

■ OPINION

*Chick Yuill on society's damaging obsession with celebrity culture*

■ FEATURE

*David and Shelley Soper talk for the first time about Andrew Chan*

■ GLOBAL FOCUS

*How well do you know the international Salvation Army?*

■ THE BIG PICTURE

*Good Christian culture writing should reflect God back to us*

# others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION



## Surfing lessons.

How a surfboard helped shape new Salvos chief



FEBRUARY  
2017

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*"Freely you have received; freely give."*

MATTHEW 10:8

## WILL YOU GIVE ONE WEEK'S SALARY TO CHANGE LIVES?

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SELF DENIAL APPEAL 2017

## Others – it's The Salvation Army's DNA.

SCOTT SIMPSON | MANAGING EDITOR

**Mention the word “others” in a Salvation Army context and it will usually bring to mind the story of General William Booth’s famous one-word telegram to Salvation Army officers. It is said that Booth, the founder of the Army, sent the telegram to officers around the world at Christmas-time 1910 to remind them what, or who, should be the focus of their work. The accuracy of the story has long been the subject of much conjecture, but whether true or not, that single word – “others” – has shaped the culture of an entire organisation.**

Through the years, the word has appeared as a slogan in many different settings, and several writers have described it as “The Salvation Army’s DNA”. In other words, it’s a name that is deeply rooted and that points towards our foundation. Catherine Booth, wife of William and co-founder of The Salvation Army, summed it up wonderfully: “You are not here in the world for yourself,” she said. “You have been sent here for others. The world is waiting for you!”

This month, The Salvation Army in Australia enters a new and exciting phase in the development of its editorial publications, with the launch of a new national internal magazine, *Others*. The selection of a name for the new magazine has been a considered process; much thought and discussion has taken place, and feedback on name options sought.

What has been fascinating about the feedback is just how polarised people’s views can be. Strong opinions have been expressed, with many adamant that

certain words reflecting who we are as an Army, must appear in the new name. When “Others” was offered, in a recent survey, as a potential masthead, so strong was one respondent’s aversion to this suggestion they threatened to refuse to read the publication if that was the name! I guess our print order for the new magazine will now be less one for the foreseeable future.

The choice of the name *Others*, however, from among dozens of prospective candidates, is deliberate. Yes, it does borrow from the famous story of William Booth and his telegram, but its purpose runs much deeper. Having it as the masthead for The Salvation Army’s monthly internal magazine in Australia will be a regular visible reminder to Salvationists of why God has raised up the organisation. And the subhead we have given the magazine – Connecting Salvos in Mission – serves to sharpen this focus.

“We should not be as concerned about who attends our corps from the community, but more concerned about how our corps attend the community,” said National Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, at the official launch of Australia One in September last year. In other words, it’s all about, as it has always been for Salvationists, *Others*. ■

Scott Simpson is  
Managing Editor of  
*Others* magazine







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Majors David and Shelley Soper speak publicly for the first time about their close friendship with Andrew Chan and his family, and the harrowing days leading up to and after his execution in Indonesia almost two years ago.  
Photo: Lena Pobjie



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## THE SALVATION ARMY NATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

**The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:**

» **Caring for people**

- Being there when people need us most
- We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential

» **Creating faith pathways**

- Taking a holistic approach to the human condition that values spirituality
- We graciously share the Good News of Jesus and grow in faith together

» **Building healthy communities**

- Investing ourselves in relationships that promote mutual flourishing
- We find the wholeness God intends for us in community

» **Working for justice**

- Tackling the social systems that harm creation and strip away human dignity
- We join God's work to build a fairer world where all can thrive



## Risking all for the sake of our mission.

*Christ's love compels us to reach out to others*

***"To encounter God is to change."***  
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Change happens! That can be a good thing – especially when it is a result of an encounter with God. In fact, one might ask if it's possible to have an encounter with God and not be changed. Throughout the pages of Scripture we see God breaking into the reality of people's lives and they are changed forever. In recent weeks we celebrated the greatest expression of God stepping into the reality of our world – Jesus being sent into our midst as a human baby in Bethlehem. God continues to break into the world of individuals today. Lives continue to be changed.

After three years of sharing in the life of the living Word, Jesus stood with his disciples and entrusted them with his mission – the Great Commission. This small group of individuals, who had so intimately encountered God in Christ, experienced transformation in all of the dimensions of their lives. To ordinary people, fishermen called to become "fishers of men", Jesus left them with "his business" – others. Jesus was about his Father's business. He told his mother this when she found him in the temple at the age of 12. His business is people. As they encountered God, these men had their lives changed to live for his purpose, his mission.

Christopher Wright in his book, *The Mission of God's People*, challenges common thinking today as he writes, "We want to be driven by a purpose that has been tailored just right for

our own individual lives ... when we should be seeing the purpose of all life, including our own, wrapped up in the great mission of God for the whole of creation." This great mission of God is that which he has invited his followers to partner with him in seeing fulfilled.

The Salvation Army in Australia has developed and released an articulation of the mission of God expressed through The Salvation Army as part of the Australia One journey: *"The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities and working for justice."*

As we step into this new chapter in the life and ministry of The Salvation Army in Australia, we move forward anticipating a fresh encounter with Jesus and the change that will bring to the movement. Let us embrace afresh the invitation of Christ to live for his mission. As he was sent, so he sends us into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means, with the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life. The call comes again to his followers to risk it all for the sake of the mission of the God who risked it all. ■



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



# A worldwide Army.

How well do you know The Salvation Army world? In the first of a regular feature, we give an overview of the international Salvation Army, and over coming editions we will highlight particular territories/countries around the world

**William and Catherine Booth founded The Salvation Army** (then called the East London Christian Mission) in 1865 in London. It officially became known as The Salvation Army in 1878 when William Booth introduced a military structure and became its first General.

Today, The Salvation Army is broken up into five zones around the world. These include: Africa, Americas/ Caribbean, Europe, South Asia, and South Pacific/ East Asia. The Salvation Army is at work in 128 countries, with the island nation of Madagascar the latest to officially join in October 2016. International Headquarters is located in London.

The statistics on the right provide an indication of the scope of The Salvation Army's international membership (as at 1 January 2015):

AT A GLANCE	
■ NUMBER OF CORPS:	<b>13,826</b>
■ NUMBER OF OFFICERS:	<b>26,675</b> (Active: 17,261. Retired: 9414)
■ NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	<b>116,647</b>
■ SENIOR SOLDIERS:	<b>1,056,722</b>
■ JUNIOR SOLDIERS:	<b>378,811</b>
■ ADHERENTS:	<b>156,842</b>
■ CORPS CADETS:	<b>38,454</b>
■ SENIOR BAND MEMBERS:	<b>48,135</b>
■ SENIOR SONGSTERS:	<b>133,480</b>
■ SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS:	<b>1,422,567</b>
■ CHARITY/THRIFT SHOPS:	<b>1282</b>

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Salvation Army has an international mission statement, which every member adheres to: "The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination."

## THE RED SHIELD

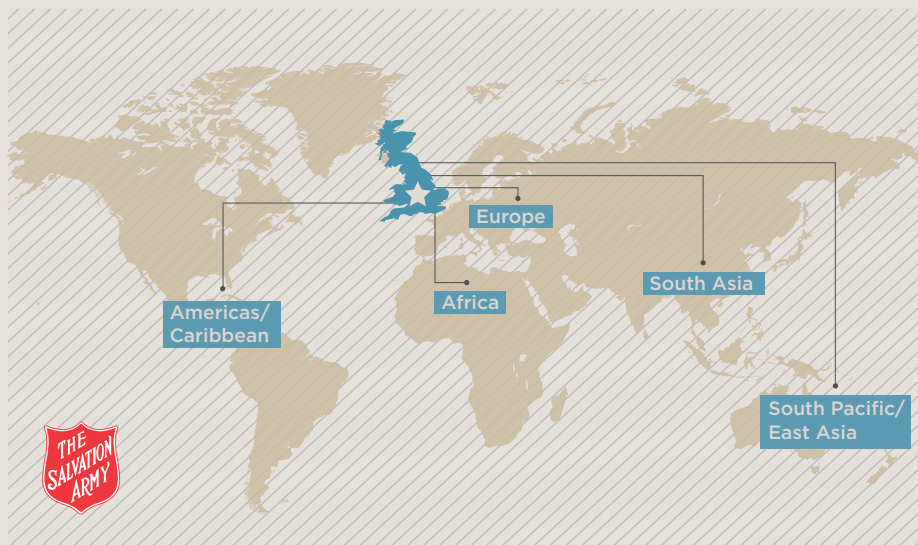
At the turn of the 19th century, one of the symbols of The Salvation Army was a silver shield with the words "Salvation Army" emblazoned across it. Many Salvation Army personnel, particularly those serving with the defence forces, wore the shield as a badge. In the aftermath of the Boer War, an Australian Salvationist, Major George Carpenter, was concerned that the silver shield worn by Salvationists in times of war would reflect light, particularly during the night, giving the location of troops to the enemy. As a result, the silver was replaced by the red enamel and became known as the "Red Shield". Because the Red Shield emblem came to represent The Salvation Army's reputation for being at the front line of need, it was incorporated into the name of the Army's annual fundraising drive in Australia, the Red Shield Appeal.

## THE CREST

In 1878, Captain W.H. Ebdon suggested a logo, and in 1879 it was to be found on the letterhead of The Salvation Army headquarters. The captain's suggested design was changed only slightly and a crown was added.

## The meaning of the crest

The cross: The cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. The "S": Salvation from sin through Jesus. The ray on the outside of the circle: The Fire of the Holy Spirit. The dots: The Truth of the Gospel. The swords: Spiritual Warfare. "Blood and Fire": The Blood which was shed by Jesus for our sins and the Fire of the Holy Spirit.





**THE FLAG**

The Salvation Army flag is a symbol of the Army's war against sin and social evils. The red on the flag symbolises the blood shed by Jesus Christ, the yellow for the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blue for the purity of God the Father. The first Salvation Army flag was designed and presented to Coventry Corps in England by Catherine Booth in 1878. At the time the centre of the flag was a yellow sun representing the Light of Life. This was changed to the star in 1882.

**THE UNIFORM**

The Salvation Army uniform reflects the military principles upon which the Army is organised. For Salvation Army officers and soldiers it is a visible expression of their faith that often creates valuable opportunities to provide a helping hand. The first captain of The Salvation Army, a former chimney sweep named Elijah Cadman, is credited with instigating the wearing of military-style uniforms after declaring at an early meeting: "I should like to wear a suit of clothes that would let everyone know I meant war to the teeth and salvation for the world." The Salvation Army uniform has evolved over the years. In Australia, bonnets for women were replaced by felt hats in the 1970s and the high military-style collars were dropped for both men and women about the same time. Today, most Salvationists in Australia don't wear hats and many people often wear a casual uniform.

**THE SALUTE**

The Salvation Army has a unique form of salute, which involves raising the right hand above shoulder height with the index finger pointing upwards. It signifies recognition of a fellow citizen of heaven, and a pledge to do everything possible to get others to heaven also. In the case of saluting in response to applause, such as at a musical festival or being applauded for a speech, it also signifies that the Salvationist wishes to give glory to God and not themselves. In some instances, the salute is accompanied with a shout of "hallelujah!" ■

**GENERALS OF THE SALVATION ARMY**

The Salvation Army's world leader holds the position of General. There have been 20 Generals since the organisation officially became The Salvation Army in 1878.



**William Booth**  
(1878-1912)



**Bramwell Booth**  
(1912-19)



**Edward Higgins**  
(1929-34)



**Evangeline Booth**  
(1934-39)



**George Carpenter**  
(1939-46)



**Albert Orsborn**  
(1946-54)



**Wilfred Kitching**  
(1954-63)



**Frederick Coutts**  
(1963-69)



**Erik Wickberg**  
(1969-74)



**Clarence Wiseman**  
(1974-77)



**Arnold Brown**  
(1977-81)



**Jarl Wahlström**  
(1981-86)



**Eva Burrows**  
(1986-93)



**Bramwell Tillsley**  
(1993-94)



**Paul Rader**  
(1994-99)



**John Gowans**  
(1999-2002)



**John Larsson**  
(2002-06)



**Shaw Clifton**  
(2006-11)



**Linda Bond**  
(2011-13)



**André Cox**  
(2013-present)

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## I don't care if you're famous.

