

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

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New officers commissioned on historic weekend for The Salvation Army

■ **OPINION**

Lucy Davis on Uluru and why our land needs to be given time to heal

■ **THE BIG PICTURE**

Mark Hadley encourages us to switch off and slow down these holidays

■ **FEATURE**

Gawler 2020 – a ‘church plant’ being built on stories of transformation



January
2020

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Issue 01
Volume 04
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TRUTH IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD

Collaboration the key to meaningful connection



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WORDS
SCOTT SIMPSON

Future is assured when it's in God's hands.

RECENTLY MY WIFE AND I WERE discussing when it is appropriate to start decorating the house for Christmas. It was she, actually, who brought up the subject.

You see, she still struggles with how early in December (in some cases it's November) Christmas decorations begin appearing in and on homes in Australia. And then how quickly after Christmas Day they are packed away.

Being from Scotland, she is accustomed to – in households at least – the Christmas tree and other decorations not being put up until about a week before the big day, and then remaining in place well into the new year. Her theory is that, in Australia, Boxing Day signals the summer holiday exodus and Christmas is quickly forgotten. Therefore, in order to 'maximise' the festive season, we start our celebrations – and our decorations – much earlier.

In northern Europe, however, Christmas and New Year are seen as one continuous celebration to help bring some cheer to what is usually a long, cold winter. In fact, for many people in Scotland, New Year celebrations are considered a bigger event than Christmas. So popular is Hogmanay in Edinburgh that you enter a draw to be allocated a ticket for entry into the city centre on New Year's Eve. As the clock strikes midnight on 31 December, hundreds of thousands of people in the city – and hundreds of millions more around the world – launch into their annual rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne', which might be loosely translated as "for [the sake of] old times". So when we sing the song, what we are actually saying is,

"We'll drink a cup of kindness for the sake of old times."

While there is tremendous value in drawing upon 'old times' (and biblically we are reminded numerous times of the importance of it), I'm the type of person who prefers to look to the future. Certainly the apostle Paul held a similar view, declaring, in a well-known passage of the Bible, that "... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

In this issue of *Others*, we feature a group of people for whom the future holds amazing promise and adventure. The 11 cadets who recently graduated from the School for Officer Training head into a year of the unknown as they take up new appointments in unfamiliar surroundings. The words of King George VI in his 1939 Christmas message, spoken as his nation faced an uncertain future, offer wise and timeless counsel: "Go out and put your hand in the hand of God; this is surer than light and safer than any known way."

How do you view the coming year? Whether we like it or not, time hurls us forward and the new year stretches before us like a blank canvas. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3).*

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Scott Simpson is the
Assistant Editor-in-Chief.





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 New officers have been commissioned in a landmark weekend for The Salvation Army in Australia.
 Photo: Jason Vanderwolf

Masthead

Issue 01
 January 2020

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“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.”

VISION STATEMENT

WORDS

JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

Small things done consistently well.

It comes down to one word and we can all play a part

WHEN WE HAVE TIME TO OURSELVES THERE IS nothing better than sitting together and enjoying a good coffee. For Janine, it is a choice between a latte, cappuccino or an occasional chai latte. For Robert, it is always, and only, a decaf long black. With the first sip comes the realisation of whether it is a 'good coffee'.

There are so many small elements that contribute to making a good coffee: the quality of the soil in which the coffee plant is grown, the weather conditions that affect its growth, when and how the coffee beans are harvested, how the coffee beans are dried, processed, roasted and blended, then there's the grinding, packaging, delivery time and so on ... until a barista actually makes the coffee to be enjoyed.

So, a 'good coffee' is the result of a series of small things done consistently well.

Like the preparation of a good coffee, being a respectful person or organisation is achieved by a series of small things done consistently well.

Often when we explore 'respect' as a personal or organisational value, we come across lofty ideals and aspirations, such as: all people are created in the image of God, or everyone has innate value, or everyone has gifts and abilities, or affirmation of the worth and capacity of all people. These lofty ideals and aspirations are good and true, but what do they boil down to in everyday life? We would suggest that respect is a series of small things done consistently well.

Respect is saying thank you to the waiting staff who remove your empty coffee cup. Respect is listening well and not interrupting. Respect is allowing someone else to go first. Respect is treating people equally. Respect is appreciating differing points of view by asking questions rather than arguing our point of view. Respect is agreeing to disagree without

suggesting that the other person is wrong. Respect is pushing your chair in when you leave the table. Respect is valuing every contribution, big or small. Respect is listening, affirming, serving, being kind, being polite and being thankful.

Consider some of these Bible verses (NLT):

- "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).
- "And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching" (Titus 2:7).
- "Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry" (James 1:19).
- "Whoever pursues righteousness and unflinching love will find life, righteousness and honour" (Proverbs 21:21).
- "Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honouring each other" (Romans 12:10).
- "Do to others as you would like them to do to you" (Luke 6:31).
- "Show respect to all men. Love the Christians. Honour God with love and fear. Respect the head leader of the country" (1 Peter 2:17).
- "I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10:33).

Doing small things consistently well will ensure that together we become a respectful Salvation Army. Thanks for playing your part. God bless. *

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson are the leaders of The Salvation Army Australia Territory.



AUSSIE OFFICERS AROUND THE WORLD - USA WESTERN TERRITORY

In Global Focus this year, *Others* will continue to profile the work of Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we look at the USA Western Territory where Captains Cheryl and Nesan Kistan are serving. The Kistans are Corps Officers at Tustin Ranch Corps. Cheryl is also Orange County Coordinator and Nesan the Divisional Secretary of Orange County. Nesan shares some reflections ...

Cheryl and I were always open to overseas ministry and mission. When the conversation arose about serving in the United States, we put out a 'fleece' to God. If this was God's will for us, to help advance the Kingdom in the US, then we would do it. We had already been travelling back and forth to the US for ministry and conferences. The last time we went was in late 2016. At that time, God laid on our hearts that this was the place he was calling us to as part of our journey in life.

It was complicated for us as a family of six, mainly because our eldest son had just finished Year 11 and we have another son who is profoundly deaf and needs ongoing support and assistance. However, we knew that trusting God's call and obeying him was much more important than any personal challenge or sacrifice – and that we would always be richer for it. That has always been our experience. We know that God's plan is always bigger and greater than our minds can comprehend.

Over the years, our ministry journey has increasingly involved working with displaced people who need hope and a place to belong. This has continued in the US. Our previous work with refugees in Australia has parallels with our work with the homeless and the marginalised here in Orange County. However, the US, although a Western, English-speaking country, is vastly different from Australia and our

transition to life here has been very challenging. We are different ideologically, in our values and in our thinking, in so many ways. The Salvation Army is so different here as well.

We have learned not to be judgmental but to value and appreciate the differences, the uniqueness and the nuances of another nation. The opportunity to shift our mind to new ways of doing things has been fantastic, so we certainly are missionaries in every respect, learning how to live and do ministry in a different world.

Some of the social issues here run deep, with many people, particularly the poor, uneducated, sick and ethnically diverse, almost dehumanised. We can't fix this, but I think part of the reason God placed us here is to be a moral compass; to show our communities that nobody is a second-class citizen and the love of Christ extends to all. This is the platform on which we are standing in this new season of life and ministry.

My role as a divisional secretary has a broad scope of responsibility: finances, fundraising, human resources and the social program for a county with a population of around four million people. We have a staff of close to 200. As well as our corps responsibilities at Tustin Ranch, Cheryl and I also work with three other corps in the area. One of the real strengths of overseas ministry is

- ▶ Captains Cheryl and Nesan Kistan and their four children are serving at Tustin Ranch Corps in Orange County, and soaking up the American way of life.

the cross-pollination you get as you share and are challenged by new strategies and approaches and acquire new skills, learnings and experiences. Overseas ministry also makes The Salvation Army internationally far richer and stronger, and is a powerful reminder that we are Kingdom people. We have grown as people in our personal development, and as Salvation Army officers, during this time.

For us, the biggest challenge by far is the distance and separation from family. There is no easy way to work through it – you can't sugarcoat it. It's just plain difficult. A real joy, though, is the global network of long-lasting friendships we build and the opportunity to meet people from another part of the world. We have met some phenomenal people who we have the privilege of calling friends.

As we focus on the present and look to the future, we believe that God has given us an audacious mission and vision to do something significant – to end chronic homelessness in Orange County in three years and to transform lives with courage and innovation, empowered by a holy faith. This is the driver behind our 250-bed homeless shelter. Plans are underway for our 600-bed supported housing facility in Anaheim initially and then hopefully in two other cities in Orange County.

It's an enormous endeavour, but we believe strongly in Ephesians 3:20 that says God will give us immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. This has been the life verse for us in this season of mission and ministry in the US. With a clear vision and a high level of passion, nothing is too hard for God.

The Salvation Army is a mission movement. God calls his people to step out and move from our area of comfortability into mission. We believe we are being obedient to God's leading and know that we will be richer for this journey.*



USA WESTERN TERRITORY

29	Envoys
2	Auxiliary-Captains
1210	Officers
59	Cadets
8807	Employees
261	Corps
16,945	Senior Soldiers
4117	Adherents
4839	Junior Soldiers

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WORDS

LUCY DAVIS

A shared responsibility.

It's time for our land to heal

IN MY TIMES OF PRAYER MY HEART hurts for the land and the sea. For more than 60,000 years, Aboriginal peoples have loved and nourished our lands like a mother would love and care for her newborn child. We do not take too much from her and, when we do, we always put back. As custodians it has been up to us to ensure the land nourishes and sustains into the future.

It was up to us to ensure that we harvested in the right seasons, and we did our burn-offs in the opposing seasons to ensure new life would be given. It was up to us to calculate when and where to lay our crops and produce. We did this by reading the land and understanding weather patterns. It was up to us to protect our waterholes and maintain the purity of Mother Earth in all her beauty. This is what our Father God bestowed on us as Aboriginal peoples.

So, as I've reflected on the recent decision to ban climbing Uluru, I've asked myself: "Is this really about closing a 'tourist attraction' or is this about how we, as Christians, look at this gift our Creator has given us, what we as Aboriginal people call 'Mother Earth'?"

I think Aboriginal peoples did a pretty good job right up to about 230 years ago when foreign animals were brought ashore and began polluting the land with waste

that our land cannot bear. We've also had the introduction of agricultural methods that were not meant for this land. Too much has been taken from her and not enough has been given back. The 'lore' of the land has been ignored and the very landscape of what Father God has given Aboriginal peoples to look after is now becoming unrecognisable.

It is well documented that Aboriginal peoples have a unique relationship with the land. We believe we are all connected and need to look after the elements that Father God has entrusted to us. We believe in feelings, and that when the land is hurting we are hurting too. We believe that we do not own the land but that the land owns us.

“Is this really about closing a ‘tourist attraction’ or is this about how we, as Christians, look at this gift our Creator has given us, what we as Aboriginal people call ‘Mother Earth’?”

For years, as Australians, we have watched Uluru become a national icon – ‘The big red rock in the middle of nowhere’. It attracts tens of thousands of tourists every year. As tourists begin the trek towards this sacred being we call Uluru, there is a sign which reads: “We, the Anangu traditional owners, have this to say – ‘Uluru is sacred in our culture, it is a place of great knowledge. Under Anangu traditional law, climbing is not permitted.

“This is our home. As custodians, we are responsible for your safety and behaviour. Too many people do not listen to our message. Too many people have died or been hurt, causing great sadness. We

worry about you and we worry about your family. Please don't climb. We invite you to walk around the base and discover a deeper understanding of this place.”

As a Christian, I embrace diversity and humble myself to understand the unwritten 'lores' that exist in diversity. However, the ignorance and disrespect shown to Aboriginal people with regard to looking after the land and sacred sites always amazes me. And there's also the logistics of tourists climbing the rock, which are a nightmare. The climb is actually quite difficult and not suitable for children. There are no toilet facilities at the top of the rock nor are their bins; therefore, it has become common practice for tourists to leave their rubbish and human waste.

It was our Creator who entrusted Aboriginal peoples to care for, love and look after this great country we now call Australia. God entrusted Aboriginal peoples with this task for thousands of years, and we have abided by his commands. But for Aboriginal peoples, trying to uphold these commands entrusted to us before colonisation has become a harder task. It's almost always 'controversial' because the wealth that can be derived from the land – minerals, gas, coal, etc. – seems to override any value of people or the lore of the land.

