson's full interview with the General, go to: others.org.au/videos

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson is Head of Editorial, Publishing and Broadcasting and Editor-in-Chief.



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Photo: Fiona Oliver

Jesus and basketball – Franko’s winning combination.

Youth worker ‘finds his fit’ in Cairns

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

Franko Bak has two goals in life – to serve Jesus through working as a youth pastor, and become a professional basketball player. He sees these two goals, though, as having much in common.

Franko, pictured, is just a couple of months into an 18-month youth ministry internship at Cairns Corps – the first such position for The Salvation Army in Far North Queensland – and is focused on seeing more young people becoming Christians and growing in their relationship with Jesus.

“I am excited and grateful to be a part of seeing that happen here in Cairns, and being used by Jesus to get alongside young people, hopefully be a role model, and influence them in a positive and encouraging way,” he said. “Already they are talking to me, and I know this will increase over time.”

On the basketball court, Franko has dreams of one day playing in the National Basketball League. A talented player, Franko is aiming to play in the Queensland Basketball League with the Cairns Marlins, a feeder club for the Cairns Taipans NBL franchise.

INVITATION TO PLAY

Franko was born in South Sudan. He moved to Egypt with his family when he was just a baby, and spent eight years there before moving to Brisbane with his parents and four siblings. Together they built a new life and became part of the local community.

As part of his Christian upbringing, Franko attended a Catholic school and went to church with his family in Brisbane. “I loved God and soccer as a young person, and wasn’t introduced to basketball until I was in high school,” he said.

It was around this time that Franko met then-Captain Ben Johnson, who was the corps officer at Bundamba, west of Brisbane. Captain Johnson was looking to enter a team in The Salvation Army national basketball tournament, and asked some of the students at Franko’s school if they were interested.

Franko joined the team for the tournament in Sydney in 2015, and hasn’t looked back. “I went, and just loved it,” said Franko. “It was competitive but everyone was friendly. I also liked the devotions and prayers that were part of the tournament, and found out that The Salvation Army was actually a church, not just a charity!”

Franko also played in the 2016 tournament in Melbourne and joined Captain Johnson’s local Salvation Army Bundamba team with some of the tournament players. “It was great,” said Franko. “I liked the basketball, the people, the competition and the good vibe hanging out with everyone. I also really liked how The Salvation Army used sport to help bring people to Jesus and disciple them. This was new for me and something I could really relate to. Ben was like a father to me, a friend I could talk to, and his family became like extended family for me.” ▶



• Franko with Major Ben Johnson, the Corps Officer at Cairns, where Franko is completing a youth internship.

Franko also played in the 2017 tournament on the Gold Coast before graduating from high school. That year, Ben and his wife Emma, now both with the rank of major, were appointed to Cairns. “I stayed in touch with Ben,” says Franko, “and he knew that I wanted to serve the youth and play basketball.” So when Franko heard about the youth internship position in Cairns, he was immediately interested and sent in his application, which was successful.

CALLING TO MINISTRY

Major Johnson says he believed that Franko had a calling to ministry when he was still in high school, and even had a vision of him becoming a Salvation Army officer.

“He had a natural leadership style and a sensitivity to people that I knew would grow under training and being mentored,” he explained. “It’s about helping him to shape that, build his confidence, and find his fit. As part of The Salvation Army, we want to be investing in our future leaders and plan for the long term. Having Franko as a youth intern is a natural way forward with that.

“Sport is also a great way for leaders to build a rapport and profile with young people and be someone people can look up to. It’s more the ‘common man’s’ way of connecting to others and building opportunities in the community, whereas music is more specialised.”

As part of the internship, Franko is studying for a Diploma of Youth Work. Under the guidance of

Major Johnson, he also organises and runs youth nights, activities for the young people, and, on Tuesday nights, plays and helps coach two Salvation Army teams in the local basketball competition.

“The community basketball competition is to interact with local youth,” explains Franko. “The sport is pretty big in Cairns, so it’s a good way to connect and anyone can come. Some young people on the fringes of the corps are also now playing and bringing their friends. Some of these are attending more Sunday meetings too, which is just great. We have two men’s teams, made up of corps members and locals, who train and are serious about playing. We wear Salvation Army jerseys and pray before the games.”

Franko also works with Major Johnson, coaching and playing basketball with young people on Sunday afternoons – an outreach ministry that grows each week as young people bring their friends, and parents bring their teenagers. “We run teams for under 14 mixed and under 18 boys, but anyone is welcome,” explains Franko. “We are also looking to develop teams for the next basketball carnival, under 15s and under 18s.”

Franko will become more involved in youth Bible studies, regional youth events and mentoring as his internship progresses. •

.....
 Simone Worthing is a staff writer for *Others*.



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The Army's toy story.

Training for 'spiritual warfare' is child's play

The Salvation Army took the world by storm when it arrived on the scene in the late 1800s, bringing with it an array of unique symbols and tools to advance its mission.

The Army's founder, General William Booth, introduced brass bands, uniforms, flags and a military-style language, which all appealed to the masses and facilitated the rapid advancement of the movement.

There was one facet of General Booth's ministry, however, which has largely gone unnoticed – toys.

General Booth understood the importance of toys to train children for "spiritual warfare", as he put it, and for their development as junior soldiers for Christ.

Toys in the Booth household were used by the children to practise preaching, practise pastoral care, and re-enact Bible stories such as Noah's Ark. The Booth children also used broken toy animals to apparently re-enact the Judaic Law of sacrifice and the toys were burnt to ashes!

So important were toys to teaching in those early days that Primary Meetings (junior Sunday school) used them in sand trays to re-enact Scripture. There are also a number of stories found in Army history of Salvationists using toys to help children. One involved Evangeline Booth who created a doll hospital, repairing toys and, in turn, the hearts of poor children.

General Booth also wrote a number of letters to Salvationists imploring them to "evaluate" their child's toys and how each could be used for the advancement of the Kingdom.

The Founder's early example carried on through the years with toys relating to the Army slowly fitting into two categories: imitating culture and tools for learning. The toy-making "industry" has been narrowed down to three different groups: professional toy makers, toys made by Salvation Army departments, and contributions by individual Salvationists.