*Society's damaging obsession with celebrity culture*

WORDS | CHICK YUILL

For years I have made it a point of principle to switch off the TV whenever there's a program with the word "celebrity" in the title. For a start, I've never heard of most of the people who appear in these shows.

I can only conclude that they were once well known for something they were actually good at, and that they now find it difficult to live without that fame. So they, or their agents, have managed to get them on the TV in the hope of resurrecting their fading careers. And that makes me feel sad that they can't get on with life, enjoy just being alive and well, and find something meaningful and productive to do.

Then there's also the fact that I can't think of any good reason why I'd want to give up an hour of my time watching people dancing, baking, skating, answering questions or whatever, just because they achieved a level of fame in some other field. Why don't they just go and do what they're supposed to be good at? You may well be thinking that my reaction is over the top, but this celebrity thing is important and it is worrying. In fact, psychologists at the University of Leicester have been studying the

phenomenon of CWS — Celebrity Worship Syndrome. According to their findings, one in every three people manifests some signs of this condition. The symptoms range from someone just talking a great deal about a particular celebrity, through feeling some kind of intense personal relationship, to a borderline pathological state in which the person believes they have a special relationship with their celebrity to the point at which they would be willing to die for them.

The current obsession with celebrity is an indicator of some deep-seated issues facing society. To quote from an article by Dr John Maltby in *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*: "Our findings suggest the possibility that many people do not engage in celebrity worship for mere entertainment." Yes, it concerns me, and I'll give you three reasons why.

**Spirituality and Religion:** The clue is in the name the psychologists have given to this condition — Celebrity Worship Syndrome. The current obsession with celebrities may well arise from a loss of spirituality and a genuine religious life. Explain it how you will, there is an innate need in humankind to worship someone or something that is bigger, better and more wonderful than ourselves.

The reductionist philosophies of the so-called New Atheism that try to explain everything in evolutionary terms simply do not do justice to what it means to be human. Each of us is far more than a random collection of atoms, far more than our appetites for food, sex and shelter. It's difficult — impossible for many of us — to escape the conviction that we were created by and for a loving Creator and that it is in worship of that Creator that we find the deepest meaning of our humanity. Deny that worship, and it will find expression elsewhere.

**Significant relationships:** We live in

a world of mass communication, global news networks, and the all-pervasive social media. But in the midst of all this, there are countless lonely people. Loneliness is one of the great social problems of the civilised, affluent, Western world. But we were made for relationship. To quote Dr Maltby again: "Research is suggesting that people with CWS may be replacing normal relationships with these relationships. If that proves to be the case, it would be very worrying for society."

**Self-respect:** An obsession with celebrity goes hand-in-hand with a loss of personal significance and self-respect. It is based on the delusion that these people are better than the rest of us. It makes us wish that we had their life, their personality, their looks, their possessions, their personality, their status. And it loses sight of the truth that everyone is unique, special, and made in the image of God. Yes it is worrying when people feel closer to a distant celebrity than to their next-door neighbour, their work colleague, or even to a family member. And this is both an opportunity and a challenge to the Church. Every church I have ever known describes itself as "a friendly church". And to every church I have ever known I say the same thing: No church is as friendly as it thinks it is. If we were, people would be flocking to our doors. And the truth is that people are not looking for friendliness.

They're looking for friendship. There's a big difference. And if we Christians devoted more of our time and energy to being friends to others rather than just being friendly it might make the world a better place. ■

Chick Yuill is a regular speaker at major Christian conferences and has frequently appeared on radio and TV, speaking on issues of faith and morality. He blogs at [anvinding.com](http://anvinding.com)

## Our best hope for a better world.

*Eradicating inequality the path to a brighter future for all*

WORDS | DANIELLE STRICKLAND

**Who runs the world?** Beyonce would tell us it's girls, but those of us who know the statistics realise a much grimmer reality. Girls around the world face the harsh reality of inequality every single day. They are less likely to go to school and more likely to be married against their will before they should and without their consent. You can read more about this global situation here: [www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child)

The public outcry that met Donald Trump's remarks during the United States presidential campaign, of "casual" sexual assault and the virtual dismissal by men in our own Western culture as "locker room banter", has re-emphasised just how deep this issue goes. The global statistics are that one-in three women have experienced sexual assault. And I've a hunch that number is much worse than the official figures indicate – many assaults go unreported because of shame and fear. Those statistics should awaken us to the reality of what girls face growing up in a world that continues to remain inequitable.

**This will not do if we want a better world.** It has been proven in countries all around the world that when girls and women are given equal opportunities it benefits the entire community. Everyone is better off when girls are given better opportunities. Mohammad Yunis, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient and founder of the Grameen Bank ([grameen.com](http://grameen.com)) will only lend money to women because of the incredible return on the



investment, not just to the bank but to the whole community. He believes empowering girls and women is the secret to defeating extreme poverty.

**This will not do if we call ourselves Christians.** One of the most reprehensible things I hear is Christians who consider that inequality is a God-like characteristic. This could not be further from the truth. Women were created by God in his image. They were charged to "co-steward" the earth as leaders of an emerging world. They were created with every divine intention of representing God on the earth – not through fear or control, but through creative empowerment, through sustaining life in all its fullness.

Sin brought a curse that resulted in the domination of women and the breaking of the original intention God had for the entire created order. But thanks be to God for Jesus, who by his suffering and death, broke the curse and brought freedom for anyone who was captive to its power. We are free, in Christ, to be all that God had originally intended us to be. Christians should be shouting the news that equality is part of God's intended plan.

**This will not do if we are human.** To be human is to be free. We were literally woven together with equality in our fabric. Our freedom was so important to the One who created us that even though

it cost him everything when we used our freedom against his plans, he still made us free. We were not born to be slaves. None of us. No one – not even from a different culture, colour, racial heritage, different religion or another gender – no one was born to be a slave. We were made equal. It was by design. And if you want to live your best life, it will not be achieved through bullying, sexism, dominating, raping, shaming, or fear. True humanity is celebrated through equality.

**So, what will do?** Equality. Let's start with a celebration of all that God has dreamt for girls all over the world. Let's let them know, by the way we speak, talk, campaign, dream, and fight for them that they were created to be free. Equality is in their blood. Tell a girl she is strong, capable, powerful, able, smart, and incredibly important to the world. We need all our girls to have a future.

If you are a dreamer of a better world, then this is something you will need to get involved with. Even if you just begin by confronting the power of inequality in your own community, family, relationships, and churches, let's get this done. It's our best hope for a better world. ■

.....  
**Major Danielle Strickland** is Territorial Social Justice Secretary in The Salvation Army USA Western Territory, and blogs at [daniellestrickland.com](http://daniellestrickland.com)  
 .....



WORTH  
QUOTING.

'Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength' — **Charles Spurgeon**



## All together now.

*How do you agree with someone you disagree with?*

WORDS | MAL DAVIES

**Amer was a Lebanese Muslim.** Tony, Sal and Vito were Italian Catholics. Pete was a Greek agnostic. These were my closest friends at high school and through my university years. They knew I was a Christian and a Salvo and they responded differently.

Pete didn't care what I believed as he didn't know what to believe himself. Tony, Sal and Vito (yes, I know, they sound like the cast of *The Godfather*) were adamant that they were Christians and I was not because, well, simply because I wasn't Catholic. Amer (pronounced ay-mar) and I occasionally differed on matters of theology – predominantly around the status of Jesus – but generally we retained great mutual respect. We saw in each other a desire to search for spiritual truth; an adherence to disciplines involving worship, prayer and the study of sacred texts, and a heart for those in the community in need.

In short: we focused on our commonalities and not our differences. We agreed to disagree on many doctrinal truths but encouraged each other to build a stronger faith. A Muslim and

a Christian disagreeing but respecting each other. Well, fancy that.

The first week of February each year is World Interfaith Harmony Week, as decreed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. In September of that year, King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed the idea, saying that it was essential to “resist forces of division that spread misunderstanding and mistrust especially among people of different religions”. His proposal was that a special week be set aside for people of all faiths to focus on “tolerance, respect for the other and peace”.

At the core of the ideology behind the week and its suggested activities (you can

*‘... Each faith – within their own churches, temples, synagogues, houses, meeting places – can focus that week on tolerance, peace, harmony, respect and our common points, not our differences.’*

read more at [www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com](http://www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com)) is the two-part phrase “Love of God and love of the neighbour” and “Love of the good and love of the neighbour”. The thinking is that the great monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) share commandments regarding love of God and love of others and, hence, can use the first phrase as their guide for the week. For all other faiths and, in fact, even for people of no faith, they can simply use the second phrase, which refers to “the good” instead of “God” and retains the imperative to love others. This way – with a simple variation on one word – all people can celebrate the week.

While one suggestion is that people

and organisations of different faiths can do something together in that week, this is not the main thrust of the week. The more dominant thought is that each faith – within their own churches, temples, synagogues, houses, meeting places – can focus that week on tolerance, peace, harmony, respect and (just as Amer and I did) our common points not our differences. Sometimes we focus on a common topic within The Salvation Army.

We have Founders' Day when we all celebrate the pioneering work of William and Catherine Booth. We have a Self Denial Appeal when all corps focus on the same material over a six-week period. We even have things like “Boundless: The whole world reading”, when corps all over the world worked through the same scripture passages in 2015. So imagine the beauty and benefit of not just every Salvo corps in the world and not even every Christian church in the world, but every believer of every faith in the world focusing on tolerance, harmony and respect in the same week. Wow!

So, when it comes to faith is it possible to agree with someone you disagree with? Should I have ceased my friendship with Amer to avoid the risk of becoming pluralistic? Should I have told him flat out that he was wrong and going to hell unless he renounced his faith? Should I have more strongly witnessed to him about truth and Jesus? Or should I have maintained the friendship, showed him how a Christian lived, and continued to pray for him?

I chose the latter, and I have no doubt he did the same for me from a Muslim point of view. We chose interfaith harmony. ■

**Captain Mal Davies** is Corps Officer at South Barwon Corps in Geelong, Victoria, and is a former national editor-in-chief.





**WORTH  
QUOTING.**

'If God were our one and only desire we would not be so easily upset when our opinions do not find outside acceptance.'  
— Thomas à Kempis

## Overdue recognition.

*Honour the Army's co-founder, and then build from there*

WORDS | ADAM COUCHMAN

**Come with me on** a journey; a journey outside the box.

Last month marked 187 years since the birth of the lady known as “the mother of The Salvation Army”. Catherine Booth (pictured) was a remarkable woman who in 1865, with her husband, William, co-founded what would eventually become the Army. She died in October 1890, aged 61. As I think about the impact of this incredible lady there are so many characteristics, stories and achievements to tell, but there's a particular path I want to take. It requires some major rewriting of history, and some may be uncomfortable with that, but bear with me because I think this idea has some merit. Here it is ... make Catherine Booth General. Seriously. Call a High Council, ask the members to vote and elect her the co-equal first General of The Salvation Army alongside her husband.

Don't look now because I'm about to light that box we left behind on fire. While that High Council is convened let's add one more item to the agenda.

Having made Catherine a General, now let's make the current General's wife, Commissioner Sylvia Cox a General too, concurrently alongside her husband. Co-equal in every respect.

This suggestion comes from a deep theological conviction. One that is both ecclesiological and Christological. Ecclesiological in that it is an outworking of our understanding of the ministry of all believers under the high priesthood of Christ (my understanding of the priesthood of all believers); Christological in that it takes seriously the belief that “in Christ there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28).