We are a shared country now – Aboriginal people acknowledge that – therefore, we have a shared responsibility to heed God's commands. We all need to care, love and nourish the land; this is all our responsibility as children of God.

Uluru is a sacred site to the Anangu peoples. It's their place of story, ceremony and prayer, a place directly linked back to our Creator that is now sadly scarred, polluted and tired. How do we gain forgiveness for not listening to you, Father God? How do we gain forgiveness for

Can a leopard change its spots? This rhetorical question, which suggests people cannot change what they are inherently, was coined by the prophet Jeremiah. The reference is found in Jeremiah 13:23.



taking too much and not giving back to this precious gift you gave us? Since the closure a new sign has been erected. It says, “The land has law and culture. We welcome tourists here. Closing the climb is not something to feel upset about but a cause for celebration. Let’s come together; let’s close it together.”

Uluru, we are sorry for not listening to your cries and we are sorry for not protecting you. It’s time for a long rest, it’s time for you to breathe and to heal. We, as your custodians, will pray that you can recover and continue to bring story, love and guidance to all in your majestic presence. God is good.*

Lucy Davis is The Salvation Army (Qld) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement coordinator.

WORDS

PETE BROOKSHAW

What’s the next chapter?

My armchair revelation while sipping a soy latte

WALKING THROUGH THE CONFERENCE centre foyer, I made my way to the barista and ordered a soy latte. Dairy gives me headaches. Actually, overworking gives me headaches. I knew what I needed – a short rest and a moment in a comfortable foyer armchair without the expectations of the coming week. I had spent the past few days catching up with Salvation Army colleagues who had entered ‘the ministry’ with me a decade ago. This was a time away for reflection and for recharging

the batteries. But I wasn’t ready for what came next. As I pondered the world, in the slightly uncomfortable armchair, I couldn’t get a particular thought out of my head – I was out of inspiration. The stories had dried up. I mean, I was out of stories. The well had run a little dry. Let me explain.

Over the past seven years, I have served in a wonderful Salvation Army community in Craigieburn, Victoria. In that time, I have preached with passion, taught with enthusiasm and shared stories of what God was doing among his people. I would talk about the new breakfast program or highlight the latest initiative. I would celebrate the wins from the weeks gone by. But now, sitting in that increasingly awkward armchair sipping a soy latte, it suddenly dawned on me that I had run out of stories. From a preacher’s perspective, I felt like I was preaching on the same Bible passages week in, week out.

During my sermons I would quote Psalm chapter 23, “The Lord is my shepherd ...” I would quote familiar passages such as, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted and to set the captives free” (Isaiah 61:1). I would call people to action and challenge them to allow their faith to drive them into helping those less fortunate than themselves.

But the stories had dried up. I needed inspiration. Then it came to me ...

In a moment of reflection on that armchair, now a virtual ‘hot seat’ of inspiration, I felt a whisper. I imagined it as the kind of whisper that Elijah experienced (1 Kings 19), where God says, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” This whisper pounded in my heart and soul: “What’s the next chapter, Pete?” My answer: “I don’t know. You know

that The Salvation Army is in charge of choosing the next chapter for me.” God’s comeback: “No, Pete. What’s the next chapter in the Scriptures?” And then it became clear. I was out of stories because I had stopped moving on to the next chapter. I was reading what was familiar to me. I was content to stay where I was; like being on cruise control on a freeway. I was stuck on autopilot. That whisper woke me up, or sat me up.

So, what’s the next chapter? As I read Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd...”, I felt God say, “Yes, but what does Psalm 24 say?” What’s the next chapter? You know Isaiah 61, but what’s the next chapter? What’s the next page say? What’s the next story highlight? What’s the next part of the narrative?

And with that, I leapt out of that armchair with a new sense of purpose. I’m moving again. I’m pushing through simply regurgitating the familiar and now I’m delving into new ideas and truths that reveal themselves as I venture into new chapters. I was stuck. It wasn’t the end of the world, but I’m moving again. I feel like I have a renewed passion and desire to keep learning and reading and growing. I feel like this question, “What’s the next chapter?” is going to resonate with me for some time.

If you’re a little stuck in your faith in Jesus, then I ask you the same question I felt God ask of me: “What’s the next chapter?” And are you willing to delve into new stories and new scriptures and new revelations, beyond the familiar? For me, the headache has subsided and I’m no longer stuck. I’m reading on to the next chapter and I’m going to watch what God has in store.*

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

The word **beautiful** was first used in the English language by William Tyndale, when he produced his English translation of the New Testament in 1526.

WORDS
STEPHEN COURT

Bringing evangelism back into style.

Taking a 'shot' at it is the first step

'EVANGELISM IS GOING OUT OF STYLE,' says a 2019 Barna report called *Reviving Evangelism*. More than half of survey respondents said they'd had two or fewer conversations about faith with a non-Christian in the past year. Without evangelising, we wouldn't be here – 'we' being those who have accepted Jesus' invitation into our lives. Remember when he said: "Come, follow me"?

Evangelism should be life-giving, so what's stopping us? I can think of several reasons. Maybe you tried to evangelise and it went poorly. You perhaps didn't feel comfortable nudging the direction of conversation with your friend, or imposing on a stranger. Maybe you weren't confident about your command of relevant Bible verses and apologetics, or you found your Gospel advances rejected. They didn't transform into new creations in Christ Jesus, and it didn't feel life-giving for you.

Or maybe you felt poorly and didn't evangelise. You know the stereotype of an evangelist (think slippery, slick, cheesy), and you certainly didn't want to be counted among that number. So you avoided divine appointments – God-arranged moments when it seemed

like the Gospel would be welcomed. You ignored invitations at the corps to participate in evangelistic events such as door-to-door prayer forays or open-air meetings. There are likely other dynamics at play, too.

Some readers may remember ice hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky's phrase, "You miss 100 per cent of the shots you don't take." If you never evangelise, it's highly unlikely you'll ever play a direct role in someone being born again. If you never take a shot, you'll never get a goal.

There are things you can do to address the 'maybes' above. If you lack confidence in your understanding of the Bible and apologetics, there are many resources available to get a handle on basic concepts in evangelism. The MySalvos website offers a learning resource at my.salvos.org.au/toolkit/resource/sharing-my-faith-small-group/491/

If you are uncomfortable initiating a discussion with a friend or stranger, try asking questions. Find out their perspective on the big-ticket questions (e.g. 'Does God exist?', 'What is God like?', 'Who is Jesus?', 'What about suffering and evil?'). At some point, the conversation will likely turn back to you and, having listened to their beliefs and doubts, you can share some of yours.

You can pray that God will share his love for the people you may soon be evangelising, so that you love them like he does. Ask God to give you insight into their hurts and doubts, or an encouraging word. Ask God to show you anything in your life that might hinder your presentation of the Gospel (think 'sin in your life' to confess).

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and to arrange an opportunity to evangelise. Go with a partner – that's a biblical precedent. There is courage in



numbers, but also, one can be praying while the other is talking.

As all of this is saturated in prayer, you may feel more like you are co-labouring with God than just doing something on your own because it seems like the right thing to do. And there is nothing more affirming than partnering with God. Is it life-giving? It is to you, and sometimes even to the person with whom you speak.

The number from the Barna report was 56 per cent, meaning that 44 per cent of respondents did evangelise at least twice in the past year. And if you and a few of your friends – and maybe even some other readers of *Others* – join that group and start evangelising, we could climb into majority status, and you know what that means. We already know it is re-creational. But we can make it trendy again!*

Major Stephen Court is an evangelism consultant in The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory. This article appeared at salvationist.ca

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Join the conversation

"One of our most popular stories has been a case of an 'accident' where an elderly couple was hit with a truck on the road."

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"The Academy is set up with the aim of the staff to be a resource for parents too."

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"Lillian & Loren are part of our most popular local stories."

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"An accident. One of the things we can do to help is to be part of the story. It's not one of our most popular stories 'James' story.' More locally for

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HEAVEN, EARTH AND OUR BUSINESS – THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CORPS-BASED SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

Continuing a regular series looking at ways that The Salvation Army is engaging in mission across Australia

WORDS PAUL KNIGHT



Our founder, William Booth, once said: “Making heaven on earth is our business.” He was expressing Jesus’ teaching that “the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 3:2), and Jesus’ teaching in the Lord’s prayer, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

This biblical truth about heaven, earth and our business is woven deep into our new framework for corps-based social programs. This is a framework developed by our territorial Community Engagement team. A corps-based social program is a local service to the community that corps oversee. It covers things like playgroups, English conversation classes, homework clubs and meal programs. The national framework encourages our programs to be intentionally missional, relational and professional.

When we engage with the community, we need to ensure that we are missional. We are looking to care for people holistically and communicate God’s love to people in both word and action. We also need to ensure that we are relational. This means genuinely building and maintaining good relationships with

community members. We will welcome and actively listen to all people without discrimination. And we also need to be professional – to do what we do well and provide quality care and service for people.

When we are doing all three together, we are living out our mission at its best. If we are not missional, we are not true to our Salvation Army identity as a Christian movement. If we are not relational, we see people only as clients, and we are not true to our identity. If we are not professional, we can put people at risk of potential harm. This, too, is inconsistent with our identity as a Christian movement.

We must always ask the hard questions about the quality of our community engagement work. Are we hitting the mark? Is our work leading to real change in individuals, families, groups and society at large?

Claire Twivey is a Community Services Specialist for the Mission Department. She has been compiling a snapshot of corps-based social programs around the nation. Here are some great examples:

- Dandenong Corps has partnered with Employment Plus to run an

employment program for asylum seekers who receive no income due to Status Resolution Support Services cuts. Since August, the program has helped 22 people find employment.

- An Alice Springs Corps member volunteers each week at an Aboriginal nursing home. It is an opportunity for thriving social engagement as well as spiritual input. This volunteer has translated a number of hymns into four local Indigenous dialects, helping residents maintain a connection to their culture and faith.
- Bonnells Bay Corps has partnered with a Seventh-day Adventist church to put on a weekly community day. They provide meals, pop-up op shop, food market and a space for community members to meet new people and connect with each other.
- Dalby Corps has partnered with a veterinarian clinic to provide support to community members who have lost a pet. This might not seem important to people living in urban centres, but it is valuable for regional and remote Queenslanders.
- Perth Fortress Corps supports The Graceville Centre (family and domestic violence service) through the provision of a Mainly Music program. The program is volunteer-led and supervised by staff at the centre.
- The Salvos Sunday dinner, established by Hobart Corps, has become a place of significant connection, acceptance, safety, transformation and community for the marginalised of the city.

Claire has been trialling a discussion tool, based on the national framework, with corps officers. It has been helpful in facilitating clear discussion of strengths and weaknesses; building and maintaining communication and trust between Salvo leaders; allaying fear of professionalism in corps, to show how quality and compliance enhances rather than detracts from

ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

The Salvation Army has been involved in the following:

Met MPs to discuss Newstart and the need to increase support for people reliant on welfare.

Met the Minister for Water Resources to discuss our drought relief efforts including the increased funding distributed by The Salvation Army.

Given evidence regarding the NSW Modern Slavery Act (2018).

Made submissions regarding the 2020 Federal Budget; the Productivity Commission's review of mental health; the Commonwealth Parliament's consideration of the family law system, and waste management and recycling.

Participated in a round-table discussion with Senator Anne Ruston on Equal Remuneration Order supplementation.

mission; and promoting organic conversations about collaboration with other mission expressions. These conversations start to paint a clear picture of what it looks like for a corps to be operating at its best when engaging with the community.

The national framework for corps-based social is about giving proper weight to missional, relational and professional dimensions, using tools that encourage respectful collaboration. In a complex and highly regulated society, it is how we can stay true to Booth's vision of making heaven on earth our business.

To access our new national framework on corps-based social programs, contact claire.twivey@salvationarmy.org.au ✳

Paul Knight is Senior Writer, Mission Resources, The Salvation Army Australia Territory



HISTORIC COMMISSIONING FOR AUSTRALIA TERRITORY.

Eleven new lieutenants sent out to front line of officership

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS AND SIMONE WORTHING

Eleven new officers of the Australia Territory were recently commissioned by Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson on what was a historic weekend for The Salvation Army. For the first time in Australia, cadets were commissioned in two groups, on two separate days, in two different locations. Additionally, two of those commissioned are the first cadets of any *Messengers of Grace* session around The Salvation Army world to become officers.