Everything from dolls to teddy bears, planes and trains, model replicas of the Army in action, have become collectors' items around the world.

One of the largest collections of such memorabilia is in the home of Garth Hentzschel in Brisbane. Garth is the president of The Salvation Army Historical Society, Brisbane Chapter. He is also an educator and a PhD candidate in Salvation Army history. He has devoted a room in his house to Salvation Army memorabilia, including a large collection of toys.

"Professional toy makers have released many different types of toys over the years," Garth says. "In honour of the work of William Booth, a train engine carried his name and the crest of the Army. This was later reproduced as a model toy train. Numerous metal toy soldiers have also been made in the form of brass band sets in full Salvation Army uniform.

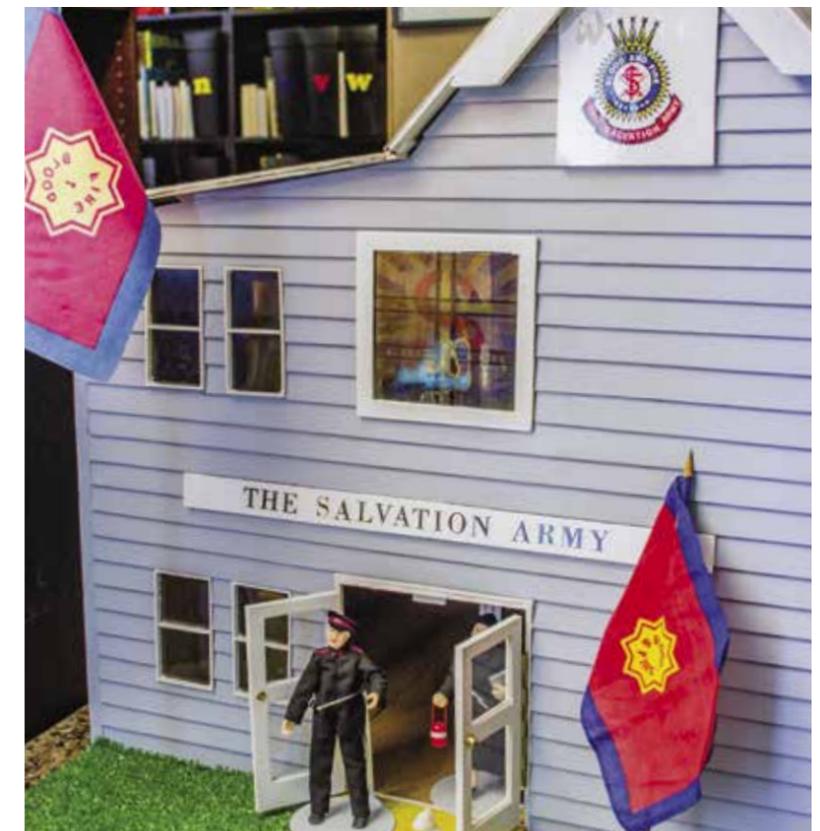
"As with professional toy makers, the Army has also produced toy soldiers as bandpersons, yet there have been representations of other ministries – Doughgirls of World War One, William and Catherine Booth preaching, soup kitchens, Christmas carollers and collectors, *War Cry* sellers, and songster brigades. Plush toys and teddy bears have also been used to teach children about Salvationist concepts. There has

been a large selection of toy dolls representing work of the Army."

The toy concept to promote work of The Salvation Army has developed in the modern era to include characters like Australia's Agents of Truth, which were created by Rod Allen at territorial headquarters in Sydney. These characters, from their life-size mascot suits, to their representation as dolls, to their use in print and digital media, have had a huge impact on children in communities around Australia as a means to spread the Gospel.

"Although it is fun to play with the toys, toys hold deeper meanings for both the development of children and the Army," says Belinda Youssef, an educator and expert in toy bear development and social impact. "Such toys have helped with the socialisation and spiritual development of Salvationist children throughout its history. They have placed to the forefront of the child's mind the 'product' of the Army through the use of its symbols and ministries." •

A selection of toy memorabilia in the home of Salvation Army historian Garth Hentzschel. Photos: Bruce Redman.



FOOTNOTE: Some information for this article was taken from a paper written by Belinda Youssef, with the assistance of Garth Hentzschel, entitled "An overview and history of toys relating to The Salvation Army", *The Australasian Journal of Salvation Army History*, Vol. 3, Iss. 1, 2018, pages 21-44.



GOD'S STORY IN SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

Words Mark Hadley

*There's a fantastic variety of films awaiting Australians these holidays, as we indulge in one of our favourite summer pursuits and head to the movies. However, look closely and you'll see that even in our increasingly secular society, there are spiritual messages that insist on floating to the surface. Christmas might have become separated from the baby in a manger, but, says **Others** culture writer Mark Hadley, you can still find God's good news in multimillion-dollar productions*

01. RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

WRECK IT RALPH WAS ALWAYS going to be a hard act to follow. It was not only a great concept with likeable characters, it covered territory children's films had so far almost neglected. The star role handed to Vanellope, a disabled cartoon character, was a welcome boost to many families. The good news is, *Ralph Breaks the Internet* is no pallid repeat. It's as fresh as the first, and has another unorthodox lesson to teach kids and adults alike.

Ralph Breaks the Internet picks up six years after the first story. Ralph, who has a talent for smashing things, is revelling in his friendship with racer Vanellope. However, when her arcade game gets busted, they must venture through the door labelled "Wi Fi" to secure the internet's only available spare part. Travelling the information superhighway together allows for the pair to interact with a hilarious series of internet memes, but the most valuable lesson comes when the opportunities presented threaten to pull them apart.

Ralph's focus is getting things back the way they were before.

"Change" is a complication he'd rather not entertain. However, his determination to keep things the same is a dependency that leads to destructive behaviour. And the tension goes up a notch when a dangerous virus identifies Ralph's 'insecurity' and decides to exploit it.