This goes further. Having started with the very top, initiate the same change at every level. So, rather than a territorial commander and a territorial president of women's ministries, in the case of married couples, just have territorial leaders – co-equal in every respect. Then, continue this all the way through the structure at every level of leadership. I'm certain that there are administrative and legal issues that prevent this being implemented at this moment in time. However, I think that our theology should drive our practice, so while those issues may be significant they're not insurmountable. I leave it to those with appropriate expertise to solve those issues, but I won't be convinced that it cannot be done. Nor should the difficulties involved cause us to stop trying either.

I've been asked many times, “who will be the first married woman General?”



Well, after 150 years I can think of no one better in answer to that question than Catherine Booth herself. A better question, and one that reflects our theology, is “who will be the first married couple Generals?” That would be something to look forward to.

More than 125 years after the death of Catherine Booth, I want to honour a radical, innovative and inspiring leader of our movement. I cannot think of a suggestion that is more radical, innovative and inspiring than this and so I make it in honour of this great woman. General Catherine Booth, I salute you. ■

.....  
**Captain Adam Couchman** is Assistant Training Principal-Administration at Catherine Booth College in Melbourne. He blogs at [setapartinchrist.com](http://setapartinchrist.com)  
.....

**others**

**Your opinion counts. We want to hear from you!**

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# AN EXTRAORDINARY FRIENDSHIP.

David and Shelley Soper, for the first time, open up about their journey with Andrew Chan

In April 2015, Australians watched the last weeks of a decade-long drama in Indonesia as two of their fellow countrymen faced execution by firing squad. Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, who had spent 10 years in Bali's Kerobokan Prison on drug-trafficking charges, were eventually executed on 29 April.

Andrew had returned to Christian faith while in prison, a faith he had been introduced to as a boy through his family's friendship with the Soper family in Sydney. Majors David and Shelley Soper are Salvation Army officers. Their sons – Luke, Joel and Mark – all Salvationists, grew up with Andrew, his older brother, Michael, and their two sisters, as close friends. Throughout Andrew's prison ordeal and execution, the Sopers were an ever-present support for Andrew, both in their visits to Bali and in regular communication from Australia.

David was Andrew's chaplain and was with him in the weeks leading up to the execution, as well as those final moments before he faced the firing squad. He loved Andrew as a son, and chose to walk this journey with him, but does not speak publicly about this time of anguish and pain. Shelley, though, with David's support, has agreed to share their story in an interview with SIMONE WORTHING



#### Majors David and Shelley

Soper, long-term friends of the Chans, supported Andrew and his family throughout Andrew's prison ordeal and his execution. The families remain close today. Photo: Lena Pobjie





**SIMONE WORTHING:** *How has your relationship with the Chan family developed?*

**SHELLEY SOPER:** We were appointed to Enfield, Sydney, in 1988 and within a few days, all the kids in our street had connected. Ken and Helen Chan and their four children lived five doors down and we all became friends. Their boys played with our boys – Andrew was only three at the time and the other children were in primary school. Not long after we moved in, Ken and Helen began a Chinese takeaway business and worked very long hours. Michael, their eldest son who was 11 at the time, took on a greater responsibility for his siblings and they all spent many afternoons, and most weekends, at our place. We have an enormous respect and appreciation for Michael and love him dearly. His commitment, love and loyalty to his family remains outstanding and his faithfulness, wisdom and incredible hard work during the arduous years from Andrew’s arrest and imprisonment to his execution, was epic. Almost every year, Andrew and his siblings joined us for family holidays and adventures. From the first year, our boys refused to go on holidays and leave

the Chans at home. So started a beautiful Soper/Chan tradition. In the last months of Andrew’s life, the lasting memories from these holidays were often spoken about and gave us plenty of cause for story-telling and laughter. After four years at Enfield, we were transferred to Bathurst, but the families remained united and the children continued the tradition of Soper/Chan holidays and visits. In later years, Andrew also joined many a camping trip or sporting adventure with other Salvos youth, that David organised.

*sw: What was your role with Andrew, once he had been arrested?*

**ss:** Our role became one of support, ensuring that he got back to God whatever the outcome. Our boys kept doing what they had always done and remained close. Luke left for Bali immediately with Michael and stayed several weeks. Then Mark tag-teamed. They were like brothers, hence their deep pain. Mark was Andrew’s friend and mentor, making 15 or so trips to Bali in the 10 years that Andrew was in prison. We kept up the family connection with the Chans ... and we shared together in many family celebrations. Andrew often introduced David as his “Aussie father” or “Big Dave” and informed one and all that the Sopers introduced him to Jesus! Throughout Andrew’s 10 years in prison, God raised up several other amazing men and women who nurtured Andrew. They invested themselves and helped him to grow and mature as a mighty man of God. We thank the Lord for the godly influence and outstanding support given by each one of them.

David was in Cilacap (the closest town to the execution site) for weeks before the execution in April, and had made three trips (to Indonesia) from January. Before he left for that third and final time, there was some question as to whether Mark might go instead, as David had not been very well. On the morning we were expecting the call to say the execution was to go ahead and it was time to leave for Indonesia, it did not appear that David was well enough. As I waited, praying for God to release him from this, the Lord gave me a very strong word that he had more for David to do. It wasn’t what I wanted for David and yet I longed for Andrew to have David with him.



**The Sopers’ own journey** of grief has been a long one, but they remain close to the Lord.



I had assurance that the Lord would reveal to David his final word and would give him the strength for every aspect of his life. It was only a few moments later that David said: ‘I am going! My job isn’t finished yet.’ This was a confirmation for me, although I did journey in great grief over that time as the enormity of the task began to dawn.

David left for Cilacap, taking Helen, Andrew’s mum, with him. I knew that when David left, I wouldn’t get the same man back but the “rightness” of his role was confirmed over and over by the Holy Spirit through prayer and many other people. There was a deep awareness that God was working mightily in these terrible circumstances.

*sw: What was the hardest part of the journey for you?*

ss: Seeing David and knowing his heartache and how much he loved Andrew and the Chan family. I saw him on the news a few times being pushed around in the crowds and trying to protect the ladies in the group and I knew this was a tough journey. He did it with great resolve and a sense that he was where he needed to be. We have many questions, disappointments and “what ifs” but somewhere deep inside we know there is victory in this story. David is back and now, almost two years after the execution, he continues to restore. He has journeyed silently with his grief. He has been physically unwell for a few years now, and the heartache of the Chans’ journey has made life more challenging, but he remains close to the Lord.

*sw: How was David able to support Andrew just prior to the execution?*

ss: There are so many layers to this story and this is not something David speaks about. It is still too painful. David was with Andrew until just before the end. The Indonesian authorities gave the prisoners and their personal chaplains 90 minutes to spend together before the execution. David and Andrew were moved from the stifling cell to a garden area. They were surrounded by many armed guards with machine guns and the guards appeared shocked when Andrew and David at times laughed and joked together. When it was time to go, Andrew

shook the hand of every guard and hugged some of them. Some shed tears. There were precious moments following this, including a discussion about Andy’s wedding ring, which had been David’s. Then, of course, standing in front of Andrew at the killing field when he was strapped to the pole. Three precious minutes. David placed his hand on Andrew’s chest and prayed. Andrew spoke quietly, ‘I love you, Big Dave’. ‘I love you too, Andy.’

The chaplains were led into a tent. Andrew was leading the prisoners in singing praise songs and the chaplains joined in loudly so the prisoners knew they were there. David just kept bellowing the songs so Andrew could hear him. When the singing faltered, Andrew called out, “Come on fellas, you can do better than that!” They sang Andrew’s theme song, *10,000 Reasons*. Part-way through, the rifle shots rang out. Silence! In a few seconds the chaplains picked up the praise again and continued to sing. Praise God! There are many layers of this story which are yet to be told but a couple of days after the execution, David came home with Feby (Andrew’s wife) and Helen. Family, friends and supporters swung into preparation for the funeral.

*sw: How did you feel about the injustice of the situation, and the imposition of the death penalty?*

ss: We don’t believe in the death penalty but we do believe in redemption. In God’s economy, there is repentance, forgiveness and transformation. When people do wrong there is a price to be paid and we all understood that. However, we knew that incredible and authentic rehabilitation had taken place. Andrew had repented and changed his life and much of the prison had been transformed because of Andrew and Myuran (Sukumaran – also executed with Andrew). We continued to seek for a late reprieve and mercy right to the end. It seems contradictory to say this but there was a definite knowledge within that God had everything in hand and we could trust him with the final outcome.

*sw: How do you explain a loving God to people who ask why didn’t he save Andrew?*

ss: Our reality was that we’d allowed for God to have the final call. We realised that to be ▶



**Andrew’s gravestone** reflects his unshakeable belief that in Jesus, he was free.



*‘David stood in front of Andrew at the killing field when he was strapped to the pole. Three precious minutes. David placed his hand on Andrew’s chest and prayed. Andrew spoke quietly, ‘I love you, Big Dave’. ‘I love you too, Andy.’*

saved from execution may not have been God’s ultimate plan. I could not doubt that God’s hand was on the whole journey, the way Andrew’s life changed, the way his faith became so powerful, tangible, and his relationship with the Lord strengthened people around him. David attests that, in those final moments, Andrew’s faith and certainty in Christ showed on his face. He radiated the beauty of the Holy Spirit and had no fear, just incredible love and peace.

On the night of the execution, Mark and I went to the Chans’ place and stayed with Ken, and Andrew’s sisters and other close family. We talked, told stories, we prayed, we grieved and ultimately we surrendered Andrew into the Lord’s care. Nothing has ever changed for us with the Chan family. We remain close, and celebrate special occasions together. We love them dearly. Michael is also a much-loved uncle to the next generation of Soper children.

*sw: What was the impact on your family after Andrew’s funeral?*

ss: We knew and loved Andrew from when he was three and celebrated his return to Jesus. To witness that change, his influence on thousands of people and to see salvation come to the lives of others has been faith-building and inspiring. God has been glorified – our greatest desire.

David is now serving in men’s ministry as part of The Salvation Army’s NSW/

ACT Division. He enjoys connecting with young fellows, officers, some folk who have concluded their officership and also meeting with men from the community. He builds relationships, speaks life, encouragement and truth. David views life quite differently now. I see a new determination in him and see that he is certainly a “father in the faith” to many young and even older men. It has deepened and strengthened his faith and although he found it hard to read God’s Word for some time, God is very present and active in his life. David’s main spiritual gift is mercy, so to go through all of this, seeing so much hypocrisy and no mercy, has made it even more difficult for him.

My faith is stronger and I am more determined to be intentional in faith and practice. Whatever seeds were sown, God has nourished and continues to grow. In the worst of circumstances God usually does his best work. In the first weeks after Andrew’s arrest we were able to get a Bible to him. In the back of the Bible we had pasted a family photo and “Three reasons why you need Jesus!” This remained Andrew’s “family” Bible until the end. Andrew came to love and cherish the Word of God. Andrew was resilient in spirit. His strength was not bravado. His faith was strong to the end. In this, God gets the glory. ■

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**Simone Worthing** is a writer for  
*Others* magazine  
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**Majors David and Shelley**  
 Soper with Andrew’s  
 parents, Ken and Helen  
 Chan, celebrating Ken’s  
 80th birthday.



## Childhood friend to spiritual mentor.

Mark Soper and Andrew Chan were friends from early childhood. They grew up together, played after school, and attended kids' activities at church. Throughout Andrew's 10 years in prison and his return to faith, Mark was a spiritual mentor as well as friend and brother to Andrew, and maintained close contact with him and his family. Mark has agreed to share with *Others* his childhood memories of their friendship, some of the challenges and joys of his meetings with Andrew in Bali's Kerobokan Prison, and his own struggle in coming to terms with his mate's death. ▶



**Mark Soper's faith has been severely tested** in recent years: 'It's dangerous being angry at God and pushing him away at the same time because you just put a wedge between you and him and risk losing your faith'.