The first commissioning service was held at Waverley Temple Corps in Melbourne on 30 November. Colonel Mark Campbell, in bringing a message to nine cadets of the *Messengers* sessions, spurred them to carry the message of Christ, which transforms lives, into their communities. “The Salvation Army can’t transform people; programs can’t transform people. Jesus can transform people, and that is the core message [of The Salvation Army],” said the Chief Secretary of the Australia Territory. “That is who we are – and we are all messengers.”

The nine new lieutenants commissioned in a special ordination service, led by Janine, Territorial President for Women’s Ministries, and supported by Mark, were Craig Boyd, Jessica Ffrost-Boyd, Min-Hwan Oh, Andrew Webb, Marika Wallis, Paul Trotter, Alice Edge, Sunny Seol and Henry Roehrig. The group is representative of the *Messengers of Compassion* and *Messengers of the Kingdom* sessions.

“The deep-seated need people have is a spiritual need,” Mark said in continuing his message to the new lieutenants seated on the platform. “And we have the answer – it is Jesus Christ!” he added, referring to 1 Timothy 2:7.

The camaraderie of the group being commissioned was evident throughout the service, and they expressed how overcoming obstacles had brought their session closer together. “Sometimes cadet life felt like a trap; warm days would be spent inside the library researching, late nights writing essays,” said Lieutenant Sunny Seol, speaking on behalf of the *Messengers*. “However, as time went by we adapted to our lives and learned how to enjoy our cadet life. It was not an easy journey, but we are able to come here today because we were on that journey together.”

Lieut Craig Boyd also highlighted the diversity of the group, and how each had taken their own path to officership. “Each of our journeys through Officer Formation have been very different, and those being commissioned this year have not walked the same path,” he said.

“Some of us have been through the standard two-year residential program, others have served as cadets-in-appointment and as auxiliary-lieutenants. College is not the end of our stories. Each of us has received an appointment to partner with God in different communities across Australia.” →

• The nine cadets who were commissioned at Waverley Temple in Melbourne on 30 November (from left) Craig Boyd, Jessica Frost-Boyd, Sunny Seol, Min-Hwan Oh, Alice Edge, Paul Trotter, Marika Wallis, Henry Roehrig and Andrew Webb. Photo: Major Gary Hart



• The two cadets who were commissioned at Capricorn Region Corps in Rockhampton on 1 December - Andrea and Daniel Wayman - with Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries Colonel Julie Campbell and Territorial Commander Commissioner Robert Donaldson. Photo: Jason Vanderwolf



📍 Cadets Andrea and Daniel Wayman and their four children after being commissioned in Rockhampton. Photo: Jason Vanderwolf

The next day, Commissioner Robert Donaldson and Colonel Julie Campbell led a sacred, yet relational and relaxed commissioning of Andrea and Daniel Wayman at Capricorn Region Corps in Rockhampton. The timing of the service, which was part of the weekly Sunday meeting at the corps, meant that the Waymans became the first cadets of any *Messengers of Grace* session around The Salvation Army world to be commissioned.

“It is a thrill and privilege to be here with you at the territory’s first regional commissioning,” Robert, the Territorial Commander, told the congregation. “You have had so much influence on Andrea and Daniel, have nurtured, prayed for and encouraged them, and played a significant role in forming them as disciples and leaders.”

Andrea and Daniel met and grew up at (then) Rockhampton Temple Corps. They were the first couple to be married at the new Capricorn Region Corps, became territorial envoys there, and their four children were dedicated there. “It’s hard to put into words how excited, privileged and blessed we feel to share this moment with and honour the people who have sacrificed their time, abilities and so much more to continually pray for us, invest in us over so many years, and help shape us into who we are today,” Andrea said.

After their commissioning, Andrea and Daniel gave a joint testimony, thanking family, their children, friends, the corps, and Salvation Army leaders for their influence, guidance, trust and support. “Without a doubt we know we are where we’re meant to be,” Andrea said. “We have laid bare our life for God to use and pray we will always be worthy of that calling, that we will acknowledge him in all we do, and that it will always be for his glory.”

Julie, Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries and Gender Equity Advocate, gave the message, focusing on the mission of The Salvation Army to share the love of Jesus. “Andrea and Daniel are part of the *Messengers of Grace* session of cadets, but Jesus instructed and commissioned us all to be messengers of his grace, to share the good news of his unconditional and undeserved love and salvation, and to make a difference wherever we are,” she said.

NEW DIRECTION

The decision to hold the weekend commissioning events in two locations heralds a new direction for the Australia Territory with regard to what is a significant date on The Salvation Army calendar. Captain Richard Parker, Leader of Officer Formation at Eva Burrows College, explained that going forward, Covenant Day for all cadets will still be held at the Ringwood (Melbourne) campus of the training college, with a second, public service to be hosted by a local corps in Melbourne.

“Cadets will then return to their home states for commissioning, where the Silver Star recognition will also be part of proceedings,” he said.

“Commissioning services will either be capital city-based or, in some cases, corps-based. This will enable each state to celebrate with their cadets and widen the commissioning experience across the country.”

The Territorial Commander added that he is positive about bringing commissioning to the regions. “Australia is a really large country, so it’s important to have regionally-based opportunities for many other Salvos to attend such events and appreciate their value. This is the heart of The Salvation Army. Big events have their place and we do need to come together from time to time to celebrate, but I’m excited that we can bring Commissioning to the regions.”*

Jessica Morris and Simone Worthing are staff writers for *Others*.



Commissioner Janine Donaldson salutes the Webb family from Sunbury, Victoria, as dad Andrew is commissioned. Photos: Major Gary Hart



Sunny Seol addresses the congregation at Waverley Temple, watched on by fellow cadet Craig Boyd and Captain Richard Parker of Eva Burrows College.

The new lieutenants have been given the following appointments: Lieuts Craig Boyd and Jessica Frost-Boyd (Carlton, Tas.), Lieuts Min-Hwan Oh and Sunny Seol (Greensborough, Vic.), Lieut Andrew Webb (Sunbury, Vic.), Lieut Marika Wallis (Gunnedah, NSW/ACT), Lieut Paul Trotter (Brunswick, Vic.), Lieut Alice Edge (Tarrawanna, NSW/ACT), Lieut Henry Roehrig (Kingston City, Vic.), Lieuts Andrea and Daniel Wayman (Mt Barker, SA/NT).

MISSION IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD.

Will the Church seize the day or will it be left behind?

WORDS TARA MCGUIGAN



Post-truth named 2016 word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries. What a surprise! I stumbled across this headline as I browsed Google for a definition of post-truth, a term I had been hearing more and more often.

According to the *Oxford*, post-truth relates to or denotes “circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief”. More candidly, however, post-truth was now being called an age – “the age of post-truth”.

Post-truth began in the arena of politics, particularly with Donald Trump popularising the term, ‘fake news’. But it is now part of what we experience as the new normal for our lives. The boundaries of truth have shifted. The world has come to accept post-truth as part and parcel of communication and even though we may shake our heads, we cannot avoid noticing the power the rhetoric carries. Absolute truth is being superseded by ‘your truth’ and ‘my truth’.

The onset of the internet and the proliferation of social media has given wings to post-truth. ‘Uncorporations’ and e-commerce are disrupting the established business order. The power of the internet is that it flattens hierarchies and structures that once acted as corporate safeguards.

In today’s digital environment, both for-profit and not-for-profit organisations are challenged by a new marketplace in which the will, appetite, perspective and interests of the consumer demand not only ingenious marketing of products and services, but also an ingenious level of product and service creation. In other words, today you’re only as good as your next product or service. Everything is fluid. Nothing is fixed. Resting on laurels or reputation is not only dangerous, it is outdated. This confluence of post-truth as a global paradigm shift in how humanity discusses itself, and the internet as the vehicle for the promulgation of post-truth, challenges the foundation of Christianity – Gospel truth!

When reflecting on this, my mind traversed to the New Testament and John 14:6. Jesus had been sharing in a deeply vulnerable way with his closest friends. In the next few days he would be betrayed, tortured and killed. His mission on earth would reach its zenith with his death and resurrection. It was in this intimate but tension-filled context

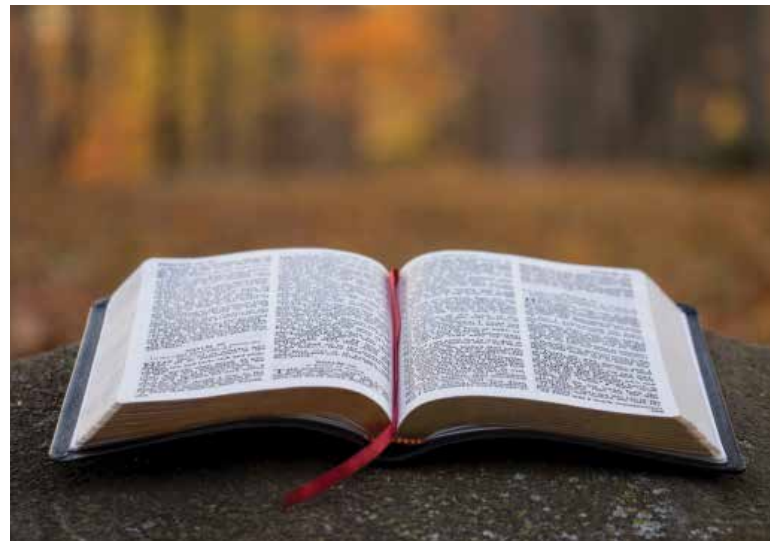
that Jesus revealed who he was in a declaration Christianity has for two millennia adopted as its most fundamental tenet – “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

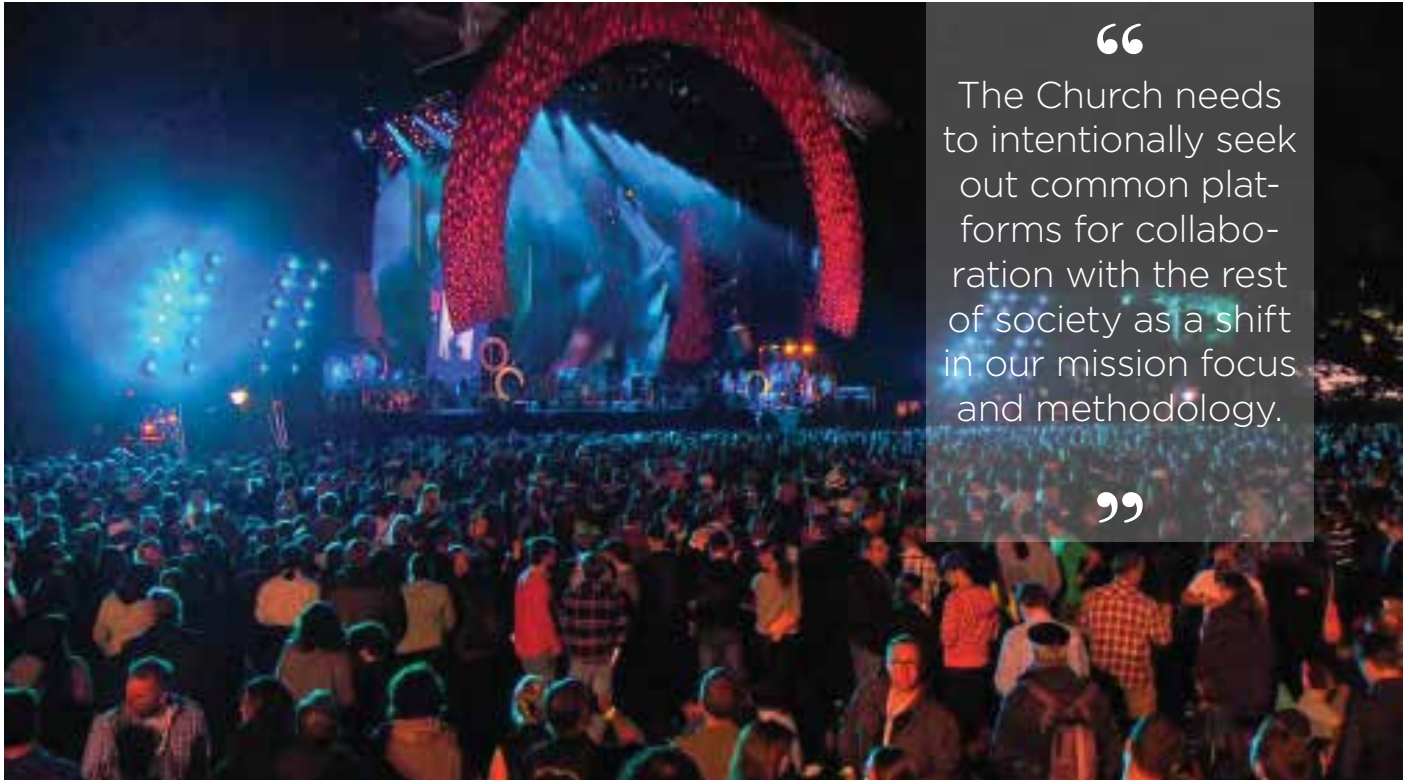
Today, I ask how truth personified as Jesus can navigate the age of post-truth. It is a stunning question for me, literally. How can the Gospel sit alongside post-truth? How do I as a Christian position the Gospel I declare and follow in a world that no longer values truth as I know it or sees the need for truth the same way I have been taught to recognise it?