Ralph believes he's acting for Vanellope's own good. Jesus would have easily diagnosed Ralph's problem as not being prepared to, "Love your neighbour as yourself". True friends help their companions achieve their goals, as though they were their own. In fact, it's this sacrificial serving of each other's interests that actually builds a relationship. As another character observes, "All friendships change, but the good ones get stronger for it."

Frankly, these are awesome lessons for kids to learn, and not least because they come with biblical backing. But underneath the whole story lies the additional gospel truth that even in our best situations, we continue to mess up. Like Ralph, sin just loves to wreck things.



02. MARY POPPINS RETURNS

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A TRIP down memory lane, then *Mary Poppins Returns* is likely to be just the ticket. More than 50 years after the original *Mary Poppins*, Disney has delivered a singing and dancing extravaganza that doles out every bit of delight its classic forerunner had to offer.

Mary Poppins Returns is set 20 years after the original storyline, during which the magical nanny descended from the skies to help the stressed Banks family. Two decades on, the problem is much the same.

Michael Banks was a child in the first film and has grown up to become a single parent struggling to hold on to the family home. Michael lost his wife a year earlier, but still strives to hold his three young children close even as the bank threatens to foreclose. Their loan's looming deadline threatens to destroy their happiness – until Mary Poppins arrives to restore the balance with her strict sense of nonsense.

Emily Blunt is captivating as P.L. Travers' legendary

character, but it's hard not to feel as though director Rob Marshall has skipped over 'tribute' to produce a photocopy of the original film.

Mary Poppins Returns is unceasingly optimistic in its outlook (which is encouraging), but sometimes to the point of glossing over sad and serious issues (which is not). Mary Poppins teaches the children that the best things are never really lost, and Michael's youngest boy brightly reminds his father that this applies to his deceased wife as well. "Of course, you're right!" he replies, instantly cheered. "Your mother's not gone. She's in your smile, Georgie."

If there's one part of the Gospel that you can rely on Mary Poppins to get right, though, it's our tendency to get sidetracked by life's cares and concerns, at the expense of the truly important things. We need help to find our way out of our troubles. Lamplighter Jack might spend the film pointing to Mary Poppins, but at least he gets it right when he says the best we can hope for is "blessings from up above".



03. VICE

VICE IS A STUNNING POLITICAL drama that follows the rise to power of Dick Cheney, the United States' most powerful vice president.

The story picks up in 2000, during George W. Bush's race for the White House. Bush surprises analysts by selecting consummate Washington insider Cheney as his running mate. But if *Vice* is to be believed, Cheney wasn't bowled over by the offer: "Well, George, I'm a CEO of a large company. And I have been Secretary of Defence. And I have been White House Chief of Staff. The Vice Presidency is a mostly symbolic job. However, if we came to a different understanding ... I can handle the more mundane jobs - overseeing bureaucracy, the military, energy and foreign policy?"

The particular "vice" at the heart of *Vice* is Cheney's unquenchable desire for power. The more he accumulates, the more ruthless he becomes. He is pictured as regularly providing the last word that shapes the policies of a gullible president, and his influence is regularly

put at the service of big business. His eventual soft exit from the story might suggest, as some have feared, that God does not take into account their actions. But Psalm 92 promises us the lush gains they seem to make are only temporary: "Though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever" (Psalm 92:7).

You and I might leave the cinema wondering that Cheney could get away with it all, but the fact that *Vice* exists as a film suggests something else. Even Hollywood recognises that our secret actions will one day become known, and we will have to bear the consequences.

So, when the lights come up these holidays, what are we left with? The Gospel in gorgeous technicolour. Ralph teaches us we're capable of wrecking even the best situations and Mary Poppins reminds us we need help. Yet if we don't learn the lessons inherent in *Vice*, we're certain to face the outcome. It's not exactly how the Bible puts it, but the pieces are there if you know where to look. ●

Still Others launches a book bonanza.

Several new books by Salvation Army authors were launched at Still Others in Melbourne last month



Major Peter McGuigan (centre) with Colonel Mark Campbell and Professor Graeme Young, who also endorsed Peter's book at the launch in Melbourne.

THE LEADERSHIP OF JESUS



THIS BOOK CONTAINS A collection of 16 articles written by Major Peter McGuigan that first appeared over several years in *The Salvation Army international The Officer* magazine. These articles have now been gathered into one location and presented in book form, for anyone who desires to reflect upon Christlike leadership.

In launching the book, Colonel Mark Campbell, Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army Australia Territory, said: "I've read the book, thoroughly, twice, so I know it well. And I know the value of it and what it can do for us as a Salvation Army. I would commend it to you not only as a read, but as a book to be engaged with both privately and corporately as a Christian organisation dedicated to Jesus."

Major McGuigan used the launch as an opportunity to explain his motivation to write the articles. "It is appropriate that in days when the Church, like all other organisations in the world, is being called to account like never before, we should launch a book with the audacious title: *The Leadership of Jesus* – as if we mere humans could ever aspire to such a lofty goal.

"But it is the leadership of Jesus that we need today – both as our example or benchmark, and as an incarnational key for our mission: the leadership of Jesus in us, literally. We aspire to lead like Jesus and we take it on, we walk in the leadership of Jesus."

JESUS CHRIST!



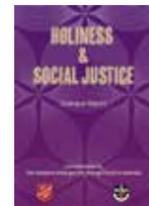
THE NEXT BOOK TO be launched was a collaboration between two Salvation Army officers – Australia-based Captain Peter Brookshaw and the Canada-based Major Stephen Court.

Jesus Christ!: Nine Lies, half-truths and outrageous misconceptions about the most revolutionary person who has ever lived is the second book in a series by the authors. It examines the very nature of Jesus and the mistakes we often make when we think about him.

Speaking at the launch, Captain Brookshaw said his inspiration for the book came from the famous "Lord, lunatic, or the Devil of Hell" quote by C.S Lewis. "There is no in-between with Jesus Christ," said Captain Brookshaw. "He's either the Lord or he's a lunatic. So, the book gets a bit provocative, pushes a few buttons, about who Jesus is. Quite

simply, we just want people to look afresh at the person of Jesus."

HOLINESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



THIS BOOK IS A collaboration between The Salvation Army and the Uniting Church in Australia. Members of teams representing both organisations conducted regular dialogue between

2013-2018, with this book the result of those discussions.

Territorial Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, launched the book, which demonstrates "how holiness and social justice support and purify each other in practice".

"I have been so impressed by this book and those who have put it together, that I believe every [Salvation Army] training college should have a copy of it on their bookshelves," Commissioner Tidd said. "So, out of our territory's resources we have bought a copy to be sent to every Salvation Army training college in the world."

The three books are all available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



Major Stella Green (centre), with her sister by her side, during the presentation of her Order of the Founder award by General Brian Peddle at Sydney Congress Hall in November. Photo: Carolyn Hide

Chinese ministry campaigner awarded Order of the Founder

RETIRED SALVATION ARMY officer Major Stella Green received a welcome surprise during the General's recent visit to Australia, being awarded the Army's highest honour – an Order of the Founder.

General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle were in Australia for the launch of the Australia Territory at the end of November, and were special guests at a NSW/ACT Divisional Rally at Sydney Congress Hall.

Major Stella Green is only the 34th Australian to receive the Order of the Founder, which has been awarded worldwide since 1917 when General Bramwell Both inaugurated the award to recognise Salvationists who had rendered distinguished service, such as would have specially commended itself to the founder, General William Booth.

Major Green was at the forefront of The Salvation Army's Chinese ministry, both overseas and in Australia, and General Peddle acknowledged this, saying, "We are wanting to recognise today that you have given your life, you've been engaged with Chinese people for a long time," and Major Green burst forth with a "Hallelujah!"

With her sister standing beside her, Major Green was then presented with her award, which was followed by a standing ovation from the congregation.

Major Green spent 21 years of her service as an officer in Asia. When she returned home to Australia, she was instrumental in the formation of The Salvation Army's ministry among the Chinese in Sydney.

Major Green has published a book about her life and ministry titled *King's Messenger*

– *A life Among Chinese People*. It is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).

The General also presented two SAGALA General's Awards during his visit to Australia, one to Matthew Wallace, from Pine Rivers Corps, and one to Jemimah Perry, from Hurstville Corps.

"I was shocked, surprised!" Jemimah said about receiving the award.

"I was super nervous as I stood on the platform waiting, and then the award was introduced. Then the General started to talk about SAGALA and how at Hurstville we are working mainly amongst the Chinese community there, and how SAGALA is still relevant today. He presented my certificate and gave me the 'bling' [badge] – his words, not mine!" – Lauren Martin

ORDER OF THE FOUNDER

Australian recipients

- Lieut-Colonel William McKenzie (1920)
- Adjutant John Gore (1924)
- Thomas Hodge (1925)
- Envoy William Shepherd (1925)
- Major Mary Anderson (1943)
- John William Turner (1945)
- Arthur James Stevens (1949)
- Envoy Robert Henry Palmer (1952)
- Norman McLeod (1955)
- Envoy James Crocker (1960)
- Alice Meech (1961)
- Brigadier Arthur W McIlveen (1967)
- Brigadier John Irwin (1970)
- Brigadier Charles M Geddes (1976)
- Brigadier Stella Bywaters (1978)
- Envoy Keith Hopper (1978)
- Kenneth Hile (1980)
- Senior-Major Elsie O'Neil (1980)
- Envoy Edward G Randall (1983)
- Harold Morgan (1982)
- Lily May Parsell (1984)
- Envoy Wilbur Walker (1990)
- Envoy George Hazell (1993)
- Brigadier Victor Barrett Pedersen (1999)
- Colonel Bramwell Lucas (2001)
- Brigadier Doreen Griffiths (2002)
- Major Hilda Sigley (2004)
- Geoffrey John Dalziel (2005)
- Envoy Richard Collett (2007)
- Envoy Alan Staines (2007)
- Lieut-Colonel Don Woodland (2012)
- Noel Jones (2014)
- General Eva Burrows (2015)
- Major Stella Green (2018)

Doors close on Booth College officer training

A CELEBRATION HAS BEEN HELD at Booth College in Sydney to mark the end of Salvation Army officer training at the Bexley North site.

For most of the last 97 years, the Australia Eastern Territory Officer Training College has operated out of Sydney. First established after the division of Australia into two territories

in 1921, the original Eastern Territory college was located in Petersham.

Little more than 10 years later, however, the Great Depression forced the amalgamation of the college again, with Eastern Territory cadets travelling to Melbourne for training for a number of years.

Former Training College

Principal and retired officer, Commissioner Ian Cutmore, was instrumental in the relocation of Eastern Territory training college to a new site in 1980, due to difficulties being faced with the Petersham building.

The college was relocated to the site of a former Salvation Army boys' home in Bexley

North and was officially opened in 1980.

Earlier this year, all new residential cadets began their officer training at the national Eva Burrows Officer Training College in Melbourne.

The Bexley North site is still home to the Heritage Centre and various study courses.

– Lauren Martin

Generous donation keeps Drive for Life on the road

THE DRIVE FOR LIFE PROGRAM in the Hunter region of NSW has received a much-needed donation of \$100,000 from Glencore, a multinational mining company, to not only help keep the doors open, but to also expand into new areas on the Central Coast.

Drive For Life, run by The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Support Network Hunter, is a revolutionary driver-mentoring program that helps disadvantaged young people learn how to drive. The program gives them access to professional driving lessons, mentoring and financial support to cover the costs of driving tests and licence fees.

"We are particularly interested in supporting young people that may otherwise tend to fall through the gaps," says



▲ Jean Rennie, Drive For Life coordinator for the Oasis Youth Support Network Hunter, with Glencore Community Relations Manager Craig Strudwick.

Jean Rennie, Drive For Life Coordinator for the Oasis Youth Support Network Hunter.

"Most of our participants to date experience social disadvantage, are commonly struggling with mental health issues and are likely to be lacking positive role models in their lives."