**W**e met the Chans when Mum and Dad (Majors Shelley and David Soper) were appointed to Enfield Corps in Sydney. My older brother Luke met Andrew's older brother, Michael, and the friendship between our families grew from there. Today, that lifelong friendship continues. It's been a crazy, roller-coaster ride, but there has been so much fun, joy and laughter along the way and I wouldn't change that.

As kids, Andrew, Michael and their sisters got involved at church. The boys played in our soccer teams and would come camping with us. Andrew, in particular, would always come on our family holidays at least once a year – he was the “adopted” child.

When we moved away the contact was more sporadic but still there and our bonds were close. In our teenage years, Andrew would come to (Salvation Army) music camps, we would ride motorbikes together and catch up. We knew he was doing things he shouldn't but couldn't really pinpoint anything. Andrew was still Andrew. He was part of our family.

When he was arrested, it was a total surprise. I was in shock and disbelief and we had no

*‘As much as Andrew wanted to be around, knowing eternity was waiting for him took him out of a lot of pain’*



idea what the next decade would bring. I went over to Bali soon afterwards with Michael, and took personal leave each year after that to visit Andrew. He admitted his guilt. It was now about what was the best way forward.

Throughout his time in prison, Andrew was concerned for others. He asked us to look after his family, and pray that his parents would come to faith (which they did!). He raised money so kids could have surgery, designed T-shirts to give to people, and encouraged people facing hard times. We laughed a lot during our visits. Laughter was one of Andrew's gifts. Joy and laughter.

In prison, Andrew's faith journey came back. Luke gave him a Bible and told him to read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. That's how it all started and he went from strength to strength. Andrew helped lead the church in the prison and also ran regular Bible studies. For years, Andrew studied for a Bachelor of Theology degree and, before he was executed, was ordained as a pastor after completing his studies. To me, this just reinforces the work God did in his life.

When a person is on death row, nobody usually challenges them too much but I would have some hard conversations with Andrew, about the faith he professed and his actions. I would journey with him, challenge him, and press down. It was firm love, as much as it was good times and laughter. Our close relationship gave me permission to do this.

There were so many people who also invested in Andrew during his time in prison. For this, and for the impact they had on Andrew, all the glory goes to God, and God alone. In particular, an Australian family (living in Bali), Ann and Alan Wilkins and their kids, would talk with Andrew every day and visit him regularly. They were a big influence in his life, supporting, encouraging and mentoring him. They are like family to us now, a connection through Andrew.

Towards the end, Andrew wasn't down and gloomy; he was strong for everyone else. He was assured of his eternal destiny. It changed everything. As much as he wanted to be around, knowing eternity was waiting for him





took him out of a lot of pain. We were hopeful a miracle would happen, of course; even right at the end we thought there was a chance. But it didn't work out the way we were thinking and hoping.

A month before Andrew was moved to Nusakambangan Island, just prior to execution, I asked him what he would like at his funeral, if it came to that. He didn't want to talk about it as we were praying for the complete opposite, that his life would be spared. He did write the gist of what he wanted though, and I took some notes of our conversation. Andrew wanted a salvation message to honour and glorify God – no pressure at a funeral! I also wanted to honour God through it all and spoke on the fundamentals of salvation – the things Andrew knew and would want people to know.

Was I angry at God when Andrew was executed? Yes! I knew that God could have saved Andrew and chose not to. So many things happened before the execution that we thought God was in it and it wouldn't happen. But it did happen. I was so shocked and devastated that God didn't save him. Why didn't God intervene for Andrew when he knew thousands of Christians were praying for him? He chose not to, and I will never know

why. I couldn't lose my faith over that question and just had to push forward. God doesn't want his children to suffer but he can use anything, terrible or good, for his glory. Through this, though, I've learned that if you're going to be angry with God you've got to be angry with God and stay close to him. It's dangerous being angry at God and pushing him away at the same time because you just put a wedge between you and him and risk losing your faith. I knew that to do what was best for the kingdom was to keep at it and not give up my faith. That's what Andrew did; he kept sharing his faith. The whole thing, though, is not about Andrew, it's about Christ.

Andrew wasn't a perfect person, but God is in the business of transforming lives and he turned Andrew from someone who was self-seeking and who lived two lives, to a caring, selfless, honest, wise man of God.

God is definitely in the business of second chances and praise God, Andrew took his chance to turn his life around for God's glory! ■

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**Mark Soper** is leader of Menai Corps in Sydney.  
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**(Far left): Andrew and Feby,** who married only hours before he was executed. (Above from left): Mark and Andrew as children, Soper brothers Luke and Mark with Andrew; the Kerobokan prison in Bali, Indonesia.



# Surfing lessons.

How a surfboard helped  
a shy kid become Salvos chief

WORDS | BILL SIMPSON

**H**e didn't realise it at the time, but hanging five toes upon the nose of his Malibu surfboard as a boy was, in a way, preparing new National Chief Secretary Colonel Mark Campbell for Salvation Army leadership. Mark was 11 when he got his first board, handed down from an older brother. More than 40 years later, he still has three boards stacked in his surfing shed at home in Sydney. Two are shorter boards from his teenage years and the third a new longer board – for better balance! A self-confessed surfing tragic, Mark also has a 1964 EH Holden sedan in his garage to get him and his boards to and from the beach.

Raised within 1km of Corrimal Beach, in the northern suburbs of Wollongong on the NSW South Coast, Mark was on the beach and in the surf almost every suitable day in his early years. "What I learned was keep to the basics, hold on, go with the flow, pick your waves and your wins," he says. "I knew that I would be in deep water, at times, but I knew that there would be people around me. That's what I have learned from surfing that I take into life." They are lessons realised and understood now, but they were not obvious to a boy at the time.

Sitting among the waves and catching the occasional one was probably the most comfortable place in the young Mark Campbell's life. On land and among people

was not so easy for an "awkward" teenager. His shyness could be overwhelming. He often felt he had little, if anything, to offer. He links that to a "suppressive" father. "Whatever I did was not good enough (for his father). He always saw a flaw in what I did. If I made something at school, he would say that I should have done better. I had a car accident in my teens. I hit a pedestrian. When I got home, I was really nervy. All he was interested in was whether I had put a dent in the car.

He didn't care how I felt. That's how life was at home." Mark took refuge in himself. He felt incapable of doing anything right. He found it difficult to communicate publicly. "I felt I was unworthy. I didn't have any confidence. I thought people would see the flaws in me all the time."

## BATTLING SHYNESS

Salvation Army friends of his mother encouraged Mark and his siblings to attend an Army Sunday school. Mark learned a musical instrument and became involved in the Wollongong Corps junior and then senior band. He remained incredibly shy. Talking with others was uncomfortable. But a change was coming.

In 1979, Majors Errol and Dorothy Woodbury were appointed Corps Officers at Wollongong. They brought with them three daughters ▶

*'I think of God as a God of miracles. He worked a miracle in my life. We should never limit ourselves to what God can do'*



**(Opposite page) A passion** for surfing and old cars helps keep life in balance for Colonel Mark Campbell, the new National Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army. Photos: Shairon Paterson





and a son. Mark was attracted to one of the daughters, Julie. He was now in his late teens. The attraction was returned. But Mark was too shy to approach Julie, so she and her sisters, Wendy and Janelle, engineered a plan to bring the couple together. The relationship blossomed and all was going well – until Julie revealed that she had been called to become a Salvation Army officer. There was no way, Mark thought, that he could join Julie at officer training college. How, he thought, could somebody like him – somebody who had been told as a boy that he wasn't good at anything – be worthy of God's calling on his life.

Julie, meanwhile, was convinced of her calling. Over the next few years as she prepared for her training, Julie and Mark struggled with their relationship. It was a strong relationship, but Julie was not prepared to turn back on an agreement with God to accept his plan for her life. Eventually, she ended their romantic arrangement. "When we broke up for the third and final time, it was to be fair to both of us," Julie says. "I told the Lord that I was going to the training college without Mark. We were

going to take different roads. I believed that would be the end of that."

#### GOD'S CALL

Mark was devastated. But, he thought, there was no way he could save the relationship without agreeing to something he believed he could not do. He went surfing, instead! While on a Gold Coast holiday, he read a book with a chapter entitled "Men in the ministry". It changed some of his thinking about himself.

"When I was going out with Julie, I jokingly said that I would be an officer if I lost my job. Three months later, the company I worked for closed down. So, now, I had lost my job, lost Julie and I didn't have a decent home life. I thought that maybe this was God taking away my security and saying something to me about being a man in ministry. I made a decision there and then. I rang Julie and said I needed to talk to her about the future."

Julie was surprised by what Mark had to say. He was convincing. One month later, they were engaged. Three months later, they were



**Colonel Mark Campbell** and his wife Julie (left) with The Salvation Army's world leaders, General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox (centre), and national leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd.



married. Nine months later, they were at officer training college – together. It was, says Mark, a miracle. He struggled through college and in his first officer appointments. But, always, he remembered his surfing lessons: “... keep to the basics, hold on, when in deep water there will be people around (to help).” And he discovered that in the difficult times, there really were people around to help.

His confidence grew from appointment to appointment. He became the Australia Eastern Territorial Communications and Public Relations Secretary – the public face and voice of the Army, meeting with prime ministers, premiers and business and community leaders, and making television and radio appearances. He became a leader of men and women in ministry. His opinions and advice were accepted and respected. They were no longer seen for their flaws, but for their value.

“You can’t manufacture this kind of change just by increasing your skills base,” Mark says. “God has transformed me beyond my wildest dreams. It is God’s miracle. God can do anything. I think of God as a God of miracles. He worked a miracle in my life. We should never limit ourselves to what God can do.”

#### PRAGMATIC LEADER

Since his days as Australia Eastern Communications and Public Relations Secretary, Mark has been a Divisional Commander (South Queensland), Territorial Business Administration Secretary, Chief Secretary and then Chief Secretary-in-Charge (Australia Eastern Territory) and now National Chief Secretary. Before her appointment as National Secretary for Women’s Ministries, Julie was Training Principal of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Officer Training School.

Colonels Mark and Julie Campbell are respected and loved in the Australia Eastern



#### Adapting surfing to life,

Mark says: ‘What I learned was keep to the basics, hold on, go with the flow, pick your waves and your wins.’

Territory. They are looking forward to getting to know people from the Southern Territory as the two territories work toward unification. “I am a down-to-earth and pragmatic leader who likes to get on with the mission at hand,” Mark says. “I am not afraid of the hard questions or conversations, as long as it helps to advance the Kingdom of God. I think I am seen as reliable and genuine; a can-do type of person.”

A few months ago, the Sydney training college held an all-day gala event in its grounds. Parking was limited, so the college arranged for people to park at a nearby shopping centre. A college mini-bus was used to ferry people from the shopping centre to the college. A Facebook follower commented: “The bus driver picks up a small group of us and, as conversation, I say to the driver, ‘It must be nice to get a cruisey job driving folks around

*‘I knew that I would be in deep water, at times, but I knew that there would be people around me. That’s what I have learned from surfing that I take into life’*

... you must be connected’. The driver laughs and says that he works at THQ (Territorial Headquarters), and that he must know somebody (to get the cruisey job). My wife points out that (the driver) is Colonel Mark Campbell (Chief Secretary). Oops!”

And that is Mark Campbell – very comfortable and accommodating driving a mini-bus to help people or playing his part in driving The Salvation Army toward a national territory. ■

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**Bill Simpson** is a contributing writer for *Others* magazine.  
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# Changing lives around the world.

Video team sees impact of Self Denial Appeal

WORDS | SIMONE WORTHING



## **Michelle Watts, Self Denial Appeal**

Production Manager, sees first hand the transformations made possible by the appeal in some of the world's poorest countries.

**T**here is no question as to whether the Self Denial Appeal is effective in what it does, says Michelle Watts, a video director/producer and Self Denial Appeal production manager for The Salvation Army. “By travelling to some of the poorest areas in the world, we are blessed to be able to tell people’s stories and show their faces. It’s authentic, it’s powerful and it brings about real change. Thousands of people have benefitted from this appeal and without these funds, so many of the people we have met would still be starving, homeless, uneducated, and sick.”