TRUTH UNDER SIEGE

Perhaps the more confronting question is about future hope: What hope has the claim “I am ... the truth” of surviving in an age when rhetoric is valued for how it resonates with people’s emotions and beliefs more than how provable the facts may be? The Church, including The Salvation Army, cannot turn a blind eye to the reality that the phenomenon of post-truth is impacting our ministry and the commitment of our people in negative ways. Christian absolute or universal truth is under siege.

We can stand on our dig and say that we won’t compromise who we are or what we believe. The Salvation Army could say that we are a faith-based organisation, no questions asked. This is our right. But surely such a position is more about defiance than communicating the Gospel effectively and, therefore, far from helpful to our mission. The Church is called to be outward-facing in →





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The Church needs to intentionally seek out common platforms for collaboration with the rest of society as a shift in our mission focus and methodology.

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its disposition, not a closed shop. I propose that the Church’s response to post-truth should have nothing to do with compromising Gospel-truth and everything to do with collaboration and sharing.

To be heard and taken seriously in a world where internet-based ‘uncorporations’ are fast emerging as the new model for both business and charitable success, the Church must be active with every other player, offering its faith-based mission and resources on a partnership basis for the breakthroughs we desperately need in the world. If we don’t, the world will leave the Church behind! Such breakthroughs include eliminating poverty, redeeming the environment, fighting injustice, exposing racism and all other destroyers of human life and dignity.

Just what might a partnership between Gospel-truth and post-truth look like? Perhaps we could start by reading the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, with fresh eyes.

With the advantage of hindsight, we can definitely say that Jesus would have appeared like the post-truth that challenged the truth of Judaism in his day. If YouTube was available in first-century Palestine, I’d say that Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount would be up

there as one of the greatest TED talks of all time! In fact, I can see that amid the ‘blessed are theys’ and other elements of this well-known talk, Jesus gives us a big clue about how to be who we are and share our faith in a world that doesn’t see things the way we do: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-20).

Jesus connected with what was seemingly his biggest challenge by first understanding intimately Jewish teaching, by clearly associating himself with it and by knowing wisely how to draw on the Old Testament and the cultural nuances of his day to introduce and embed what we now know as the truth of the

Gospel. I can see that following Jesus' example will give us the start and then the momentum we need to connect and stay connected in this age of post-truth. How else can we engage Millennials and Gen-Zs, particularly, unless we are prepared to know and enter their world?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

Recognising and collaborating in these uncomfortable spaces is the new call upon us, the Church. We cannot afford to see post-truth as the enemy come to corrupt our truth. Jesus was big on hanging out in the marketplace while continuing to uphold the values of the kingdom of God. We must find common ground, a collaborative space where our following of Jesus doesn't alienate the Church from mainstream society and culture, but adds value to the world in its pursuit of the common good. It is our faith and values that we don't want to compromise, not the context for our mission.

On 28 September 2019, more than 60,000 people packed Central Park in New York City for the Global Citizen Festival (pictured left), a movement aimed at pressuring world leaders to end extreme poverty by 2030. Music was the instrument uniting everyone there. The tickets were free, but to get in participants had to perform good works or promote the causes of the organisation.

Global Citizen Festival offered up a live webcast on Twitter and YouTube along with simulcasts on MSNBC and MSNBC.com. iHeartMedia also broadcast live from the event on more than 150 radio stations United States-wide and live-streamed the concert on the iHeartRadio app. This one festival led to almost US\$1 billion in commitments that will affect the lives of 7.6 million people (globalcitizen.org/en/content/impact-report-2019/).

I was disappointed when reviewing the event that the Church was nowhere to be seen, at least not noticeably so. Why weren't we there in force on 28 September at Central Park? Isn't this the domain of the Church Jesus was talking about when he said: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"? (Matthew 25:35-36).

What are the common areas that the Church and the

world can relate on today for the common good and transformation of people's lives and circumstances? Last December, with my husband Peter, I attended 'An Evening with Malala' organised by The Growth Faculty, an organisation that brings people together in large numbers to hear world-class speakers addressing vital issues for our times.

When we saw the list of major sponsors that night as we gathered with 9000 others in Sydney's International Convention Centre, it occurred to us that The Salvation Army could have been one of those who made this event happen. Malala Yousafzai's key message was about addressing systemic gender bias against girls and women in the education systems of many developing world nations, a good fit for The Salvation Army with its justice heart. Later, we considered that in partnering with groups like Global Citizen Festival and The Growth Faculty, or documentary filmmakers or philanthropists, The Salvation Army could not only sponsor key events but also contribute to the conversation that pinpoints the issues that really need the world's attention. And we would do so from our heart of faith in Jesus, humanity's ultimate transformer, and with our human resources ready for action and deployment.

MISSION SHIFT

I am proposing that rather than the Church being affronted and confounded by the age of post-truth, we intentionally, vigorously, seek out common platforms for collaboration with the rest of society as a shift in our mission focus and methodology. Applying the methodology of collaboration to begin and sustain conversations, as well as transformative action, could prove to be the most effective approach towards the Church's mission today and into the future.

This can be true both for individual Christians in terms of how we involve ourselves in mission week in, week out, and for the Church's myriad organisations and mission expressions. I'm talking about non-combative, gracious dialogue and interaction with a view to collaborative partnership being the way forward for mission in a post-truth world. *

Captain Tara McGuigan is Corps Officer at Preston Corps, Melbourne. She has previously served internationally with The Salvation Army and in philanthropy development.

THIS IS GAWLER 2020.

‘Church plant’ built on stories of transformation

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

As we sat at the back of the church hall after a Sunday morning service, Mark told me he had a string of convictions for illegal activity. He was now 56. “But, I am not a bad man,” he said. “Please don’t think that I am a bad man.”

There were tears, even at this early stage of our conversation. “I’m sorry,” he said, “but it’s been tough.” The word ‘tough’ turned out to be an understatement.

Mark Stanley was born and raised in a brothel environment. His mother was a brothel madam. Brothel life is what he knew growing up. He didn’t know his father. He didn’t know real love. Nobody had ever told him that he was loved.

He moved easily into a life of crime. He was married and divorced. He and a girlfriend had a baby girl 11 years ago. The day his daughter was born, his girlfriend asked him to help her do something illegal. He pleaded with God to protect his little girl. He recalls hearing a voice that he believed to be God saying that his daughter would need a lot of protection.

He did his best, he says, but due to wrong and difficult decisions, he lost custody of his daughter several times. Four years ago, there was a series of unpleasant events, he says, that convinced him the world was against him. He decided to end his life. He told me how. I won’t pass on the details. “I didn’t want to live any longer,” he says. At the last minute, he



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Our mission is to
love Jesus, grow
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share hope.
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remembered he had an appointment with The Salvation Army. He set aside his suicide attempt and went to the appointment, just in case there was something better. It was at Gawler, 50km north-west of Adelaide. Gawler Corps Officer Major Darren Cox walked into the room. “Darren said that he had been waiting for me. He just hugged me,” Mark told me. Mark needed time to compose himself before our conversation could continue.

“Darren understood. He knew what I had been through. He told me that I was a good man. Nobody had told me that before. I *am* a good man, and I just needed a chance to show it.” With Darren’s help, Mark was given the chance. He was rescued, not only by Darren, but by the entire Gawler Corps.



⬅ **Top left:** Mark Stanley and his daughter Patricia. **Left:** Young Abi Smyth in the playroom. **Top right:** Rachel Nelson has been connected to Gawler Corps since she was 12. **Above:** Gawler Corps Officer Major Darren Cox. Photos: Duan Kereru

Mark joined the Gawler congregation and they embraced him. Now, he’s a regular worshipper on Sundays. His daughter Patricia worships at Gawler every Sunday, too. Mark has full-time custody of Patricia. “And Major Darren,” Mark told me, “I would take a bullet for that man. I would die for him. I didn’t know what love was until I met Darren and his family. I had a horrible life. Horrible things happened to me for most of my life – until I met Darren and the people at this church. I might have tears right now, but I am the happiest I have ever been.”

This is Gawler 2020.

THE REAL DEAL

I also met Cameron Brewis at the back of the church. Cameron is 32. He’s been going to Gawler Corps for six months. Cameron grew up in a church family. At 21, he walked away from church and into a life of drugs and alcohol, and, like Mark, marriage and separation. Cameron has two daughters, one who lives with him and another of whom he has 50 per cent custody.

Twelve months ago, Cameron ran into Darren, who was doing his Friday night pub ministry. They talked and they kept talking every Friday night at the pub after that, Cameron often giving Darren an earful about what he thought of church and Christians. Darren listened. Sometimes it wasn’t pleasant.

Cameron gradually saw Darren as authentic, because he listened. “He was the real deal,” Cameron says. “He invited me to his church. When I had to appear in court for some criminal activity, Darren came with me. I hated church and everything to do with it, but Darren changed my whole idea about church. I gave his church a go.”

Now, Cameron plays guitar in the Sunday morning worship band. Cameron’s daughters – Aubree, 3, and Grace, 7 – attend church with their dad every Sunday. This is Gawler Corps 2020. →

Darren Cox came to Australia from England on appointment in 2012 to grow Gawler Corps, which was in rebuilding mode. After first opening in 1883, it closed in 1984. It reopened in a small office in 2001, struggling to make progress for the next decade. It was operating from a thrift shop with only a few people when Darren arrived.

His first appointment after graduating from Salvation Army Officer Training College in Britain 20 years ago was to plant a corps near Bolton, in northern England. Darren met an Aussie girl, Katie, and they married in 2005. Although not an officer, Katie played an integral part in the ministry at Bolton, as she has done at Gawler. They brought with them from England two children – Jessie, now 12, and Joseph, 10.

Darren was told to treat Gawler like a church plant. He believes his gifting from God is planting and growing churches. When he arrived seven years ago, he estimates the congregation at about a dozen “committed individuals”. Today, there are 130 or so attenders. In his time as Gawler Corps Officer, the congregation has moved from the thrift shop to a cinema, then a primary school. In October 2018, the corps moved into a beautiful new building, with facilities for ministry, mission and community service. “The foundations [of a corps] are in place, the leadership team is in place and we have a home,” Darren says. “We have a faith goal for a church of 250 in 2020, a vision for over 500 and a desire to plant out from Gawler. Our mission is to love Jesus, grow together and share hope.”

Growth comes, says Darren, through people sharing Jesus with their family and friends. The corps has implemented a deliberate discipleship pathway focused purely on reaching out to people who need the Lord through to discipling to maturity those who make the discovery.*

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.



◀ Cameron Brewis, who plays guitar in the Sunday morning worship service, and his daughter Aubree.

◀ Three of the worship leaders, including Darren's wife Katie (far left), sing during the Sunday morning church service.



HOW IT
WORKS AT
GAWLER



◊ **Above left:** Rachel Nelson, Anthony Jaeschke and Amanda Whiteman. **Above:** Faithful soldier Joy Cameron.

Rachel Nelson and her mother were among a handful of people who attended when Gawler Corps reopened in the thrift shop 12 years ago. She's now 23. A few years ago, Rachel met Josh Watkins. They are now close friends and worship together at Gawler. Three years ago, Amanda Whiteman returned to the Gawler area to escape from domestic violence in Sydney. She knew Josh from school days. They talked. Josh invited Amanda to his church. She went.