While public transport helps most people in suburban areas of Australia travel to their jobs, finding employment in regional areas can be much tougher. The

lack of a licence can mean the difference between employment and unemployment. Drive For Life is looking to not only help young people find employment, but also give them greater independence and connect them to the wider Hunter community.

Glencore, with a significant coal-mining presence in the Hunter Valley, has a vested interest in the young people of the region.

"Drive For Life is an investment in each and every young person that enters the program and we recognise that the benefits are far-reaching," Glencore Community Relations Manager Craig Strudwick says. "We want to see safe and skilled young drivers on our roads and we appreciate that a driver's licence can dramatically improve a young person's employment prospects."

– Lauren Stevens

Salvos Stores enters a new national era

SALVOS STORES HAS LAUNCHED a national website and online store to coincide with the amalgamation of Australia's two Salvation Army territories.

General Brian Peddle launched the new Australia Territory in Melbourne in early December, with Salvos Stores also going national after many years of operating separately in the Australia Eastern and Southern territories. The new-look website (salvosstores.com.au) and online store reflects The Salvation Army's mission to consolidate resources and strengthen its national presence, according to Salvos Stores National Director Matt Davis.

Matt said the Salvos Stores leadership team were committed to open communication so they

could now support every one of the 330 stores across the country in line with The Salvation Army's mission to "live, love and fight alongside others".

"For us, this means growing our funding, looking after our people and being actively engaged in community in every one of our stores across the country," he said.

The Salvos Stores website now has an online shopping function, giving customers the option of purchasing or bidding on collectables and other home-wares and everyday items that will be delivered to their door.

Salvos Stores engages 10,000 volunteers around the country. They are given training opportunities, which lead to employment for many.

– Jessica Morris



COME Alive

Do what makes you Come Alive!



Be part of a global movement that is transforming society with the love of Jesus.

- Experience a variety of ministry expression and opportunities.
- Receive training and leadership development.
- Become a leader in The Salvation Army and help transform Australia, one life at a time.

Visit www.salvos.org.au/ComeAlive for more information

Modern Slavery Act a call to action

▼ AUSTRALIA NOW HAS A MODERN Slavery Act. The Salvation Army has partnered with a number of organisations over recent years to advocate for this legislation to be passed, and played a key role in the federal Modern Slavery Act becoming reality on 29 November.

More than 40 million people worldwide are believed to be victims of modern slavery,

including an estimated 15,000 Australians.

“This legislation is a call to action,” said Heather Moore, National Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for The Salvation Army’s Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery.

“We think it’s a very good, and a very positive start, and we were just elated and relieved when it was passed.”

The act means that businesses with turnovers of more than \$100 million will have to report what they are doing to stamp out slavery in their supply chains.

– Simone Worthing

Chinese ministries meet for first time

▼ OFFICERS OF THE SALVATION Army’s Chinese ministries from across Australia met together for the first time at the Still Others event in Melbourne in November.

The Chinese Ministries Officers Conference was a “beautiful time of fellowship, where Chinese ministries practitioners met and discussed issues specific to their communities,” according to conference coordinator and National Director for Multicultural Ministries, Lieutenant-Colonel Xuyen Pho.

Those issues include the sharing of resources and translated materials, what’s happening in Chinese ministry around the world, enhancing Chinese ministry within the new national territory, and integration.

There are 20 active officers working in Chinese ministry across Australia, mainly in corps settings. Some run Chinese-speaking services or corps, others hold multicultural services catering for Chinese and other nationalities.

– Lauren Martin

Women reflect on leadership development pilot

▼ FEMALE OFFICERS WHO HAVE been taking part in a 12-month self-directed women’s Leadership Development pilot have met in Melbourne to discuss their learnings.

Facilitator Karen Lattouf, the Leadership Development Consultant at Territorial Headquarters in Redfern, led the discussion, held at the Still Others event in November, saying, “We need to figure out how we work together, men and women, working together as God’s people.”

The leadership pilot is self-directed learning, with participants paired with a coach to encourage them and keep them on track with a development plan.

Karen said the self-directed learning was a new experience for most participants.

“There’s been a bit of a culture where we have expected the Army to do things for us, we have expected the Army



▲ Karen Lattouf facilitates the Leadership Development gathering in Melbourne.

to give us what we need to develop, but really we are responsible for our own development and to use our skills, gifts and abilities for God,” she said. “Additionally, The Salvation Army needs to maintain an ongoing investment in, and focus on, leadership development. The responsibility is both with the organisation and the individual.”

As part of the pilot, the 20

female officers taking part have completed an Emotional Intelligence assessment, which involved being open and honest about their strengths and weaknesses, and opening themselves up in vulnerability to having their peers, staff, corps members, management and friends also providing constructive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses.

Major Heather Jenkins,

Corps Officer at Camberwell in Melbourne, says the pilot has been a worthwhile experience.

“I’ve been a Salvation Army officer for 35 years now ... so the pilot has been affirming of me as a leader and that is really encouraging,” she said.

“I’m looking forward to the next part of the program, which involves working alongside a coach.”

– Lauren Martin

Corps-based partnerships strengthening parents

▼ A PROGRAM THAT HELPS eligible parents plan for the future once their youngest child goes to school has been launched in five corps across South Australia.

ParentsNext is a Federal Government program delivered by Employment Plus in Adelaide since 2 July, 2018.

It offers all parents who have been receiving parenting payments for over six months and whose youngest child is under six years of age, coaching sessions to help them set education and employment goals and provides assistance in achieving them.

ParentsNext program team

leader, Vanessa Kearney, said Employment Plus coaches are based at Ingle Farm Corps, Gawler Corps, Parafield Gardens Corps, Playford Corps and Semaphore Corps. They are supporting between 600 and 700 families, referred to them by Centrelink.

“It’s really interesting, as parents come to the appointment because Centrelink has told them that they need to attend, and in some cases they are very defensive and a little bit disgruntled ... but once we talk with them and they realise that we’re here to help and assist them achieve their goals, they tend to go: ‘Wow, this is great!’”