“Love Changes Lives” is the 2017 theme for The Salvation Army’s annual Self Denial Appeal. The six-week video and devotional series, that launches online and in corps on 26 February, shows how funds raised through the appeal are used to support projects and the mission of the Army in developing communities around the world.

The videos, which are produced for the tri-territories of Australia Eastern, Australia Southern, and New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga, this year show how Salvation Army programs are changing lives in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Mexico. The four stories will focus, respectively, on how education, shelter, opportunity and Jesus is changing lives. The series opens with a video on how compassion changes lives, and concludes on Self Denial Sunday, 2 April, with a presentation on how giving changes lives. The projects shown in the videos are examples of the international work of the Army in both community development projects, which are tax-deductible, and mission or welfare projects, which are not. Commissioner Brian Peddle, The Salvation Army’s Chief of the Staff, presents part of the introductory video this year. “Our mission in the world is to make a difference and bring transformation and change lives of individuals through faith and a better way of living,” he says. “Salvationists around the world have a responsibility to be a part of this transforming reality.”

#### APPEALING TO KIDS

Animated resources produced specially for children are an exciting new development of the appeal this year. Illustrator Rod Allen

and his team, based at The Salvation Army in Sydney, have collaborated with other Army departments in Melbourne, New Zealand, to produce an animated Agents of T.R.U.T.H. series of videos complete with live footage shot in the countries of focus. The aim is to teach children aged 3-10 about the Self Denial Appeal and how they can make a difference.

“For me, it’s all about making the Self Denial Appeal fun and special for children and showing them how giving is important,” says Rod. “It’s about making kids aware, at their level, of what is going on in the world, the importance of looking outside what they have, and providing a grounding in giving.”

Rod wrote the scripts, prepared all the images, and arranged the storyboards. Footage taken on-site by Michelle and her video team was then incorporated into the final production. “The live footage must be included so the videos aren’t fantasy,” Rod explains. “If it’s all a cartoon, it’s not real. Adding in live footage sends a powerful message.”

Leaders notes for each week, money boxes, activity sheets, puzzles, certificates and other resources are also available online. “We hope that the message gets across that love – through Jesus, education, shelter and opportunity – changes lives,” says Rod. “We hope kids see that The Salvation Army is changing lives through Self Denial and they can be a part of it too.”

To download the resources or to order the DVDs for children, go to [selfdenial.info](http://selfdenial.info) ■



**Salvation Army illustrator,** Rod Allen, hopes that the animated Self Denial Appeal videos for children will help them see that they, too, can be a part of changing lives.







## It's a party at Summer Carnival.

WORDS | ANTHONY CASTLE

**S**ummer Carnival has been the annual Southern Territorial Youth Councils for six years, and is a landmark moment for teens across the territory. This year was no different, and from 9-13 January nearly 400 teens and volunteers experienced a life-changing week of fun and ministry.

Held at Phillip Island Adventure Resort, Summer Carnival was all about partaking in God's party and his great feast found in Luke 14 that says, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 14:15b).

"The story is particularly powerful for young people today," says Territorial Youth Secretary Captain Craig Farrell. "This story shows that God's Kingdom is a celebration to which we are all invited, even if you're different or if you smell. It's a joyful celebration for everyone. Everyone gets an ice cream."

Captain Rowan Castle conceived the first Summer Carnival as former Territorial Youth Secretary, and while times have changed, the central theme of God's Kingdom has not.





Among the guest speakers at Summer Carnival were (from far left) Captain Lisa Barnes (USA Western Territory), Captain Craig Farrell (Southern Territorial Youth Secretary) and Fulton Hawk (USA Western Territory). (Left) This year's Summer Carnival delegates in party mode. Photos: Jacob Dyer

“The story of the Great Feast was actually the theme at the very first Summer Carnival in 2012,” Captain Farrell said. “This parable seemed to have such a radical message. Most parties are by invitation only and you usually invite people who make you comfortable. But this story is about a party where everyone is invited, particularly those who are poor and outcast. While some things have changed at Summer Carnival, the message remains the same. The message is God’s love.”

The message of God’s love was communicated across eight sessions by guest speakers, addressing topics like salvation, holiness and mission.

“Captain Rowan Castle opened the event and National Commander Floyd Tidd closed the event,” Captain Farrell said. “Captain Lisa Barnes was here from the United States and Summer Carnival favourite Fulton Hawk was back from Hawaii, too. Each night, the speakers invited the campers to respond and make decisions for faith.” This message is also structured into the way that the event is organised. Summer Carnival is designed to be a welcoming, safe, and interactive

event. “The event itself is a reflection of God’s Kingdom,” Captain Farrell said. “It’s a party. There is music, games and Wednesday afternoon even has carnival rides and water slides. We try our hardest to genuinely make the event like a party, because that’s what the story of the Great Feast teaches us about the Kingdom.”

The responses from this year’s carnival suggest that this approach is seeing results. The carnival recorded that 28 campers made decisions to follow Jesus, 21 campers recommitted to faith, six campers decided to become soldiers and six campers decided to consider officership. Youth leaders and corps officers continue to report on the momentum the event creates for ministry.

“Summer Carnival has ministry outcomes we’re proud of,” Captain Farrell said. “If we can experience God’s Kingdom in our lives, then we really are the new party.” ■

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**Anthony Castle** is a resource writer for the Australia Southern Territory Youth Department  
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# Messengers of Compassion begin officer training.

As the newly commissioned officers from the *Joyful Intercessors* sessions take up their first appointments across Australia, another group of Salvationists embark on their journey to becoming Salvation Army officers. Twelve cadets of the *Messengers of Compassion* session have begun their residential training at the School for Officer Training colleges in Sydney and Melbourne.

## Booth College SYDNEY ▼



**Star Conliffe and Charlie Jung**  
with their daughter, Audrey.  
– Belconnen Corps, ACT



**Ashley and Rita Biermann**  
– Bayside Community  
Church, Qld



**Hayley Cooke**  
– Brisbane City Temple/  
Taree Corps, Qld



**Peter and Andrea Martin**  
with their sons (not present  
for photo), Isaac and Joshua  
– Northlakes Corps, NSW

## Catherine Booth College MELBOURNE ▼



**Aaron and Keryn Coombes**  
with their children, Amelia  
and Brody.  
– Arndale Corps, SA



**Mitchell and Sally Stevens**  
with three children (not present  
for photo) Seth, Levi and Nate.  
– Floreat Corps, WA



**Graham Kennedy**  
– Hamilton Corps, Vic

*“Be kind and  
compassionate to one  
another, forgiving  
each other, just as  
in Christ God  
forgave you.”*

*Ephesians 4:32*



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## What happened to Emily Jackson?

*Mystery surrounds officer who worked with nursing service*

WORDS | LAUREN MARTIN

**In researching the history** of Salvation Army nurses in the Australian Army Nursing Service, Salvationist author Dennis Garland has stumbled upon a mystery. While “Fighting Mac” and Simpson and his donkey are well-known World War One heroes, Dennis has found very few Salvationists, let alone members of the general public, who are aware of a unique band of Salvation Army officer women who served in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS).

Those women were seven Australian Salvation Army officer/nurses – Ensigns Georgina Collins, Olive May Eggleston, Jane Gant, Isabel Henderson, Mildred Ellen Lawrence, Alice May Toft and Emily Jackson. Uniquely, while remaining officer/nurses of The Salvation Army, they also served as nurses in the AANS. It appears that no other religious order contributed nurses in this way to this arm of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

The story of the seven will come to light in due course, in a book being written by Dennis. However, it may well need be classified within the “mystery” genre due the apparent disappearance of one of the nurses. Ensign Emily Jackson entered the Melbourne Training Home at the age of 32 on 3 March 1910, from Prahran Corps, and was appointed to The Salvation Army’s Bethesda Hospital in Melbourne on 9 January 1911. She enlisted in the AANS on 7 December 1916. Emily was 38 when she enlisted and was the oldest of the seven Salvation Army Officer/Nurses with the AANS. Interestingly, while the other six ensigns moved around during their time with the service, all of Emily’s service was in India. She was posted by the AANS to Bombay, arriving on 15 January 1917, and was immediately assigned to the Cumballa War Hospital, Bombay. On 9 February 1917, she was transferred to the Alexandra War Hospital, Bombay, then on 20 July she was posted to the Victoria War Hospital, Bombay.

On 10 July 1918, Emily was admitted to



**Ensign Emily Jackson**, who served in Bombay with the Australian Army Nursing Service.

hospital, and because of her illness was repatriated to Australia on 18 August 1918. She was discharged medically unfit from the AANS on 4 December 1918, having served just two and a half years. Emily resigned her commission in The Salvation Army just over a month later, on 22 September 1918.

After this, Emily seems to vanish from history. What happened to her after the war? No one seems to know. Unfortunately, in Colonel John Bond’s book, *The Army That Went With The Boys*, Emily Jackson is omitted. This even though he includes Letitia Moreton, a non-Salvationist nurse who trained at Bethesda in Melbourne.

In his research, Dennis has spoken with Melbourne University Academic, Dr Kirsty Harris, who revealed she has discovered that Emily had travelled to England in 1939. As yet, Dennis is unable to find out what she was doing between her discharge and the travel to England. “Emily remains an enigma,” says Dennis, “and for an historian an infuriating one at that.”

Anyone with information about Emily Jackson, or any of the nurses mentioned, is asked to contact Dennis Garland at [dennisg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dennisg@bigpond.net.au) ■

## How to recognise a good review.

*Culture writing, from a Christian perspective, should reflect God back to us*

WORDS

MARK HADLEY



◀ **Free State of Jones**, the story of an American Civil War medic, had a worldview that was plain to see.

It was **Father's Day** at the local primary school. That is to say, my son and his eight-year-old peers were invited to bring their fathers to class so they could benefit from meeting a diverse range of men – Dad “Show And Tell”, if you like. So, I dutifully lined up at the front of the classroom with a number of equally uncomfortable men and waited as the teacher asked each of us our jobs.

The first man was a plumber. I was envious; his occupation was so easy to explain. The second man was the manager

of a box factory. Again, lots of nods from the sea of fresh faces. Then the teacher came to me. “Mr Hadley, could you tell the children what you do?” Now I’m a scriptwriter and reviewer; how was I supposed to explain that? So I took a deep breath and I answered: “Children, I watch TV for a living.”

Apparently, I now represent the single most envied occupation in my son’s school. The teachers, however, are wondering how they can regain the initiative and turn their children’s minds

back to more sensible pursuits. I can appreciate their professional disdain. How could – why *would* – anyone make a living out of playing with popular culture? It happens to be the same criticism I’ve consistently received from the Christian community over the past 20 years: Why would a believer devote their precious time to considering film and TV?

It’s not just a question of whether reviewing is a “real job” but whether writing and reading about popular culture is a justifiable use of a believer’s time.

It's certainly fair to ask. Jesus told his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Luke 10:2). The time is short and souls hang in the balance. We might watch TV to relax, but why would we work our grey cells over anything as trivial as the idiot box? And I would be the first to agree that much which passes as review, even by Christian writers, is self-indulgent at best and idolatry at worst. But assuming there is something worth reading out there, how do you recognise a good review?

Firstly, if you read a review in this publication that gushes over the acting, the camera angles, the director's previous work, the special effects – in short, one that is indistinguishable from anything that might be printed in *Empire* magazine – you have my permission to write a letter to the editor. You can rightly expect more from publications promising to draw you closer to God. But secondly, the same can be said about reviews that are laundry lists of swear words uttered, sexual acts witnessed and violence observed. Unexamined umbrage is just as unhelpful as unadulterated worship.