"I almost lost my life to domestic violence," Amanda tells me. "This church has saved my life. This church has been a huge part in my healing. I am starting to love myself." Amanda met Anthony Jaeschke, who was having problems. Amanda invited Anthony to her church. He went. Now they are engaged and worship together on Sundays at The Salvation Army.

This is Gawler 2020.

There are plenty of other stories of people, mostly newcomers to The Salvation Army, who have found God through somebody at the corps. As I was leaving the building about an hour after this Sunday morning meeting, I spied an elderly lady in full white Salvation Army uniform standing quietly by the front door. She stood out because she was one of the very few

people in uniform. Her role was to ensure everybody that morning felt welcome. The lady's name was Joy Cameron. Joy has just turned 80. She had spent most of her life at another church. Twenty years ago, she decided to go to The Salvation Army with a neighbour. It led to soldiership and a supporting role in The Salvation Army Gawler Corps.

Joy would like a few more traditional hymns during the Sunday morning service, but accepts most of the congregation are new to The Salvation Army and are comfortable with contemporary songs. "New people keep coming. That's what is important," she says. The Sunday I was there, uniforms were sparse but worship was robust, the preaching was challenging and the response was inspiring.

"It's great to see so many new people in our corps," says Corps Officer Major Darren Cox. "But, really, we ride on the shoulders of Joy and people like her. They love the new people and the spiritual maturity Joy and people like her bring is amazing. The Father [God] is at work in Gawler and we have been partnering with him in what he is doing rather than doing what we think is best."

– **Bill Simpson**



A winter scene in Reykjavik, where The Salvation Army has been in operation for the past 125 years. **Opposite:** The Salvation Army kettle is a familiar sight on the streets of Reykjavik, especially at Christmas.



Australians enjoy – or rather swelter through – the summer months, with days of bright sunshine and long, warm evenings. Many Salvation Army corps throughout the Australia Territory take advantage of the weather, especially around Christmas, to run outdoor missional events. Many of these events are held close to water – at the beach for corps on the coast, or at dams and lakes for rural corps. Youth flock to summer camps and there is a general holiday atmosphere.

On the other side of the world in Iceland, the story is completely different at this time of year. It's winter, and the days are short. The sun rises around 11am and sets close to 3pm; there's metres of snow blanketing the ground and temperatures

COMING IN FROM THE COLD.

Icelanders warming to Salvation Army ministry

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

are well below zero. Iceland is a nation of dramatic and contrasting landscapes, from volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and lava fields, to massive glaciers, abundant waterfalls that freeze in winter and icebergs on the beach. This Nordic island nation in the North Atlantic is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. Most of its 360,390 people live in the capital, Reykjavik, which is approximately 16,700km from Canberra.

Iceland is part of The Salvation Army's Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes Territory. In May, The Salvation Army will mark 125 years of ministry in this remote and beautiful country. The Salvation Army in Iceland is small but active and making a big difference in lives of young people, asylum seekers, refugees, recovering addicts, the

homeless, the lonely, disadvantaged families, and those seeking a relationship with Jesus.

There are two main areas of operation – Akureyri in the north and Reykjavik in the south. There’s also a small corps at Reykjanesbær, south-east of Reykjavik, on the former United States military base near the international airport, run by envoys Ben Eli and Eyd Dam.

REYKJAVIK CORPS

Lieutenants Hjördís Kristinsdóttir and Ingvi Skjaldarson are corps officers in Reykjavik. Hjördís also serves as the spokesperson for anti-human trafficking in the country. Between 30 and 50 people attend services each week, with the number growing close to 100 in the Northern Hemisphere summer months through camps and family activities. Numbers are beginning to increase after many years of decline. Local leadership is being strengthened and made the front line of the corps, and volunteers are visible on the streets.

The Salvation Army centre, which will soon move into new premises to increase the potential to keep growing, is open every day. Up to 500 people visit the centre each week for programs, support, a listening ear, or simply to experience a safe and accepting place.

“For the past two years, we have been focusing on programs for children, youth and families and that’s one of the big reasons we are growing,” explains Hjördís. “We have clubs for children and youth, after-school homework help two days a week, and family time and Messy Church once a month. There is also a weekly open house and hot meal for children and teenagers, with around 20 coming along each time.

This is a safe haven for them – a place where they can come, be seen and known, and talk about life with adults who respect them. Every young person needs at least one place like that.” Refugee families are regulars to the centre, located near a bus hub and



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We want to be
the first place
people turn to
when something
goes wrong in
their lives.
”

in a neighbourhood with many social disadvantages.

They have come to Iceland from all over the world, but especially Africa and the Middle East. The children and young people attend the clubs and homework help, and the mothers come to the sewing groups. Some have accepted Jesus and are part of the corps.

Homelessness is a huge problem in Reykjavik, particularly for those with drug and alcohol addictions and mental illnesses, and many are looked down on by society. “We treat all people as human beings, with respect, and so many alcoholics and drug addicts come here for support and assistance,” says Ingvi. “There is simply not enough crisis accommodation or shelter →



space for addicts in our city.” Human trafficking is also a growing problem in Iceland, particularly in the construction and hospitality sectors.

In the long term, Ingvi and Hjördís would like to run a Salvation Army shelter for victims of trafficking in partnership with other agencies and government bodies. “Initial plans to make this a reality have been discussed with authorities,” says Hjördís.

The Salvation Army in Iceland, as a small organisation, makes it a priority to work together with other agencies and churches, both nationally and overseas. “It is important for us to be The Salvation Army, and also to partner with others in the best interests of our community,” says Ingvi. “We are part of the universal Church in Reykjavik, Iceland and the world.

If we want people to come to Jesus, the



Church has to grow, and not just The Salvation Army. We are seeing an increase in people coming to the Army, not so much as soldiers, but as being part of our work in both the corps and outreach and seeing the Army as their family.”

As the corps prepares to move into its new premises, Ingvi and Hjördís are grateful for all God is doing and has done. “We are thankful that we have been placed here and used as workers in the field, and can build on what others have been sowing,” says Hjördís. “It’s humbling and a privilege and we look forward to the years ahead.”

AKUREYRI CORPS

Akureyri is the country’s second largest city, with a population of around 18,500. Winter here is long, dark and freezing, but The Salvation Army is a beacon of hope, light and genuine warmth to the surrounding community. Captains Birna Dís Vilbertsdottir and Hannes Bjarnason, a married couple, have been serving as corps officers here since 2013.

Akureyri Salvation Army is a small, traditional corps undergoing gradual but definite and intentional transformation, growth and recognition in the community. “We are not here to have a cosy singing club, but to change, serve and impact the community,” Hannes says.

The corps runs a children’s ministry, women’s ministry, second-hand store where refugees from around the world volunteer, and a growing and vibrant group for teenagers. A weekly open house for local families sees many people coming together to cook and share a meal. A prayer meeting and community lunch is also attracting more people to the corps.

“On Thursday nights we have a knitting club, and we knit dolls for children, as well as socks,” says Birna. “We send the socks to The Salvation Army in Nuuk in Greenland, which they sell to support Williams Café – a facility that provides food for the large homeless population there. The Icelandic wool we use is very warm and special; sheep



“
For the past two years,
we have been focusing
on programs for
children, youth and
families and that’s one
of the big reasons we
are growing.
”

here are descended from the Viking time as we don’t import any others, so the wool has a 1100-year heritage. The lambs are born in the spring and go up to the mountains, so they need the warmest wool.”

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the corps bring between 40 and 50 people into the building each week. “We are trying to involve them in the life of the corps,” says Hannes. “We need volunteers, they are seeking a higher power as part of their program, so why not try to involve them?” The corps also opens on Friday nights for board games and cards, “to give people who don’t want to get drunk, a safe place to go,” says Hannes.

This is very popular with people from the local community, with the cakes donated →



Top left: Families throughout Iceland gather for the annual summer camp. **Bottom left:** Captains Birna Dís Vilbertsdottir (left) and Hannes Bjarnason, are the Corps Officers in the northern town of Akureyri . **Top right:** Lieutenants Hjördís Kristinsdóttir and Ingvi Skjaldarson are the Corps Officers in Reykjavik.



➤ Salvation Army street volunteers in Reykjavik connecting with the city's youth at a mobile food stall.

by the local bakery an added attraction! The Salvation Army is also part of community efforts to help those experiencing homelessness. On 31 October last year, the Akureyri Municipal Council donated 5.6 million Icelandic króna (AUD\$65,573) as operating capital for this project run under the auspices of The Salvation Army.

“This will be a small apartment, with residents supported by The Salvation Army and the community,” Hannes explains. “We plan to have five of these apartments in our corps building, with access to the services we provide. It’s easier for youth to buy cocaine, amphetamines and other drugs here than it is to buy pizza, so we are focusing this project on young people from 18-25. We will help the guys coming here get back into the community through education, volunteering, working and learning basic life skills. It’s also an opportunity to help the young people feel known, accepted and cared about.”

The local community is gradually learning more about The Salvation Army and, as

“
We are part of the
universal Church in
Reykjavik, Iceland and
the world. If we want
people to come to
Jesus, the Church has
to grow, and not just
The Salvation Army.
”

Birna explains, they love the work being done in the town and the Army’s welcoming approach to everyone.

“We are also known, though, for working together with other organisations and churches, to help people in need and at special times of the year, like Christmas. We want to be the first place people turn to when something goes wrong in their lives. We can also do more if we are working together!”

Despite the challenges, Birna and Hannes enjoy living in Akureyri, where one of their daughters and two grandchildren also live. “We are not fans of the snow here though,” they laugh. “We get metres here every winter, which lasts for months, and we are from Reykjavik where that doesn’t happen!” *

Others writer **Simone Worthing** prepared this article after visiting the two corps during a recent trip to Iceland.

Read

JOHN LARSSON

THIRTEEN ASTONISHING YEARS



“Early one morning in May 1878 a tall, bearded man, wearing a long yellow dressing gown and felt slippers, set off an explosion

in his London bedroom.” The man in question was, of course, William Booth!

So begins chapter one of the latest book from the pen of General John Larsson (ret.), *Thirteen Astonishing Years*, which offers a fascinating insight into some of the most remarkable years in the history of The Salvation Army. Drawing on a series of ‘Rear-Mirror Views’ articles published in the UK *Salvationist*, the book comprises 36 short chapters, each focusing on events or personalities crucial to the expansion of the Army in 13 years of the late 19th century.

General Larsson writes in his usual free-flowing and engaging style as he tells the story of those years and introduces key personalities through whom the Lord worked. Chapters include: The Fiery Radical (George Scott Railton); The Sensational Evangelist (Elijah Cadman); The Trumpets Sound (brass bands); ‘Please can I come to the meeting?’ (John Roberts and the Young People’s work); ‘My God, who kissed me?’ (Eva Booth); A Life Shaped by Two Events (Samuel Logan Brengle); End of an Era (the promotion to glory of Catherine Booth); and Darkest England (William Booth’s publishing sensation).

Thirteen Astonishing Years is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au

Listen

BLACK DYKE BAND

THE HEATON COLLECTION VOLUME 6



Following Wilfred Heaton’s death in 2000, his family invited Paul Hindmarsh to see what could be done with Heaton’s manuscript

collection, many being sketches and incomplete works. During the subsequent years, Hindmarsh has either completed or reconstructed the manuscripts into performing editions. *The Heaton Collection Volume 6* contains 27 tracks from the final recording of the series and completes the recorded legacy of Heaton’s brass band and choral music.

The *Meditation on Aberystwyth*, based on the hymn *Jesus, Lover of my Soul*, although much longer than usual for a Salvation Army meditation, is magic. John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* was the inspiration for music that Heaton wrote for his sister, Captain Hilda Heaton, for use at a Commissioning. Hindmarsh has completed a suite of 14 short movements entitled *Pilgrim’s Song*. Passages from Bunyan’s text are used as a connecting thread in the narration by classical actor Barrie Rutter. Due to the skill of the band and narrator, this stirs the emotions.

The program continues with a sparkling arrangement of *Dance of the Tumblers* from Rimsky-Korsakov’s opera *The Snow Maiden* that Heaton prepared for Black Dyke Mills Band during his time as the band’s conductor in the early 1970s. On a smaller scale there is a beautiful arrangement for trombone and piano of *Sweet Hour of Prayer*. Concluding this excellent disc is a *Choral Prelude* based on the hymn tune *O God of Bethel*, and the march *Full Salvation*, both items being completed from sketches.