She said partnering with The Salvation Army’s large network of services has been invaluable, with many ParentsNext participants being invited to join corps playgroups, financial counselling services and other Salvation Army programs.

“I think the strength of our Salvation Army support services, along with the experience our coaches have, makes us well placed to achieve some good outcomes,” Vanessa said.

“We have regular meetings with participants to determine an action plan, and in some cases we may have funding available to assist.”

– Lauren Martin



▲ Employment Plus ParentsNext team leader Vanessa Kearney with one of the banners advertising the ParentsNext program.

Mount Barker Corps in the market for mission

▼ THERE’S AN OLD SAYING, “YOU cannot warm the hearts of people with God’s love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet.” At Mount Barker Corps in South Australia, they take this saying literally with their monthly market.

Partnering with the Mount Barker Council, and The Salvation Army’s Doorways and Moneycare services, the small corps in the Adelaide Hills runs a monthly event called The Market Place, providing fresh food, financial advice and other services for the town of 16,000.

Sharon Maslen, an adherent of Mount Barker Corps, started

the market after seeing how successful Adelaide City Salvos’ monthly market had been in assisting the community.

“This market really is about the priesthood of believers. We can’t do it all ourselves, so Sharon got that up and running and raised up a team around her,” says Lieutenant Sarah Innes, the Mount Barker Corps Officer.

In a community that sees its share of issues such as domestic violence, drug abuse, rising rates of homelessness, relationship breakdowns and mental health issues, The Market Place gives people a safe place to find friends, food and a message of hope.

“We already run emergency relief and financial counselling from this venue, so it’s also about offering the opportunity to connect more and come along to this free market,” says Lieut Innes.

“We give away heaps of food, but the market also helps



▲ Fresh fruit and vegetables are plenty at The Market Place.

by providing community for people who are isolated and lonely. It’s really about meeting a local need.”

The Market Place is supported with food donations from Food Bank and Secondbite, and has partnered with the Mount Barker Council to provide flu shots. Each month, this sees between 70 to 140 people come through their doors for a hearty meal, and everyone is welcome.

“We’re very intentional

about having volunteers from the congregation here who can come alongside people and just chat and build relationship. We see it as a very holistic ministry,” says Lieut Innes.

“It’s about providing food, but it’s also about being willing to be like Jesus. We have tables and tables of food, and we are cramming other tables with people. We can’t fit everyone in – some even eat standing up!” she laughs.

– Jessica Morris

Enrolments

NOOSA/COOLUM CORPS
QLD



CORPS OFFICER MAJOR WARREN PARKINSON accepted Mia Zorden as an adherent on 28 October.

MANDURAH CORPS
WA



ASSOCIATE CORPS OFFICER CAPTAIN Erica Cossington enrolled Samantha Jeffrey as a senior soldier on 7 October.

NORTH BRISBANE CORPS
QLD



CORPS OFFICER MAJOR CRAIG TODD enrolled Kate Koning as a senior soldier and accepted Michele Eberle, Alyse Henshaw and Vanessa Want as adherents on 11 November. Pictured are (from left) Alyse, Vanessa, Michele, Kate, and Major Todd.

KABRA OUTPOST
QLD



MAJOR PETER SUTCLIFFE ACCEPTED Rosemary Oates as an adherent at Kabra Outpost on 11 November. The flagbearer is corps leader Graham Ivers.

PAKENHAM CORPS
VIC



CORPS OFFICER LIEUTENANT BELINDA Saunders enrolled Andrea Williams as a senior soldier on 11 November. Andrea is pictured with Lieuts Dale and Belinda Saunders.

SOUTH BARWON CORPS
VIC



CORPS OFFICER CAPTAIN MAL DAVIES enrolled Tom Miller (pictured) as a senior soldier on 25 November. Tom has attended the corps for nearly six years and serves as deputy bandmaster.

CAMPSIE CORPS
NSW



NINE SENIOR SOLDIERS WERE ENROLLED and two adherents accepted at Campsie Corps on 9 September.

Pictured are (back row, from left) Jordan Riley, Frank Kamara, Cherry Xue Chun Liu (adherent), Edwin Monrovia, and Jimmy Hua Fu Chen (adherent); (middle row) Moon Zang, Sindy Lou, Anna Chen, Jane Xia Min Shan, Zhi Gang Wang, and Richard Kedi; (front row) Major Karen Masters (Assistant Corps Officer), Major Margaret Redmond (Assistant Recruiting Sergeant), Desmond Pearse (Recruiting Sergeant), and Major David Hawke (Corps Officer).

TOWNSVILLE RECOVERY MISSION
QLD



JAMES AND TANIA MILLAN (PICTURED above) and Ilya Shambat (pictured above right with Lieutenant Brad Whittle) were recently accepted as adherents at Townsville Recovery Mission.



others

Send us your enrolment stories.

We want to share your stories.

Please send details, including date of enrolment, name of corps or centre, name of enrolling officer(s), soldier(s) and/or adherent(s), and a high-resolution photo to Simone Worthing at simone.worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org



^ Wildfires burned out of control in Southern and Northern California in November 2018, with lives lost, people displaced, and properties, including several of The Salvation Army, destroyed.

Properties burned to ground in California

AS AUSTRALIA FACED BUSH-fires throughout Queensland, several Salvation Army properties were razed to the ground in northern California as wildfires burned out of control in vast areas of the state.

Salvation Army properties were affected by the so-called

Camp Fire in northern California, with the social services office and thrift store in the small town of Paradise destroyed.

Salvation Army staff and volunteers served at six evacuation shelters in Butte County, supplying thousands of meals.

Salvation Army properties in southern California, including Camp Daley, were also affected by fires, with several structures destroyed.

The Salvation Army is involved with the long-term recovery effort, even within its own properties.

Army work highlighted in European Parliament

TO MARK THE EUROPEAN Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings late last year, The Salvation Army attended the European Parliament to present examples of its anti-human trafficking work and seek to persuade politicians to take action to help the 40 million people who are victims of modern slavery worldwide.