Thirdly, there is a type of review that looks like mature Christianity but still manages to miss the boat. It observes the presence of a villain or a deliverance worthy of consideration, but uses them as a pretext to leap straight to a Bible passage without once trying to engage with what the film makers might believe. Their approach can be particularly simple – "It's got a hero, and we've got a hero in Jesus!" – or intensely intellectual – "The battle between Harry Potter and Voldemort is a criticism of Western extravagance!" – but both authors are divers looking for springboards.



◀ **Matthew McConaughey** plays the life of Newton Knight in the American Civil War drama *Free State of Jones*.

'A good review is one that helps uncover a worldview – the perspective a story takes on life, that affects its approach to a dozen moral and spiritual questions'

No, a good review is one that helps uncover a worldview – the perspective a story takes on life, that affects its approach to a dozen moral and spiritual questions. The worldviews of some films are plain to see; they drive the plot – like last year's *Free State Of Jones*, for example. It's the story of an American Civil War field medic who deserts when he realises the poor are dying to preserve the riches of the upper class. His Christian convictions tell him that all men are equal, including the African American slaves who are being abused, and so he establishes a free state in which all people can live as God intended. He believes God's commands are so universal and important that they are worth both fighting and dying for.

The worldviews of other films are much harder to see – like that belonging to *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them*. This adult fantasy for Harry Potter fans, which featured on the big screen late last year, introduced us to Newt Scamander, an eccentric wizard visiting New York in the 1920s. On the surface, the film is about a suitcase full of magical creatures who accidentally get loose. However, ▶







◀ **Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them**, starring Eddie Redmayne and Katherine Waterston, had an unclear worldview.

we soon learn the biggest danger is an Obscurial, a dark force created when a magical child is repeatedly forced to deny his or her identity. In J.K. Rowling's universe the "Obscurist" is a dangerous person who has been fundamentally damaged by others' prejudices.

Cinemasgoers end up revelling in a world where suppressing your essential nature – who you believe yourself to be – is the worst thing someone can do to you. And it doesn't take an O.W.L. from Hogwarts to realise how the world will apply that to Christian teachings.

Once you understand the worldview behind a piece of pop culture, you're in the best position to decide what spiritual encouragement or threat it actually represents. In fact, the best reviews will teach you how to find those worldviews for yourself. Understanding what's going on in a film is very much like talking to a teenager. It's all in the questions you ask. If you'd like to have a go at unmasking a worldview yourself, begin by asking these three:

1. What does the film have to say about God?

2. What does the film have to say about good and evil?

3. What does the film have to say about me?

Thinking it through, alone and with friends, will lead you to digest rather simply consume popular culture. For parents, though, the real question is what films might be feeding their kids. I regularly speak to parents and other carers about the effects popular culture has on their children. The most common question I get asked is, "How can I prepare my kids for the messages film and TV contain?" The answer, once again, is teaching them to not just passively observe but ask questions about what they see.

The purpose of training our minds to uncover worldviews is to compare and contrast them with Jesus' view. Christianity has a rich tradition of using those answers to make openings for the Gospel, beginning with the Apostle Paul. In Acts 17, Paul finds himself in Athens, the ancient capital of worldviews where the populace, "... spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas". Paul visits the

marketplace, the deepest concentration of popular culture, sees an altar to 'An Unknown God' and realises this means that the Athenians acknowledge their knowledge is limited. So he tells them about God, beginning by reflecting their own entertainments back to them: "[God] is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring'" (Acts 17:27-28).

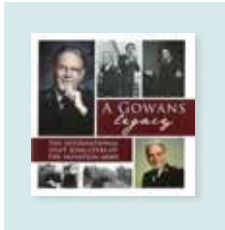
Paul uncovers a good thing in Athens' popular culture – God cares for us – and in so doing, uncovers God for his audience. You can do the same when you realise that every positive that appears in a film or TV show is a potential pathway to God, because all good things are a reflection of God's character. They may well be imperfect pictures but, like fragments of a broken mirror, they still reflect him back to us. Now, if you can find a review that helps you do that for someone you know, then it's definitely a worthy read. ■

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

## New releases

1

### A Gowans Legacy - International Staff Songsters By Kimberley Douglass



The International Staff Songsters are the premier choir of The Salvation Army, with a mission to portray the gospel of Jesus Christ

and communicate his love through song. Their latest album, *A Gowans Legacy*, is a compilation of much-loved songs penned by John Gowans, the 16th General of The Salvation Army, and is a must-have addition to any choral music collection.

The majority of the music included in this album has been composed by General John Larsson (Ret). Old favourites such as *They Need Christ* and *To Be Like Jesus* demonstrate the repertoire of the renowned musical duo, Gowans and Larsson. In addition, the album includes previously published songs in new musical settings by Gavin Whitehouse (*Adoration, Praise and Thanksgiving*) and Mark Hayes (*You Can't Stop God from Loving You*).

The initial suggestion for the album came from Commissioner Arthur Thompson (Ret.), the former Executive Officer of the International Staff Band, and was met with excitement by Dorothy Nancekievill, the International Staff Songster Leader. This passion for the work of General Gowans is evident throughout the recording as the songsters sing these much-loved lyrics with great care and precision, along with outstanding accompaniment.

In her introduction to the album, Dorothy remarks that the purpose of the album is to encourage the listener

to reflect on their spiritual experience; to be inspired to make a difference in the lives of others and through singing these words become part of the "Gowans Legacy".

As a young Salvationist, I have been blessed by sublime musicality of the International Staff Songsters, paired with the never-fading biblical truths contained in the songs of General Gowans. I was particularly struck by *You Can't Stop God from Loving You*, based on Romans 8:38-39; a wonderful reminder of God's unfailing love for his people.

*A Gowans Legacy* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney ([thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au) or phone 02 9466 3257) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne ([commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](http://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au) or phone 1800 100 018).

2

### Leading the War: Salvation Army Officership as Vocational Extremism - Commissioner James Knaggs and Stephen Court



While many in the world of faith often seek an easy path, Commissioner James Knaggs and Stephen Court posit an alternative worldview for

building the Kingdom of God – Salvation Army officership. In their book, *Leading the War: Salvation Army officership as Vocational Extremism*, the authors take no prisoners and hold no punches as they present their global findings regarding the look of officership in the 21st century. A must-read for current officers and anyone

willing to accept God's call to full-time service as a Salvation Army officer. A kindle version of *Leading the War: Salvation Army Officership as Vocational Extremism* can be purchased from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$5.30.

3

### Sheng Fang - The Place of Victory - James A Gilman



*Sheng Fang – The Place of Victory* by James A. Gilman is an inspirational story of pioneer Salvationism in 1920s China. Previously published in Chinese by Gold

Wall Press in Beijing, this English edition celebrates the centenary of the start of Salvation Army ministry in China.

James describes himself as a "big-nosed foreign devil" set down in the middle of a Chinese village in 1922. His task was to bring the gospel of Christ to people of a different culture, language and religion in a region ravaged by flood, famine and political turmoil.

His story is one of heartache, joy, adventure, terror, isolation, fellowship, faith, doubt, the clash of cultures and meeting of minds. It is inspiring, disturbing, questioning, yet ultimately affirming the value of practical Christian ministry in the remotest regions, as well as in the most crowded of cities.

*The Place of Victory* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney ([thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au) or phone 02 9466 3257).

## Commissioner urges new officers to be salt and light in the world

BY SCOTT SIMPSON AND  
JESSICA MORRIS

Twenty-one new officers of The Salvation Army in Australia, members of the *Joyful Intercessors* session of cadets, have been ordained and commissioned in ceremonies held in Brisbane (Australia Eastern Territory) and Melbourne (Australia Southern Territory) in December. Both ceremonies were conducted by the Army's national leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd.

On both occasions, Commissioner Floyd Tidd chose to use the Bible passage from John 17 as the basis of his message to the new officers. "Jesus has prayed for you, that you who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour would be protected by the name of Jesus, pure in your purpose, sanctified by his Word and positioned in the world, as salt and light," he said.

"God has not called you to a journey that is easy and comfortable. In fact, he's called you to take up a cross. In that very declaration there is an understanding that you enter into a dangerous calling; you enter into that which will take everything out of you; you enter into a life of sacrifice and surrender, but at the same time Jesus says I have prayed that you will be protected.

"So, when you feel intimidated, when you're uncertain, when you're feeling separated and alone, call on the name of Je-



*(Above) Lieutenants Lloyd and Sally Stanimirovic are Commissioned as officers by Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd. Photo: Carolyn Hide*



*(Left) Lieutenant Elizabeth Kang shares her testimony at Commissioning in Melbourne. Photo: Major Graham Maxfield*

sus, because it is in his name that you have been ordained as a minister of the gospel."

Lieutenant Elizabeth Kang spoke on behalf of her session in Melbourne. Born in Sudan, she talked about her life as a refugee in a Christian minority and how The Salvation Army provided for her family when no one else could. "Wherever I went in Sudan and then in Lebanon and now here in Australia, God was and is still using me," she said. Referring to the moment when she understood that God was calling her to become a Salvation Army officer, her response was: "Whatever it takes; let your will be done, Lord."

In Brisbane, Lieutenant Ben Knight spoke, telling of how as a five-year-old he knelt with his father and gave his

life to Christ for the first time, and of an upbringing of blessing in The Salvation Army. Where, however, is the story of transformation in that, he asked? The answer, he continued, is found in understanding what his life would have been like had he never accepted Christ as his Saviour. "You see, if I had never met Jesus, if I had never been forgiven by him, then I'd be a completely different man standing here today," Lieut Knight said. "I'd be a man without purpose, a man without direction, and a man without hope.

"Praise God that I now know my life is a transformation story, that the Holy Spirit has done a work in my life, that I do have a purpose that is found in serving a God who loves me."



## Territorial financial chief takes on international role



After 16 years working as The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ian Minnett (pictured) will take up a new position as International Project Director with the Army's International Headquarters.

While Ian's position will be based at his home office in Sydney, he will travel to territories across the Army world to implement a new accounting software program and fresh accounting policies.

"The territories that need help financially from IHQ need more technical support in their reporting systems. There are multitudes of different accounting software out there throughout the world and, at the moment, it takes three years for an IHQ audit," he says.

The new software program will enable IHQ to access up-to-date financial information from each territory, which will assist IHQ with making financial decisions.

In particular, Ian says access to fresh information will help territories become financially sustainable.

"The Army needs to be aware of where the money is being sent and how it's helping those territories," Ian says. "A lot of these territories need to stand on their own two feet.

This is what is important for helping the Army long term. IHQ can't possibly provide funding forever for all of these territories. So we're collectively trying to help them become more sustainable."

## Freedom Partnership's Laura Vidal earns Churchill Fellowship honour



The Salvation Army Freedom Partnership campaign coordinator, Laura Vidal (pictured), has been awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to develop policies, practices and strategies to help end early and forced marriage in Australia.

One of 106 Australians who have been awarded a fellowship, Laura will have the opportunity to visit countries such as the United States, Kenya, Canada, Sri Lanka, Denmark and the United Kingdom to research these nations' response to early and forced marriage.

"The size and scale of early and forced marriage in Australia has significantly increased since it was criminalised in 2013,"

explained Laura. "Criminalising the practice to prevent it is only one part of a complete response, but a great deal more work needs to be done, particularly for 15 to 18-year-olds, who are most commonly affected."

"This is a complex issue, and there is no simple solution, but for the Churchill Trust to recognise the importance of Australia enhancing its approach, is just outstanding."

"It will provide me with an opportunity to develop nuance and holistic responses, while building international networks to benefit and uphold the rights of individuals at risk."

The Freedom Partnership, launched in 2014, seeks to end modern-day slavery practices in Australia. For more information, go to [endslavery.salvos.org.au](http://endslavery.salvos.org.au) – Esther Pinn

## Major Weymouth retires after 41 years of influential service



After 41 years of service, Major Jim Weymouth (pictured with wife Marion) celebrated his retirement at Catherine Booth College in Melbourne with more than 85 friends, family and colleagues, who recounted his great influence.