This album is a gem. Hindmarsh’s comprehensive sleeve notes, the clarity of the recording and the gorgeous sound of Black Dyke’s performance of wonderful music confirms without doubt that Heaton was one of the finest composers and arrangers of music for brass bands.

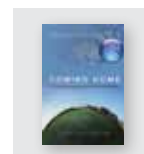
The Heaton Collection Volume 6 is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au.

– David Collinson

Read

JONATHAN CORNFORD

COMING HOME: DISCIPLESHIP, ECOLOGY AND EVERYDAY ECONOMICS



Urban Seed founder Jonathan Cornford offers a new perspective in *Coming Home*. He writes from over 20 years’ experience of

experience of living intentionally, focused on establishing a lifestyle of hospitality, reflection and connection with his family and wider community in rural Victoria. A sense of clarity and safety is communicated through the short book, just as one hopes to receive from the place they call ‘home’.

One could be wary that Cornford would use the book as a platform to pass judgment on a commercialised form of Christianity; however, this is not the case in the slightest. Through thorough research, plain language and reflection, *Coming Home* invites everyone into a conversation where all are included and none vilified.

Coming Home, shortlisted for Australian Christian Book of the Year 2019, is available from Koorong (koorong.com).

– Rachel Morris



We can learn a lot from taking the time to listen to someone from *The Kominsky Method*'s generation.



LIFE UNPLUGGED

Switch off and slow down these holidays

Words Mark Hadley

This is not the article I expected to write. I should be writing about what I normally do at this time of year – the great things that are worth watching these holidays. In particular, the best streaming TV to catch up on at a time of year that usually means we can get to stay up a bit later. But then my car stereo broke ...

It's hard to underestimate the importance of my car stereo. Firstly, it connects me to my mobile phone. As a producer, I have meetings on my phone while I'm driving between meetings. As a writer, I also listen to a multitude of podcasts from experts in politics, history, ethics and religion. And as a film and TV reviewer, my phone+stereo allows me to 'read' the books so many productions are based on. But that breakdown dropped me into a world of silence.

It was a gradual descent. First the audio connection became intermittent. I struggled along, listening to every second word and managing to make every other call. Then the volume stopped working. Then the pause button. Soon I was listening to everything I could hear at full volume with no ability to rest. Eventually I chose silence. Incredibly uncomfortable silence. I was finally alone with me, sometimes for as long as 10 or even 20 minutes.

I didn't discover some internal nirvana. I began to panic. My tasks were piling

up in some unseen wasteland of missed opportunity, teetering on the edge of reality, threatening to crush me should I ever manage to gain access to them again. This was not FOMO. This was Fear Of Falling Behind. But let's face it, no one is going to make an acronym out of FOFB. Yet, it has become one of the defining characteristics of the connected life.

So much of our lives is organised around getting as much done as possible, as quickly as possible. *In Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman compared George Orwell with Aldous Huxley. Orwell had written the terrifying *1984*, which illustrated the dangers of an authoritarian culture. Huxley, however, wrote *Brave New World*, where there was no need for a Big Brother to deprive you of your freedom. People would come to worship the very technologies that undid their capacity to think: "Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture."

What Postman identified was the danger of passivity. However, there are two paths to the trivial culture. We are discovering the danger of activity. We are reading our books – while we run. We are watching our thoughtful dramas, inspirational films and thrilling events – on treadmills, the train, while we eat. We're digesting other



Take a lead from *Jumanji* and play a non-electronic game, with someone else.

worldviews – certainly! – we are bingeing on them. We don't watch TV, we stream it. We have made a virtue out of speed. Faster is synonymous with better. 'Slow' is a swear word. Today, when a greyer head says, "Slow and steady wins the race," we just smile knowingly.

But of course, we couldn't slow down, even if we wanted to. Time is a precious commodity and there's so much to fit in. We have to-do lists to tick off, emails to answer, threads to read, comments to post. We rarely stop talking; we never stop listening.

When the stereo broke, I discovered I'd forgotten what to do with silence. It made me wonder what I'd lost in the rush to stay 'up to date'. So, instead of proposing TV shows to gorge on these holidays, let me suggest four alternatives. None require a charger or a Wi-Fi connection. They'll also help you see where the needle is sitting on your personal speedometer.

1. Play 'unplugged' games

Take a lead from *Jumanji*. Play a non-electronic game – with someone else. A couple of years ago my family started buying the 'holiday game'. My youngest son's favourite is Exploding Kittens. That card game has generated more shared laughter than all the TV I've watched with my boys in a year. Unplugged games require you to create space for another person. You have to merge schedules,

talk in real time, exchange and interact. In fact, the best games often result in you doing more of those things than the games themselves.

2. Talk to an older person

In a world where now and the future are most significant, the past is often ignored. Talking to someone older, though, has significant benefits. Firstly, if you really listen to someone from *The Kominsky Method's* generation, it's like a history podcast about a whole new world – with more ability to investigate than any technology can provide. It also takes the emphasis off you – what you've done, experienced, learnt – and puts it on someone else. It values their life, beginning with the fact they've seen much more of it than you. Finally, it's often time-consuming, but it's also time-redeeming. There's no easier gift, or more significant way of showing love.

3. Walk nowhere

Step 1: Walk out your door.
Step 2: Resist the need to set a direction.
Step 3: Take turns at random.
Step 4: Walk until you've lost that feeling you're 'going for a walk'.
Going for a walk can be exercise. Going for a walk can be an opportunity to talk. To check out the neighbourhood or that street of shops or restaurants you've never really paid close attention to. These are all good. However, only walking nowhere can set your mind as free as your body.

4. Sit for 30 minutes

It's that simple. Instead of reacting to everything around you, just be on your own for a while. You'll soon discover it's not as easy as it sounds; there are reasons we use screens to distract ourselves. There are questions we tell ourselves that we'll get around to, but always seem too busy for. Let them rise to the surface. "Where is my life taking me?" "Am I happy?" "If not, why not?"

There's a line in the Bible that is possibly the most misused in all of that best-selling book. It's the Creator speaking to his creation: "Be still and know that I am God." It sounds like God saying, "Just let it go. Don't worry. I've got this." It's actually a message to a world that's lost all perspective. God's "Be still!" is a big, red stop sign. It's directed at people who need to sit down, and realise who they should really be listening to: "Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth'" (Psalm 46:8-10). *

Mark Hadley is the culture writer for *Others* and is one of Australia's leading Christian communicators.

New leadership structure for Australia Territory

THREE MAJOR APPOINTMENTS and several changes to the leadership structure of the Australia Territory have been announced by Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson, the territorial leaders.

In a letter to the territory, the Donaldsons explain how the new structure will operate and who is involved in the three new appointments.

“We continue to embed territorial leadership and governance structures as well as new processes and procedures. Over the past few months, we have been reviewing how the territorial leadership structure is working to support our vision of transforming Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus,” the commissioners stated in the letter.

“You have heard us talk in recent months about our support for a holistic approach to our mission. For us to focus more intentionally on delivering this holistic mission, we would like to explain the leadership changes in the following way ...”

Chief Secretary and Cabinet

The span of control of the Chief Secretary role is unsustainable in its current form and, to decrease the reporting-line responsibilities of the role, the Assistant Chief Secretary role will be repurposed.

The portfolios will be realigned, with divisions and the mission portfolio reporting to the Assistant Chief Secretary. This will ensure that front-line teams receive appropriate and dedicated



◀ The new territorial leadership structure will allow Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson (in the middle) to move more freely around the Australia Territory and spend time visiting different expressions of The Salvation Army, like this childcare centre at Carindale Corps in Brisbane.

support. Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Merrett will be Assistant Chief Secretary, with promotion to the rank of colonel.

Importantly, the Divisional Commanders and the Secretary for Mission remain part of the territorial leadership team.

A new role (Assistant to the Chief Secretary) with responsibility for governance has been created. Major Darren Elkington will take up this new appointment, overseeing Governance and Risk, Enterprise Project Management, Internal Audit, Professional Standards and Quality, and The Salvation Army International Development departments.

Women's Ministries and Gender Equity

Commissioner Janine Donaldson will retain the role of Territorial President for Women's Ministries (TPWM) and will offer her leadership of women throughout all mission delivery.

The focus on our gender equity agenda will continue, with the function included in the responsibilities of the TPWM.

Mission Support

The Mission Support department is being refined to focus more on mission resourcing.

The Adults Ministry stream will resource both women and

men in their Christian faith and overall wellbeing. The Diversity and Inclusion stream will support front-line mission expressions to build an inclusive culture and practice of ministry.

Following a review of our Governance and Management Forums, we decided late last year to close the Executive Mission Leadership Team.

The Cabinet will transition to a Pastoral Committee commencing this year, to support us as the territorial leaders, in ensuring the spiritual health of the territory.

The new leadership structure and appointments take effect on 1 February.

Making Hobart safer for city's street sleepers

MORE PEOPLE ARE SLEEPING rough in Hobart than ever, but a new Safe Night Space program in the Tasmanian capital is fighting back.

The Salvation Army has partnered with Hobart City Mission to run a six-month pilot program in the hope it can be replicated across the state.

Offering respite to 10 people a night, the program, funded by Hobart City Council and a grant from the Tasmanian Government, began operating from a building behind Hobart Hospital on 17 December.

"We have seen across a number of major cities that people sleeping rough has become more prevalent, and this is certainly the case for Tasmania with 70 people sleeping on the streets of Hobart each night," said Major Paul Hateley, Acting Public Relations Secretary in Tasmania. "This Safe Night Space will give people somewhere to rest and get away from predators and potential violence. They will be fed, kept warmer, drier, and people will be treated with dignity.

"This is The Salvation Army living out its mandate to live, love and fight alongside others."

Available seven days a week from 8pm-7am, clients are given a place to sleep on foam mats with access to a kitchenette, bathroom and lockers.

They will also be connected to support services including Housing Connect, Mental Health counsellors and Alcohol and Other Drug specialists.

— Jessica Morris



◆ The Melbourne Staff Band on the march during the Copper Coast anniversary celebrations. Photo courtesy Mark Foyle

Staff band marches on Copper Coast

THE STREETS OF THE COPPER Coast in South Australia were filled with music and praise as the Melbourne Staff Band took part in the 136th anniversary celebrations of The Salvation Army's work on the Yorke Peninsula.

The weekend of 26-27 October was an event to remember, not only for the Copper Coast Corps but also for the close-knit region.

There were marches of witness, open-air meetings, a concert at the Wallaroo Town Hall and many other opportunities to honour God, said Copper Coast Corps Officer Captain Karen Armstrong.

"The Copper Coast has had a huge influence on The Salvation Army right from 1881. I've never seen so much history in one area," Karen said.

"We started planning this event 12 months in advance, and so many God-given



◆ The cornet section of the Melbourne Staff Band performs an entertaining item in the Wallaroo Town Hall on the Saturday night of the band's Copper Coast visit.

opportunities have been given to us!"

The weekend, which also commemorated 20 years since the merger of Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta corps, was a fitting nod to the Army's heritage in the area.

Melbourne Staff Bandmaster Ken Waterworth and bandsman Lieut-Colonel Bruce Stevens collaborated with Karen to organise the weekend and decided to give it a community

feel. The corps partnered with the Rotary Club for outdoor events and the general public was invited to the town hall for a Saturday evening concert, which involved the staff band and the KWM Band (Kadina, Wallaroo, Moonta Band).

"We reached more than 600 locals across three towns, and people have said they couldn't fault the message of Christ the whole weekend," Karen said.

— Jessica Morris

Cookbook serves up hope on a plate

THE POWER OF GATHERING over a meal is at the heart of a new cookbook by Melbourne Project 614.

The book, *One Table: A collection of our family favourites*, is a project of the Magpie Nest Cafe, formerly Hamodava Cafe, and was compiled by head chef Adam Thomson.

Speaking at the book launch in November, Adam said he was inspired by the experience of seeing how food brings people together, especially people living on the streets who come into the Bourke St centre.

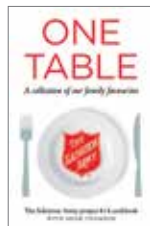
Each week, Adam and his team feed more than 4000 Melburnians at the cafe. Their free meals are often the difference between guests going to sleep hungry or experiencing the dignity of a full stomach as they connect to services.