At the presentation, Salvation Army personnel shared experiences from the European Union-funded multinational



^ Delegates outside the European Parliament in Brussels, where they promoted the anti-human trafficking program Safe Havens.

project Safe Havens, speaking about their daily work with victims of trafficking. The project is led by the Netherlands and also includes also Army programs in Sweden, Moldova, Ukraine and Romania.

The Salvation Army's

presentations in Brussels also showcased a unique three-year Pan-European campaign against human trafficking.

The campaign will start to run across Europe in early 2019, under the heading "Cheap Prices Come at a High Cost".

Peddles celebrate congress in Tanzania

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND Commissioner Rosalie Peddle (World President of Women's Ministries) witnessed the passion and exuberance of The Salvation Army in Tanzania when they led a territorial congress that included the commissioning of the *Messengers of the Gospel* session of cadets.

Salvationists and friends from every corner of the country met in the northern Tarime Division to celebrate 10 years since Tanzania became a Salvation Army territory in its own right.

Human rights anniversary marked

ON 10 DECEMBER 1948, IN PARIS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was agreed by the member countries of the United Nations. To mark the 70th anniversary, The Salvation Army has published a booklet, *Human Rights and The Salvation Army*, that reflects on the past and suggests ways to secure the future of human rights.

In the foreword to the 2018 booklet, General Brian Peddle reflects on the situation today. He writes: "When we consider current events in our world – the mass migration of refugees and asylum seekers, uncovered historical abuse, the need for campaigns like #metoo, gun and knife crime, human trafficking – this 70th anniversary provides an opportunity to pause, reflect and recommit ourselves to work for a better world where every person is valued, respected and protected."

DONALD MILLER



ENVOY DON MILLER WAS promoted to glory on 5 October, aged 86. A thanksgiving service,

conducted by Lieut-Colonels Ian and Marilyn Hamilton, was held at Hobart Corps. Don's children and grandchildren paid fitting tributes, and Envoy Rhonda McIntyre gave a tribute of behalf of Hobart Corps and The Salvation Army. Following the thanksgiving service, a graveside service was conducted at the Cornelian Bay Cemetery in which Major Stephen Miller took part.

Don was born in 1932 in Nowra (NSW) and grew up in a Christian home. Leaving school, he worked in the horticultural field for most of his life. He married Velma, who he met when he was 14, in 1961. They were married for 57 years.

Don, Velma and their children often had holidays in Tasmania. Because of their love for Tasmania, the family relocated there. In the 1970s, the family began attending The Salvation Army and a short time later, Don and Velma became soldiers of Hobart Corps.

In retirement, Don and Velma took on the responsibility of two corps in Tasmania, and also stepped in to assist at a number of corps when the need arose. For well over 30 years, Don was involved in hotel ministry in Hobart. He was well known and greatly respected by the hotel patrons.

Don's obituary appeared in Hobart's *Mercury* newspaper as well as being a news item on local radio stations. The ABC Facebook page had in excess of 1200 comments about the life and influence of Envoy Don Miller.

In a personal letter that the Premier of Tasmania, Will Hodgman, wrote to Velma on Don's passing, he said: "Donald was highly respected for his many years of dedicated service to the

Salvation Army. He was always kind, polite and unassuming and his presence will be greatly missed by many in the community."

JANET MCLEOD



JANET MCLEOD WAS PROMOTED to glory on 15 September, aged 84. Her funeral service was

held at Camberwell Citadel in Melbourne on 20 September, conducted by Major Brad Halse.

Ida Janet Munro was born in Caulfield, the fifth child of Andrew and Mary Munro. The family experienced the loss of their father as a young man, when Janet was just four. Their mother, a beautiful Christian lady, devoted her life to her family.

Janet commenced school at Caulfield North Primary School, then Caulfield North Central School prior to completing her education at MacRobertson Girls High School. She commenced her working life at the MLC Insurance Company prior to joining the National Bank in 1954.

It was about 1952 that a friend introduced Janet to The Salvation Army at Malvern. She became involved in church life and it was during these years she and Rex became friendly, subsequently marrying in 1958.

Her great joy was the birth of her children, Jennifer, Fiona, and Roderick and she had a vital role in their upbringing. They each acknowledge the depth of her influence on their lives. Her family, grandchildren and great-grandchild brought enormous joy and pride to Janet, as have many good friendships.

Janet spent many years engaged in supporting the less fortunate through The Salvation Army, at drop-in centres at Chelsea and Camberwell and at the St Kilda Crisis Centre. During five years spent in Geelong, Janet was responsible for the junior Sunday school and several

other activities in the church.

Janet had cancer on six occasions over the past 25 years, but her courage and determination saw her overcome all but the most recent bout. She had also endured several surgeries over the years, evidence to her strength and fortitude.

Janet was a woman who found strength in prayer, was firm in her faith, and her Christian example and love were deeply embedded in all areas of her life. Her life and influence will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

DON DICKINSON



DONALD NORMAN DICKINSON was promoted to glory on 2 April, aged 85. A funeral service was held for Don at

Kings Meadows Corps in Launceston, led by Corps Officer Captain Jacky Laing.

Donald was born into a Christian family and as a child attended the Methodist Church in Launceston. He began attending Launceston Corps in 1988 and was enrolled as a soldier in December 1989.

He was very active in the corps where he became a member of the songster brigade and also became a valuable part of the H.L. Bible study. He was also the leader of the Friendship Club. Don spent much time transporting members of the club to and from meetings.

In December 1993, Don married Verna Graham. They continued their service at Launceston Corps until transferring to Kings Meadows Corps. Don quickly became involved in the corps and he was involved in most activities.

Don was a great lover of music and spent many years visiting aged care facilities and preparing programs for the residents. He loved working for his Lord.

I have nothing to fear any more.

WORDS KEITH NICHOLLS

BEFORE I APPROACHED THE SALVOS I didn't want anything to do with God or Christianity. I didn't like Christians.

I didn't think that The Salvation Army was a church until I came along to the Burnie Corps Red Shield Appeal Sleep Out in May 2017. I was drawn there out of my passion for social justice. I discovered that the Salvos are actually a church, and I wanted to explore the link between faith and social justice opportunities.