The Director at the School for Learning and Development since 2012, he has been integral to the development of the new college.

Formerly a teacher, and with degrees in economics, psychology, business, education and theology, Major Weymouth's passion for education was celebrated by Training Principal and Chair of Catherine Booth College, Major Greg Morgan who commented that "Jim has not only

been a gift to The Salvation Army in Australia, but a gift to The Salvation Army around the world."

Major Weymouth spent 29 years working in officer education and training, 21 years as a major, and 14 years serving in overseas appointments – first at the Chikankata School in Zambia between 1978-1985, and later, between 2005-2012, as the Educational Service Secretary at Hong Kong and Macaw then the Training Principal in Zambia.

Learning and Development consultant Janelle Murley noted his significant contribution to the updated candidate appraisal system, procedures in the both the southern and eastern territories, and changes to be implemented with Australia One.

Speaking fondly of his time as an officer, he spoke of God's great work in the Army. "If God is in every word that has been spoken ... then God is in everything," Major Weymouth said.

– Jessica Morris

## Making Salvos mission festive



*The forum at the Festival of Mission involved a number of leaders of the Church and drew an audience of about 150 people.*

**The Festival of Mission**, an event which celebrates the various streams of Salvation Army mission, was held in North Mel-

bourne on 11 December.

The festival, staged at the historic Meat Market, is purposely held following the

Commissioning of Salvation Army cadets in the Southern Territory to engage young adults and youth through showcasing the missional side of the Salvos with a variety of exhibits, guest speakers, artistic performances, plus food and coffee.

More than 150 people took the time to hear from a variety of guest speakers, including Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Reverend Tim Costello, John Cleary, Dr Wilma Gallet, Dr Mick Pope, Major David Eldridge, Major Gregory Morgan, Brooke Prentis and Vince Ross.

“It’s not our mission,” commented Floyd Tidd, The Salvation Army’s national commander. “It’s God’s mission, that God had invited us to participate in; it was Jesus Christ’s mission to love the world for God. When the Spirit comes, people’s lives change,” he said. “God has placed his mission into the hands of his followers.”

The festival was a collaborative effort by Catherine Booth College, the Southern Territory’s department of youth, emerging faith communities, and the social justice department.

– **Barry Gittins**

## Stories help bring Salvos bushfire recovery centre to closure

**Remembering and sharing stories** was the focus at the closing ceremony of The Salvation Army’s Bushfire Recovery Centre in Faulconbridge, Blue Mountains last December.

Since the bushfires in October 2013, the centre has helped nearly 600 households who were affected by the natural disaster.

Over 130 people, including many who lost their homes, attended the recognition and thanksgiving service at Springwood Corps.

“It’s not the bricks and mortar, it’s your story that is gone,” said Tracey Greenaway, Faulconbridge Bushfire Recovery Centre manager.

The irreplaceable things are your family history, your achievements, anything to do with your identity or story.”

At the recognition service, individuals shared their story in the form of a poem, video, audio track, photo or personal item which were added to a history box, which will be archived at Springwood Corps for future generations to experience.

While the centre has officially closed, Springwood and Upper Blue Mountains Corps will remain as support systems for bushfire victims.

“The community is not the same. We’re still in recovery and it will continue for quite a few years,” said Tracey.

– **Esther Pinn**



*A Salvation Army volunteer comforts victims of the 2013 bushfire in the Blue Mountains.*

## Connecting with the global Army through the General's campaign

Can you imagine a world where every officer, soldier, adherent, employee, youth and child is actively spreading the news of the gospel? This is General André Cox's dream for The Salvation Army throughout 2017.

General Cox's dream has moved closer to reality with the recent launch of the 2017 Whole World Mobilising campaign. Spearheaded by World Secretary for Women's Ministries, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, this campaign aims to build on the momentum from the 2015 Boundless Congress and encourage Salvos to put their faith into action by ministering to their local communities in practical ways.

The heartbeat of this campaign is a website and accompanying app, which will help unite Salvos from across the world. There are four representatives across the

Army world who will be working on the digital aspects of the campaign, including two from the Australia Eastern Territory – Isabel Sandercock-Brown and Rebecca Flint.

"The General hopes that every Salvationist, that every community, has shared the gospel in one small way this way. He wants to see our churches expanding, churches thriving, our community grow and more people coming to Christ," said Isabel.

"There was a real energy after Boundless and a real celebration of 150 years, but knowing that we can't live on history forever, we want to keep moving forward," said Isabel. "One of the great things about Boundless is territories all around the world were in one spot. You can't have that all the time, but technol-

ogy means we can have an essence of that all the time."

The Whole World Mobilising website, which launched on 12 January, features Salvation Army events from across the world. There's also a blog, which is being filled with stories from global Salvos who are mobilising the mission and work of the Army. To accompany the website, an interactive Whole World Mobilising app will be launched in mid-February.

"It's about bringing it together as one Army so we can learn from one another, be inspired by one another and share with each other," said Isabel.

Take part in the Whole World Mobilising challenge by visiting the [mobilising.salvationarmy.org](http://mobilising.salvationarmy.org) website and downloading the app when it becomes available in mid-February.



# THE WHOLE WORLD MOBILISING

Download from the APP STORE

Download from GOOGLE PLAY

In 2017, The Salvation Army kicks off a year-long campaign to encourage Salvationists to connect with each other, celebrate the work being done around the world to share the gospel and equip them with tools and tips along the way. The Whole World Mobilising app and website will provide real-time updates on mobilisation activities, practical coaching, community and global prayer. Visit the website today and download the app for inspirational tools to daily put your faith into action.

[MOBILISING.SALVATIONARMY.ORG](http://MOBILISING.SALVATIONARMY.ORG)  [FACEBOOK.COM/MOBILISING](http://FACEBOOK.COM/MOBILISING) 



## Granville train disaster apology brings healing to victims' families



**Forty years after the** Granville train disaster, the NSW Government will officially apologise to the families affected by the derailment that killed 83 people.

On 18 January 1977, a commuter train derailed near Granville railway station, hitting a bridge which collapsed on carriages. In addition to those killed, 213 people were injured. The incident remains Australia's worst train disaster. A subsequent investigation revealed an alarming lack of investment into railroad maintenance

and infrastructure upgrades.

The Salvation Army was one of the first emergency services on the scene at the disaster (*pictured*). A team of 200 officers and Salvationists from across Sydney met the physical and spiritual needs of the rescuers and victims. More than 11,000 drinks and 7000 meals were offered, as well as many words of prayer. Beyond the disaster, the Army provided ongoing emotional support to bereaved families.

In light of the 40th anniversary of the

disaster, the government's apology will bring closure to many of the families who lost loved ones that day.

Former police rescuer Gary Raymond recalls the moment when a trapped passenger Debbie Skow asked him if she would ever get married and have children. Gary could see her severe injuries and not knowing how to respond, he said: "I don't know Debbie – only God knows." Gary said he didn't think Debbie would survive. Many years later, he was invited on a TV series called *Where Are They Now?* in which Debbie surprised Gary by introducing him to her husband and baby.

During Gary's time at the Granville rail site, he recalls receiving food provisions from The Salvation Army. Little did he know then that he would move on to become a volunteer Salvation Army chaplain, a member of the Army's suicide and bereavement board and a work, health and safety consultant for the Army. Gary's passion for seeing lives saved physically and spiritually has come through his faith in God and driven him to volunteer for organisations like the Army.

The Salvation Army has an extensive history in helping during times of disaster through its emergency services. For further information, go to [salvos.org.au/get-involved/emergency-services](http://salvos.org.au/get-involved/emergency-services).

– Esther Pinn

## Reporting on first year of new Salvation Army body

**Former Victorian deputy premier** and attorney-general Rob Hulls described the new statewide structure for Salvation Army social programs in Victoria as a consistent and holistic contribution to the care of marginalised people.

Speaking at the Victoria State Social Command's inaugural annual report event last year, Mr Hull welcomed the VSSC's efforts throughout 2016 and declared that "The Salvation Army must provide hope to those who need it most – the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and the homeless".

Encouraging Salvation Army members and staff to "lead, not just react", in providing wraparound services to those in need, Mr Hulls noted the \$122 million worth of services provided by 1100 employees and 63 officers. He described the restructure of the state social command as a consistent, holistic approach that presents a strong, united voice to the government of Victoria.

"For too long," he added, "services were delivered in silos; multi-disciplinary services are the way of the future and ho-

listic approaches are absolutely crucial – if we're fair dinkum about bringing in holistic social justice."

State social commander Major Michael Coleman said, "Victoria will be a state where we will doggedly hunt down and ameliorate the causes of social ills."

Launched in January 2016, the command helped some 5000 women and 1000 children through its Family and Domestic Violence services. More than 75 per cent of its work was funded through government funding.

## Freedom Partnership director to walk the Great Ocean Road in support of campaign



*Jenny Stanger, National Director of the Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery, is preparing to walk 40km of the Great Ocean Road later this month.*

## Salvos grant to develop men's action research project

The Salvation Army's Safe from the Start program has received a grant, in partnership with the University of Tasmania (UTAS), to develop their successful program specifically for men.

Safe from the Start is an evidence-based and early intervention Australian project, developed by The Salvation Army in partnership with UTAS in 2006-2009. The one-day training program has already been delivered in all Australian states at over 180 locations, and at The Salvation Army New Zealand and the UK. Over 900 resource kits have also been distributed throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK.

The Commonwealth Government Building Safe Communities for Women Program grant will fund an action research project to develop a specific men's flexible training module in consultation with key stakeholders, with an aim to increase awareness for men who use violence of the impact on their children.

The newly-developed program will encourage men to be caring dads and to educate them on the potential impacts their behaviour can have on their child's safety and well-being, health, confidence and future behaviour.

"We hope to develop a very clear message that will inspire all of us whether we are parents, grandparents, family members, workers or part of a faith community that we can all contribute to getting the message across that children deserve to be safe, loved and nurtured," said Nell Kuilenburg, Development and Research Manager for The Salvation Army's Tasmania Division.

"The project will produce a multi-purpose training module, and resource tools, which will be developed into a national training program. This can be implemented by Salvation Army social programs and corps including Doorways, Positive Lifestyle Program and Child Safe."

For more information, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart](http://salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart)  
– Simone Worthing

The Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery will join the team at Project Futures to host a 40km "freedom walk" from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles from 24-26 February.

This three-day walk along the Great Ocean Road on Victoria's south-west coast, will cover some of Australia's most spectacular and iconic scenery.

Walk participants will raise funds for the Freedom Partnership's work providing care and assistance to survivors of slavery.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to The Salvation Army's Trafficking and Slavery Safe House in Sydney. The house is Australia's only refuge for victims of modern slavery, slavery-like practices and human trafficking.

Jenny Stanger, National Director of

the Freedom Partnership, has taken up the challenge to complete the walk. "I am walking the Great Ocean Road because it is a demonstration of my commitment to be the change I want to see in the world, and to lead by example to do what is right, not what is easy," Jenny said.

"I have found that pushing ourselves to be involved in something that is bigger than us can often be transformative and meaningful in ways we did not expect."

Freedom Partnership team members, Sydney Hirt, Social Media Officer, and Heather Moore, National Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, will join Jenny on the walk. Cyndi Phan and Natalia George from Human Resources in Sydney are also doing the walk.

– Simone Worthing



# ENROLMENTS

## Send us your enrolment stories

We want to share your stories about recently enrolled junior and senior soldiers, and accepted adherents. Please send details, including date of enrolment, name of the corps or centre, name of enrolling officer(s), name of soldier(s) and/or adherent(s), and a high-resolution photo of the individual/group, to [others@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:others@aus.salvationarmy.org)

### CALOUNDRA CORPS

QLD



*Commissioner James Condon enrolls Jazmine as a junior soldier, with prayer partner Averyl Nero.*

Commissioner James Condon (Ret.), acting Corps Officer, recently enrolled Jazmine O'Neil as a junior soldier. Jazmine wanted to become a junior soldier "to get closer to God in the different things I do". Commissioner Condon also accepted Jazmine's mother, Nikki O'Neil as an adherent. "I have found a place to belong and a lovely congregation," said Nikki.