Michael Plarre (left), General Manager of Operations at Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses; Major Brendan Nottle, Corps Officer at 614; and Adam Thomson, Head Chef at Magpie Nest Cafe. Photo: Matt Irwin Photography courtesy Wilkinson Publishing

“My heart has always been split between food that is comforting and uncomplicated, and helping those in need,” said Adam. “I love that our community can come in and have proper table service.”

Adam has served up more than 100 tried and tested recipes



in the book, inviting readers to create the same community in their lives by creating delicious, home-cooked meals.

“We will never win great accolades for innovation throughout the industry but, regardless, I am really proud of what we achieve here,” said Adam. “Giving that sense of worth to someone and letting them know they matter is truly something special. And if I

can let someone know they’re valued through some roast pork and an apple crumble, then that’s a good day’s work to me.”

Every book sale goes towards the work of Project 614.

The book is available at Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au, Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses and Dymocks.

– **Jessica Morris**

Drought funding starts flowing for desperate farmers

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS started distributing money from the Australian Government’s drought relief package announced late last year.

The Army is one of several community organisations assigned to distribute \$30 million in government funding to drought-affected farmers as part of the Drought Community Support Initiative – Round 2.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure,
Regional Development and Cities

Taking on the Army’s role in distributing funding will be rural chaplains, rural and regional personnel, designated volunteers and retired officers.

Majors Dianne and Rusty

Lawson, Western NSW rural chaplains, said the money can’t come soon enough for farmers, many of whom are also recovering from bushfires. “For some of the farmers it’s been a real ‘double-whammy’” said Rusty.

The Lawsons continue to visit properties and local community events to stand alongside rural Australians and listen to their stories.

“People just can’t afford to feed their stock anymore,” Dianne said.

“It’s getting harder to extend bank overdrafts now, and they’re reluctant to go any further into debt than they are already. For many people, hope is all they’ve got to hold on to and they’re hanging on tenaciously to it.”

– **Lauren Martin**

Salvo crisis centres honour women of resilience

A NUMBER OF EVENTS WERE HELD at Salvation Army homelessness accommodation service centres around the Australia Territory to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

Three of these events were conducted at Carinya Cottage in the Illawarra region (NSW), at Samaritan House in inner-city Sydney and at The Beacon in Perth.

Carinya Cottage

Residents of the emergency and transitional accommodation centre for women and children came together for a pamper morning, with services donated by local Body Shop at Home consultants.

“Every day at Carinya, we really strive to end violence against women. I believe that it is in our everyday actions, advocacy and passion that will change the tide,” said Carinya Outreach Case Manager Emily Pollock. “Today on the day of International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, we honour the amazing women at Carinya.

“A lot of the women that we work with spend all their time looking after others, including their family and children. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to create a space where they can put themselves first and enjoy pampering and self-care.”

Samaritan House

More than 20 residents and staff of the women’s crisis centre attended a luncheon, with food from many different



nations symbolising that violence doesn’t discriminate between race or place of origin.

Inner-City Network Chaplain for Samaritan House, Lieutenant Belinda Cassie, spoke about the resilience of women to grow where they are planted. A flowering shrub was then dedicated to the courage of survivors of violence and will be planted on the grounds.

“I sat with one woman on the day who shared her story with me,” said Belinda.

“She is the epitome of why days like today are so important. She is a survivor, she is strong and tenacious and has shown incredible resilience through the most horrific experiences.

“In the time she has been with us, having people stand alongside her, advocate for her, she has grown from strength to strength, and now takes the next step – confident that she will be able to use her voice and



Above: Women at Carinya Cottage in NSW were pampered as part of a special event to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. **Left:** A friend places a flower on the Wall of Remembrance near the name of a former resident of The Beacon.

keep moving forward.”

Women at the service had handwritten and decorated cards for the table, some sharing their stories, some using uplifting quotes.

The Beacon

Residents and staff of the crisis accommodation service held a special service to remember residents who had passed away in recent years. Eleven names were added to the centre’s Wall of Remembrance.

“This takes the total to 21 the people who are now ‘gone but not forgotten,’” said chaplain Major Deirdre Dearing.

Selected verses from Psalm 139 were read before The Beacon Manager Bev Wilson-Malcolm read the 11 names being added. Each name was followed by a drumbeat, which allowed those present to reflect on the individual and remember them as a real person – not just a name on the wall.

– **Lauren Martin**

Speaking up for the world's poor and oppressed

THREE SALVATIONISTS JOINED other Christians from around the country at Parliament House in Canberra last month to advocate for the world's most poor, vulnerable and oppressed.

Steph Elkington of Camberwell (Vic.), Major Uraia Dravikula, from Fiji, and Captain Simone Smalley, Corps Officer at Heathridge (WA) took part in Micah Australia's 'Voices for Justice', an annual event that brings together a diverse range of people from all denominations and backgrounds who share the same passion: to speak up for the world's underprivileged.

Micah Australia is a coalition of churches and Australia's largest Christian non-government organisation.

The 250 delegates attended a two-day training conference in early December to prepare them to meet with and lobby



Salvationists Steph Elkington, Major Uraia Dravikula and Captain Simone Smalley outside Parliament House in Canberra, where they attended Micah Australia's 'Voices for Justice'.

politicians from their local areas over that next week. More than 90 appointments were scheduled.

Church leaders from the Pacific region, including Uraia, were invited to share the issues impacting their vulnerable communities, including those affected by the decisions of larger, and more wealthy, neighbouring countries.

"Micah Australia specifically asked the Pacific leaders what they needed, and we took those recommendations into our meetings," said Simone.

"These were focused around

climate change, the Step Up program that helps address rampant violence against vulnerable women and girls, and reviewing Australia's overseas aid budget."

Steph said it was extremely powerful to hear the Pacific leaders' voices.

"They are not asking for a hand up or a handout," she said. "They want to partner with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and engage with them."

"It was amazing to hear them ask for continued funding for a Bible study, for both men and

women, which addresses the issue of violence against women and children. Church leaders in the various island nations have brought this training to their people – 90 per cent of whom affirm a Christian faith – which has had a massive impact on reducing levels of violence.

"As Christians, our faith propels us to act for justice and to speak up when there is an injustice to the marginalised and oppressed. It's a key part of our faith. We really can lobby the government for the things that honour God's heart."

– **Simone Worthing**

Salvos Discipleship School celebrates 28 years with latest graduates

NINE STUDENTS FROM THE 2019 Salvo Discipleship School program have graduated during a celebration event to mark the school's 28th anniversary.

The graduates from across Australia and overseas spent a year studying with the program,

with some students residing at the Berkeley Vale school on the NSW Central Coast.

"This year has completely changed my life," said graduate Jessica McFadyen at the Celebration and Graduation Ceremony held at Long Jetty

Corps. "I've just completely fallen in love with Jesus again."

Many past students and leaders attended including Majors Jean and Ray Herron, school founders; Majors Gary and Judith Baker, who led the school for four years from 2002;

and current leaders, Long Jetty Corps Officers Majors Andrew and Melissa Humphreys.

The program will not operate in 2020. It has been put on hold as Eva Burrows College evaluates the discipleship needs of the territory.

Influential Queenslander receives Others Award

THE SALVATION ARMY'S TOP honour for a member of the public has been awarded to a retiree who has supported the Army's work for over 30 years.

Graham Wheeler became the first Queenslander to receive the 'Others Award' during a ceremony at Townsville Recovery Services centre.

The award (not linked to this magazine) honours an individual or organisation exemplifying an extraordinary spirit of service to 'others'.

Lieut-Colonel David Godkin presented Graham with the award on behalf of Territorial Leaders Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson and spoke highly of Graham's tireless service to the Army.

"From growing, then firmly establishing the Red Shield Appeal and the RSA Business Launch in Townsville as a must-attend event, to his endless campaigning for the recently opened residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation service, Graham has



◆ Graham Wheeler with his award, flanked by Lieut-Colonel David Godkin and Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill.

found opportunities to use his connections and considerable influence to help The Salvation Army service the people of North Queensland in new and innovative ways," said David.

Graham was supported by his adult children, his

grandchildren and other influential members of the community at the ceremony.

Mayor of Townsville, Councillor Jenny Hill, also honoured Graham during her speech, mentioning that Graham was the Townsville

Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Graham was chair of the RSA Committee for many years, a position now filled by his son Peter, and he still sits on the Army's State Advisory Council, influencing Army practice across Queensland.

Karen honoured for her role in 'repairing the world'

SHOUTS OF "MAZAL TOV!" (Good Fortune) greeted Major Karen Elkington as she received the Victorian Multicultural Commission Award for Excellence at Government House in Melbourne in November.

Karen (pictured), manager of The Salvation Army Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service in Brunswick, received the award for her work with refugees

and asylum seekers across Victoria.

Karen was nominated by Temple Beth Israel, the Progressive Jewish Synagogue in St Kilda.

"It's such a joy to work with people from a variety of faiths and cultural backgrounds. It's wonderful to live in a state



where multiculturalism and diversity are valued so deeply," said Karen.

Every year, the Brunswick centre supports 500 clients, with an additional 2000 people benefiting from their services.

Karen has collaborated with Temple Beth Israel for several years as a representative of The Salvation Army and is a member of Project Dignity, its social justice or 'Tikkun Olam'

initiative, which is Hebrew for 'Repairing the world'.

"Karen and The Salvation Army are key partners in our efforts to respond to challenges confronting people seeking asylum and people from refugee backgrounds," said TBI board member Dorothy Graff, OAM.

"We are so in awe of Karen's love of humankind – and we are thrilled about her award."

– **Jessica Morris**

Enrolments

CARINDALE CORPS QLD



CAPTAINS TIM AND KRISTA ANDREWS, CORPS Officers, enrolled four junior soldiers on 17 November. They are (from left) Noah Ivers, Kadel Wall, Kymani Ndenda and Sebastian Richardson.

MORELAND CITY CORPS VIC



MAJOR DARREN ELKINGTON, CORPS OFFICER, enrolled Julia Mahon-Smith as a senior soldier on 17 November. Julia is pictured with Darren, while Mark Patman holds the flag.

CAPRICORN REGION CORPS QLD



CAPTAIN DALE BROOKS, CORPS OFFICER, recently accepted three adherents (from left) Ellanor Smith, Trudi Robertson and Irene Mark. Ellanor and Trudi came to the corps through the First Steps program (alcohol and other drugs), while Irene has been attending worship and many other corps activities for several years.

MURRAY BRIDGE CORPS SA



DIVISIONAL LEADERS MAJORS BARRY AND ROS Casey accepted three adherents – Roland Bourneland, Coral Byrne and Dimitri Savvoulidis – on 20 November. Pictured (from left) are Roland, Barry, Coral, Ros, Dimitri and Murray Bridge Corps Officer Captain Tim Watson.

GEE LONG CORPS VIC



AUX-LIEUTENANT JOHN COLLINSON ENROLLED five junior soldiers in late November. They are (pictured from left with their Big Buds) Caleb Watson, Archer Woods, Millen Woods, Lavinia Fiu and Jacob Cochrane. Major Marion Weymouth, Junior Soldier Sergeant, holds the microphone.

HURSTVILLE CORPS NSW



MAJOR TREVOR NICOL ENROLLED FOUR senior soldiers from the corps' Chinese congregation on 24 November. Pictured with Trevor are the new soldiers (from left) Sylvia Loi, HeYing Bao, LiPing Zhu and JiaLi Zhang. Geoff Maxwell holds the flag.

Bravery of abused women on display



◀ An exhibition at International Headquarters features artwork by survivors of domestic abuse.

THE RESILIENCE OF WOMEN who have escaped abusive relationships was recognised in an art exhibition at The Salvation Army International Headquarters in London. The display ran from 25 November, International Day Against Violence Against Women, to 10 December, International Humans Rights Day.

The exhibition featured a selection of paintings and

drawings by women from The Link Cafe, a Salvation Army-run drop-in centre near London, for women who have left abusive partners.

Artwork from survivors of domestic violence reflects strength and resilience.

Captain Emma Scott, who oversees the cafe, said the facility had been running for four and a half years, during which time none of the women

had returned to their partners – a quite remarkable feat.

On the day of the launch, the women whose artworks featured in the exhibition met for lunch at the headquarters. Emma said they were amazed to see their works on display in such a professional-looking public space. For many of the participants this is, she said, a huge boost to their self-confidence and feeling of worth.

Night vouchers take off in the Czech Republic

THE NOCLEZHENKA (NIGHT) voucher program, designed to help those sleeping rough in the Czech Republic, is gaining momentum in this central European nation as winter is in full swing.