I was in a very difficult situation, struggling with depression, drug use and crime. But I kept coming along. It was like a home – a big family at the church. They gave me responsibilities to organise events like the Summer Carnival and I hosted "Burnie's Got Talent". The responsibility was something I really enjoyed because I consider myself a leader and I've been able to foster that as well.

It didn't click until I went to Summer Carnival 2018 and I realised that, up until that point, I just kind of agreed with the social justice side of Christianity. I thought Jesus was a top bloke. At Summer Carnival I had a much deeper realisation that I needed a Saviour. That Jesus is actually for me. That God is for me too. And I realised that without God it could all amount to nothing in the end.

I was learning all about Bible stories leading up to Summer Carnival and I believed Christianity was a faith. I respected it. But it wasn't until this event that I listened to some amazing testimonies and was moved. At the end of one night, they silenced the music and said, "If anyone wants to give their heart to Jesus, come forward now." I didn't hesitate. I remember distinctly being the first person to come to the front. I was

Keith Nicholls with Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd on the day of his enrolment at Burnie Corps on 12 August.



crying. Some of the people from the Burnie Corps were supporting me at the time in a prayer session.

Now fear is gone. I don't really have anything to fear any more. Before I had a hope that things would always work out fine, but I now know that no matter what happens, no matter what I do, Jesus really loves me. The story of the prodigal son really moves me. He goes away for so long and is welcomed back and they have a party. It gives me reassurance. I feel almost a victim to that change. I became a senior soldier on 12 August. It's been a pretty rapid change from that first Red Shield Appeal ... and one year later I was coordinating the very event I first went along to!

Today I'm the youth ministry coordinator at Burnie Corps. I live, love and fight alongside others – especially kids at the corps. We really show the love of God. I want people to know the power and transformation that Jesus has to offer ... that they, too, can be transformed. There is an answer to every one of their questions, their struggles and their doubts ... and God holds that answer. ●

As told to Jessica Morris

About people

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 3 December

Major Erica **Kollmorgen**, Head of Centre for Restoration, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

Effective 9 January

Major Jeff **Winterburn**, Territorial Public Relations Consultant (Qld-based), Office of the Secretary for Communications; Major Suzanne **Winterburn**, Territorial Honoured Friends Coordinator (Qld-based), Fundraising Department; Major Marjory **Ellis**, Team Member, Officer Personnel Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Major Angela **Watson**, Volunteer Resources Advisor – Tasmania, Volunteer Resources Department, Office of the Secretary for Personnel (change of title); Aux-Lieutenant Rhys **Wilson**, Corps Officer, Lockyer Valley Corps, Queensland Division; Lieutenant Kimberly **Brown**, Corps Officer, South Burnett Region, Queensland Division; Lieutenant Timothy **Brown**, Corps Officer, South Burnett Region, Queensland Division; Major Elizabeth **Garland**, State Manager, Homelessness and Alcohol, Drugs and Other Addictions, South Australia/Northern Territory (concurrent appointment) and State Social and Community Services Coordinator, South Australia/Northern Territory (concurrent appointment, previously announced) Social Mission Department; Major Lorraine **McLeod**, Coordinator Policy Professional Standards and Quality Department, Office of the Chief Secretary; Major Evonne **Packer**, General Manager, Disability Services, Social Mission Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (concurrent appointment); Major Janette **Philp**, Chaplain, James Barker House, Victoria Aged Care, Community Engagement Department; Major Gaylene **Walker**, Assistant Corps Officer, Inala Chapel, Victoria Division; Captain Harriet **Farquhar**, Manager, Safe Guarding Development, Professional Standards and Quality Department, Office of the Chief Secretary; Captain Simon **Mapleback**, Associate Corps Officer, Brimbank Corps, Victoria Division; Captain Peta **Pittaway**, Chaplain, Moorabbin Justice Centre, Victoria Community Engagement Department; Captain Ken **Smith**, State Manager, Alcohol, Drugs and Other Addictions and Homelessness, Western Australia (concurrent appointment) and State Social and Community Services Coordinator, Western Australia (concurrent appointment, previously announced), Social Mission Department; Captain Lynne **Turnbull**, Corps Officer, Ararat Corps with oversight of Stawell Corps, Victoria Division (additional appointment); Captain Gregory

Turnbull, Corps Officer, Ararat Corps with oversight of Stawell Corps, and Chaplain, Ararat Prison, Victoria Division (additional appointments); Captain Matt **Ryan**, Chaplain, Sunrise Centre, Northern Territory Community Engagement Department (second appointment); Captain Malkanthi **Walton**, Chaplain, Melbourne Magistrates Court, Victoria Community Engagement Department; Lieutenant Alexis **Mapleback**, Policy and Social Justice Support Officer, Policy, Research and Social Justice Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission.

Effective 1 February

Major Philip **Staines**, Corps Officer, Inala Corps, Queensland Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Sherene **Staines**, Corps Officer, Inala Corps, Queensland Division; Captain Leanne **Stevens**, Associate State Emergency Disaster Management Coordinator, Queensland, Community Engagement Department; Captain Lincoln **Stevens**, Associate State Emergency Disaster Management Coordinator, Queensland, Community Engagement Department.

Effective (date still to be advised)

Captain Kristopher **Halliday**, Assistant Leader for Haga/Möln dal Corps, Gothenburg, Sweden and Latvia Territory.

RETIREMENTS

Majors Sharon and Les **Coulter**, on 31 January.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Auxiliary-Captain Maureen **Croker**, on 5 December.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Sharon **Allen**, of her mother, Auxiliary-Captain Maureen Croker, on 5 December; Major Graham **Harris**, of his brother, Kenneth Harris, on 7 December.

Engagement calendar

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD

(TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

On furlough until 15 January

Hobart Sun 20 Jan – Installation of Tasmania Divisional Commander, Hobart Corps.

COLONELS MARK (CHIEF SECRETARY) AND

JULIE CAMPBELL (TSWM/GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE)

Wollongong Thur 17 Jan – Official opening of arts competition at Jayne Wilson Memorial Exhibition.

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