Anyone can purchase one or more night vouchers – valued at 100 Czech Koruna (AUD \$6.30) each, which enables one person experiencing homelessness to spend a night in a Salvation Army hostel.

As well as safe and comfortable overnight accommodation, the voucher also enables the person to access other Salvation Army services such as a hot meal, shower and health check.

The person can also meet with a Salvation Army social worker who will assist them with immediate issues they may be facing.

The Salvation Army distributes the vouchers, and donors are notified when their vouchers have been used.

Guns and violence exchanged for shot at peace in PNG

THE SALVATION ARMY'S Restorative Justice Program in Papua New Guinea has been instrumental in securing the symbolic surrender of guns, in exchange for Bibles, between two warring tribes after a decade of unrest.

“By surrendering your guns, you are securing a future for yourselves – a future that God intended for all,” said Colonel Kelvin Alley, Papua New



Guinea and Solomon Islands Territorial Commander, at the recent ceremony to exchange guns for Bibles in Kepakanda village in Kompiam District. “It’s important to teach our children that our past does not have to define our future

– that men and women working together shape your community for the better.”

During the ceremony, one gun from each tribal leader was surrendered to The Salvation Army to symbolise the peace agreement signing and to signify hopes for a better future.

About 90 Bibles were shared between the tribes, with support from the Churches Partnership Program.



◀ Colonel Kelvin Alley, Territorial Commander, receives a gun from a member of the Kepakanda tribe.

HAZEL MARTIN



LIEUT-COLONEL HAZEL Martin was promoted to glory on 10 October 2019, aged 97. Her funeral service was held on 17 October at

Ringwood Corps (Vic.), conducted by Major Karen Walker.

Hazel Towl was born the third of five siblings to William and Alice Towl of Kings Park (WA). She accepted the Lord as her Saviour as a teenager and after leaving school was a machinist for a clothing manufacturer in Perth.

In 1943, Hazel left Subiaco Corps to enter Officer Training College (Melbourne), joining the *Valiant* session of cadets. On being commissioned, Hazel was appointed to Bethesda nursing home until her marriage to Captain Harry Martin in 1947. Their first joint appointment was to Busselton Corps (WA).

The Martins had a number of corps appointments in Western Australia over the next 10 years, including Melville Circle, Boulder, Highgate, Bunbury and Albany. During these years, they were blessed with four children – Margaret, Robert, Bruce and Dianne – while their fifth child, Graeme, was born a few months after the family moved to Thornbury (Vic.).

In 1960, the Martins, now with the rank of majors, were appointed as the Corps Officers at Norwood Corps (SA), followed by appointments at Moreland and Box Hill (Vic.), Perth Fortress (WA) and Adelaide Congress Hall (SA). Hazel then undertook territorial appointments in the Public Relations Department and the Property Department, before she and Harry entered retirement in February 1989.

Hazel loved caring for and spending time with family and friends, as well as involving herself in the life of the various corps to which she and Harry were appointed. She enjoyed knitting and crochet and in later years took the opportunity to explore several artistic pursuits including ceramics and painting.

DAVID MUNDY



MAJOR DAVID MUNDY WAS promoted to glory on 6 November 2019, aged 69. A thanksgiving service for his life and service was held

at Moreland Corps (Vic.), conducted by Commissioner Aylene Finger.

David Clive Mundy was the middle son of Clive and Olive Mundy. He had an older brother, Peter, and a younger brother, Raymond. David enjoyed a simple and happy childhood, during which he attended Adelaide Congress Hall Corps.

Upon leaving school, David was employed by the Postmaster-General's Department in accounts. In 1974, he entered Officer Training College (Melbourne), joining the *Soldiers of the Cross* session. It was here that he met his future wife Jennifer.

On being commissioned in January 1976, David was appointed to Mordialloc Corps (Vic.). Six months later, he and Jennifer were married and began their service together at Bairnsdale Corps (Vic.), where Travis was born. Next came an appointment to Shepparton Corps (Vic.), where Melina was born, and David oversaw the opening of the Brayton Youth Centre. Following appointments were to Oakleigh (Vic.), Ulverstone (Tas.), where Narelle was born, and then Ballarat (Vic.).

In 1996, David was appointed Personnel Officer at the training college, followed by service as Assistant Secretary for Personnel at Territorial Headquarters (Melbourne). David then served in aged care in Melbourne; firstly as manager of Gilgunya, then as a chaplain to James Barker House with responsibility, for a time, as a chaplain of two other aged care facilities. David concluded his active service from James Barker on 1 October 2015. He also served for a time, as an additional appointment, in the Creative Arts Department at Territorial Headquarters (Melbourne).

In retirement, David loved to spend

time with his family – Jennifer, Travis and Megan, Melina and Leigh, Narelle and Matt, and grandchildren Niesha, Caden, James and Henry.

JOAN HOPPER



JOAN HOPPER WAS PROMOTED to glory on 10 August 2019, aged 84. Family and friends gathered to celebrate her life on 24 August at Weeroona

Chapel in Sydney.

Joan Mary Sheldon was born on 27 February 1935, the eldest daughter of Mary and Horace Sheldon. She became a Salvation Army soldier on 7 May 1950 at Maitland Corps (NSW), remaining a committed Christian and Salvationist throughout her life.

Joan married William Hopper (dec.) at Liverpool Corps (NSW) in 1959. They were blessed with two daughters – Louise and Joanne. Joan became 'Nanna' to six grandchildren and 'Nan-Nan' to six great-grandchildren.

Joan played the piano, dedicating this talent to the Lord by playing at many Salvation Army events including regular church services in various corps throughout her life. Joan was a Sunday school teacher, corps and songster pianist, and timbrellist. She also played the piano accordion and enjoyed her involvement in Home League and collecting for the Red Shield Appeal.

Joan enriched many people's lives. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Tribute reports.

To have a Tribute included in an issue of *Others*, please email your report of no more than 250 words and accompanied by a high-resolution (no smaller than 1mb) head-and-shoulders photograph of the individual, to others@salvationarmy.org.au

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 22 November 2019

Captain David **Collinson**, Territorial Public Relations Consultant, South Australia, Secretary for Communications.

Effective 25 November 2019

Captain Dianne **Gibbons**, Doorways Support Officer, Western Australia, Community Engagement.

Effective 2 December 2019

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Anthony **Barford**, Corps Officer, Cooma Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Sandra **Mortimer**, Corps Officer, Cooma Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Sarah **Newman**, Westernport Mission, Team Leader, Victoria Division, (additional appointment).

Effective 9 December 2019

Captain Zane **Haupt**, Corps Officer, Inverell Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 8 January 2020

Captain Erica **Cossington**, Adults Ministry Secretary, SA/NT, Mission Support, (in conjunction with Chaplain, Retired Officers); Major Christine **Waller**, Adults Ministry Secretary, SA/NT, Mission Support; Major Glenn **Price**, Executive Officer, Administration (Redfern), Officer Personnel; Major Julia **Price**, Associate Overseas Officer Support Secretary

(Redfern), Officer Personnel; Lieutenant Natarsha **Laundon**, Corps Officer, Deniliquin Corps, New South Wales/ACT Division; Major Peter **Townsend**, Assistant Corps Officer, Tablelands Corps, Queensland Division; Captain Kylie **Collinson**, Divisional Support Officer, South Australia/Northern Territory; Lieutenant Christopher **Marsh**, Corps Officer, Mitcham Corps, Victoria Division; Lieutenant Melissa **Marsh**, Corps Officer, Mitcham Corps, Victoria Division; Divisional Envoy Chris **Ralston** will continue to give oversight to the Sale Corps, Victoria Division.

CADET OUT-PLACEMENTS 2020

Messengers of the Kingdom and Messengers of Grace.

Social: Five weeks. **Corps:** Sundays during social out-placement and then nine weeks.

NB: Occurring during Semester 1 2020 – start and end dates will be based on individual study requirements of cadets.

The placements:

Cindy **Roerig** – Social: Bridge Haven (MW Vic.), Corps: Mooroolbark (ME Vic.).

B.J. **Baillie** – Social: Salvo Connect Doorways, Geelong (SW Vic.), Corps: Bellarine (SW Vic.).


Bethany **Baillie** – Social: Salvo Connect Homelessness, Geelong (SW Vic.), Corps: Bellarine Peninsula (SW Vic.).

Wayne **Collyer** – Social: Top End Social Network Chaplaincy Team (SA/NT), Corps: Darwin (SA/NT).

Graham **Kennedy** – Social: Adult Services, North Melbourne (MW Vic.), Corps: Boronia (ME Vic.).

Beth **Shao** – Social: Project Hope, Dandenong (ME Vic.), Corps: Waverley Temple (ME Vic.).

Sarah **Walker** – Social: Streetlevel Brisbane (Brisbane City, Qld), Corps: Carindale (Brisbane City Qld).



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HOW I GOT MY BOUNCE BACK.

WORDS TAMMI PARSONS

MY NAME IS TAMMI. I AM 39 YEARS OLD and have been married for 10 years to Andy. We have a puppy called Scout, but no biological children. We do, however, have a lot of ‘children’ we like to claim as our own. They are our absolute blessing and gift from God.

I made a decision to follow Christ in 2002 and became a senior soldier in The Salvation Army the following year. I am the first Salvationist in my family and we worship at Balga Salvos in Perth. Since becoming a Christian, it was my dream to work for the Salvos. So, I got my Bachelor of Ministry and started working as a case manager for young people in crisis at Morley. These young people are my ‘children’ – I am super-proud of this program as I believe it takes ministry to a whole new level within the Army. It is taking the Army into the community with no strings attached.

Becoming a Christian doesn’t mean your life is suddenly perfect all the time, and over the past few years my life has undergone serious trauma. My father was involved in a helicopter crash and still endures a lot of pain. My mother was diagnosed with cancer and is still fighting it six years on. My sister-in-law was also diagnosed with cancer.

She was on the mend and fell pregnant, but at four and a half months she collapsed. Within five days she and my unborn nephew had died. My husband was diagnosed with a serious illness and, finally, I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to



◊ Tammi Parsons (number 13) has discovered a deeper relationship with friends and God through her Salvos basketball team in Perth.

“
Becoming a Christian
doesn’t mean your
life is suddenly perfect
all the time, and over
the past few years my
life has undergone
serious trauma.

”
trauma in my past as well as the present. Depression hit me hard as I struggled with the normalities of life. I began the long road to recovery through trauma counselling as I continued my work with The Salvation Army. I felt God’s strength through all this and I prayed for him to show me a way through. His answer came in a most unexpected way – sports ministry!

I was invited to join the Balga Salvos basketball team, which is a part of a sports ministry program. I never believed sports ministry could have such a

profound impact on the community, or myself! God knew what I needed. I started playing with the team once a week and have made new friends, who have abundantly blessed me.

We laugh, whinge, run till we collapse and encourage each other. I also started going to the gym because I realised how good exercise was for my mental health. Joining this team has been so healing for me – I had isolated myself because of all the grief and trauma I had suffered.

I now feel part of something ... I feel like this team is really giving back to me and I want others to feel this same love and acceptance. Sport is a really good way to share your faith, so we’re looking for opportunities to establish more teams this year.

The sports ministry of basketball has ministered to my sad, broken and weary heart. It has brought many laughs and a healing bond with my teammates. I adore them. I give thanks to God and The Salvation Army for seeing the need for sports ministry within our community. *

Increase your impact for the 2020 Self Denial Appeal

Start planning your sacrificial gift today

Each year the Self Denial Appeal challenges you to give one week's salary on missionary service. But did you know you can pledge your gift as a yearlong sacrifice?

Giving your gift as a regular donation enables you to steward your finances throughout the year. It helps you build your generosity into your budget and transform lives on an ongoing basis.

Your donations are recorded and tallied prior to the Altar Service, so you know what you've given and what sacrifice you may still be able to make. You'll be able to participate in the Altar Service by marking your envelope as a regular giver.

God makes his will for the world come alive through you. Just imagine the impact you can have when your ongoing generosity is pooled with that of the International Salvation Army community.

In 2019 the Self Denial Appeal raised \$3.26 million for The Salvation Army's international work. Whether you choose to give a one-off sacrificial gift during the Altar Service or become a regular giver, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Transform lives and offer God's love to a hurting world. Become a regular giver at www.selfdenial.info or call 02 9466 3152.



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