### WOLLONGONG CORPS

NSW



*A connection with music helped to draw Jason Follett back to The Salvation Army.*

Jason Follett was enrolled as a senior soldier by Corps Officer, Captain Phil Inglis, in November 2016. Jason had attended The Salvation Army with his family as a young boy about 30 years ago. He recently reconnected with the Army and began attending Wollongong Corps, became involved in its contemporary band and then the brass band, before making the decision to be enrolled.

### CESSNOCK CORPS

NSW



*New soldier Cascie Freeman with Cessnock Corps Officer, Lieut Darryn Lloyd.*

Cascie Freeman was enrolled as a senior soldier by Corps Officer, Lieutenant Darryn Lloyd, on 20 November. Cascie is already the corps Sunday School teacher and describes her experience as "stepping out in faith". She said: "I am nervous but trusting God's plan."



**BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CORPS**

QLD



Corps leader Natalie Frame (left), enrolls (left to right) Ollie, Emmerson, Kainne, Bailea, Isla, Rachael, and Kiara as junior soldiers. Effy Dadson is the flagbearer.

Corps leader, Cadet-in-Appointment Natalie Frame, recently enrolled seven junior soldiers. Several of the new junior soldiers have connected to the corps through its ministry at the local state school. One of the new junior soldiers insisted that her family bring her to church, with the whole family now attending and active in the corps.

**GOSNELLS CORPS**

WA



Maureen Stearn has been enrolled as a senior soldier at Gosnells Corps by Corps Officer, Major Elizabeth Wallis. Maureen is pictured above, holding her soldier's covenant, with Major Wallis.

**YORK CORPS**

WA



New senior soldier Damian Hudson holds his enrolment certificate after being enrolled by Major Denise Ashby (right). Mark Yates is holding The Salvation Army flag.

Damian Hudson was enrolled as a senior soldier by Corps Officer, Major Denise Ashby, on 13 November. "It has been a joy to the York Corps to see growth in Damian's life over the past few years and he briefly testified to the leading of God through some tough times in his journey to this day," said Major Ashby.

**SUNSHINE CORPS**

VIC



Sunshine Corps has enrolled two new soldiers, Hien Tran and her mother, Thanh Nguyen. They are pictured with Corps Officers, Lieutenants Colin and Phuong Reynolds.

**CAMPSIE CORPS**

NSW



Majors Bruce and Glenys Domrow (left), recruiting sergeant Des Pearse and Major Margaret Redmond (front and back row, right) with the new soldiers and adherents.

Majors Bruce and Glenys Domrow, Campsie Corps Officers, recently enrolled eight senior soldiers and accepted two adherents at this multicultural corps in south-western Sydney. After completing 10 weeks of soldiership classes, each participant had prayed about their commitment at a covenant Sunday.

**STAWELL CORPS**

VIC



Vivienne Savage has been enrolled as a senior soldier at Stawell Corps. Vivienne, pictured with Major Christine Agnew, has been attending the corps for the past three years.

## Thousands celebrate historic event in Kenya West



*The Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle (left) and then-Territorial Commander, Commissioner Kenneth Hodder, greet one of the groups that waited for the leaders on their journey from the airport to Kalamega in Kenya West. Photo: Major Brad Halse.*

BY MAJOR BRAD HALSE

**In an historic moment** for Kenya West Territory, the Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, recently opened a new officer training college and witnessed 152 new officers being commissioned.

Huge crowds of Salvationists and friends from throughout the territory travelled long distances to attend the two outdoor events.

An estimated crowd of up to 15,000 people attended the commissioning of the cadets, held at the sports arena of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega.

This event, which commenced with a magnificent march-past, lasted for several hours and included vibrant African singing, stirring preaching and culminated with the commissioning and appointing of the *Messengers of Light* cadets.

This unique commissioning event in-

cluded 32 cadets who have undergone the normal two-year college training program, as well as 30 sergeants-in-charge who have been in leadership roles in corps throughout the territory, in some cases for up to 12 years.

The opening of the modern and beautifully designed training college at Turbo, about two hours' drive from Kakamega, was attended by more than 2000 Salvationists. The US\$3 million building, which can accommodate up to 80 cadets, was built from funds provided by territories from around the world.

The historic occasion was also notable as it was the final opportunity for the territorial commanders Kenneth and Joelene Hodder to address their soldiers before leaving Africa to take up leadership of the USA Western Territory.

Colonel Stephen Chepkurui, is the new Territorial Commander. He and Commissioner Grace (Territorial President of Women's Ministries) will look to build upon the visionary leadership of the Hodders.

## Salvos respond to big freeze in Europe

**As many parts of** Australia sweltered in high temperatures and humidity during January, much of Europe experienced an extreme cold snap. With temperatures plunging well below freezing, strong winds and snow, the homeless population of many nations were particularly vulnerable.

In the Czech Republic, with an estimated 35,000 homeless people, The Salvation Army reached out to those sleeping rough, providing hot meals, warm clothes, sleeping bags and blankets.

In the north-east of the country, the Ostrava Corps served hot soup to the many homeless sleeping in makeshift shelters, as well as giving out winter clothes and boots.

In the capital Prague, which saw temperatures around -15 degrees Celsius, police officers from the Emergency Motorised Division donated winter hats, scarves, gloves, socks, shoes and bedding to The Salvation Army, for the homeless. The Salvation Army centre, open daily, also provided food and a range of support.

## General marks 100-year milestone in Mozambique

**General André Cox** and Commissioner Silvia Cox recently celebrated a century of Salvation Army service in Mozambique with hundreds of officers, soldiers and friends.

The African nation is enduring political unrest and armed violence. Many Salvationists and friends travelling from the north had to pass through areas where military convoys had to be arranged to ensure protection.

During the official welcome meeting and rallies, the General urged his listeners to be part of an Army that will bring change, and challenged them to experience the touch of God and to allow it to make their hearts tender.

## MAJOR REBECCA HUGO



**Major Rebecca Irene Hugo** was promoted to glory on Sunday 20 November 2016, aged 91, from Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne. A funeral service, conducted by

Major Ashley Davies, was held at Box Hill Corps.

Rebecca, known as Betty, grew up in Frankston, Victoria, with her parents Irene and Victor Hugo and her five siblings. Following her secondary schooling at Frankston High School, Betty commenced working with the Metropolitan Gas Company as a Ledger Machine Operator.

Betty committed her life to Jesus at 17 years of age and was accepted for training as a Salvation Army cadet in 1948. She moved from Chelsea Corps to The Salvation Army Training College in 1949 and commenced training with the *Peacemakers* session, being commissioned in January 1950.

Betty's first appointment was at Little Bourke Street as the Assistant Officer, followed by corps appointments at North Melbourne, Swan Hill, Kyabram, Nhill and Williamstown South. Betty then moved into Divisional Headquarters roles, with appointments as Divisional Helper in Northern Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia divisions and as the Divisional Secretary in South Australia.

In 1967, Betty returned to Melbourne and took up an appointment within the Women's Social Services Department at Territorial Headquarters where she later became the Probation and Police Court Officer – an appointment she held for nearly nine years. Her attention to detail and her previous finance experience led her into the Territorial Finance Department in 1976 where she remained until her retirement in February 1985.

Prior to her retirement, Betty moved to Mt Eliza to care for her mother, Irene, and as soldiers they supported the Frankston Corps until Betty moved to Blackburn South in 1996 and became a soldier

at the Box Hill Corps. She was also a keen member of the World Ministry Fellowship.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are extended to her sisters – Olive Addicott and Major Margaret Davies – along with Major Ashley Davies and extended family and friends.

## DOROTHY BEGBIE



**Dorothy (Doris) Irene Begbie** was promoted to glory on 5 November 2016, aged 94, in Melbourne.

A celebration for the life of Doris was held at the Whittlesea City Corps and was conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Lynette Green.

Doris Robertson was born on 6 April 1922 into a home whose family members were of the Christian faith expressed through The Salvation Army. The Robertson family's Salvation Army roots trace back to 1884 in Beaconsfield, Tasmania.

Herb Begbie was Doris' lifetime partner until he was promoted to glory at the age of 96. They lived in Thornbury for 39 years and moved into Judge Book Homes in Eltham, Victoria, 34 years ago. They had two daughters – Glenda Shearwood, who is the Corps Sergeant Major at Whittlesea City Corps, and Lorraine O'Brien, who attends Port Macquarie Corps.

Doris was a wonderful Nan to Bryson and Fiona, Ray and Jacinta, Kerryn and David, Derek and Sharelle and a much-loved "Old Nanna" to Catherine, James, Tom, Mia, Ashley and Lachlan.

Doris was a songster, company guard, Home League member and took part in other activities at Thornbury Corps over 40 years. She was known for her hospitality and many visitors to the corps or new people to the corps were invited to her home for Sunday roast dinner.

At the age of 94 Doris still enjoyed singing, and her strong alto voice was appreciated by many. She was always smiling and was a perfect hostess. We thank God for her wonderful, joyous life.

## JOHN MATTHEWS



**John Joseph Matthews** was promoted to glory in Wollongong on 28 November, 2016, aged 86. John's youngest son, Peter, conducted an overflowing funeral

service, supported by a Salvation Army band and attended by representatives of many community groups.

John was well known within The Salvation Army, where he and his wife Bernice had served for 23 years as officers, and in the Illawarra community, where he later worked for 20 years as a civil celebrant. It is estimated that he conducted more than 2000 weddings, funerals, baptisms and naming ceremonies.

John was born in Bowral (NSW) on 7 April, 1930, and lived in Taree before moving to Wollongong. He and Bernice were married in Wollongong in 1952 and entered The Salvation Army Officer Training College the following year.

Together, they served as Corps Officers at Daceyville and Manly in Sydney, West Wallsend (Newcastle), Coffs Harbour, Tenterfield and Uralla (all in northern NSW) and Dubbo (NSW Central West) and Grenfell (Southern NSW).

John and Bernice also served as Associate Officers at Wollongong Corps. At various times at Wollongong Corps, John was also Corps Cadet Counsellor, Band Sergeant, Emergency Services team leader, Bible study leader and a member of the prayer warrior team. He also worked as Operations Supervisor of Red Shield Industries (now Salvos Stores).

In the community, he served for about 10 years as chaplain of Dapto RSL sub-branch, conducting annual Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. He was a life member of St John Ambulance Brigade and a member of the NSW Justices Association for 44 years.

John is survived by wife Bernice, sons Daeve, Stephen (and Lesley), Peter (and Rhonwyn), and daughter Dinese Jenkins (and Graeme); 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



## ABOUT PEOPLE

### APPOINTMENTS

Effective 12 January: Major Ian **Henry**, Assistant Secretary for Personnel; Major Jeanette **Stoltenberg**, General Manager, The Collaroy Centre; Major Chris **Cohen**, Chaplain to Southport Court, Numinbah Correctional Centre, Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre; Captain Karyn **Kingston**, Team Member, Australia One Team; Captain Darren **Kingston**, Team Member, Inner West Multi-site, Petersham Corps; Lieutenant Bronwyn **Burnett**, Chaplain, Downing Centre Sydney; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Phil **Stark**, Divisional Youth & Children's Secretary – Qld Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Sherene **Staines**, Corps Officer, Caloundra Corps; Cadet Stephanie **Savage**, Assistant to the Corps Officer, Caloundra Corps.

### ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Effective 12 December 2016: Major Paul **Kinder**, Strategic Team Leader, South Sydney Hub. Effective 12 January, 2017: Major Andrew **Schofield**, Territorial Critical Incident Peer Support Co-ordinator; Lieutenant Sean **Li**, Training Officer; Lieutenants Jodie and Matthew **Sutcliffe**, Strategic Team Leaders, NSW South Coast Hub.; Captain Karyn **Kingston**, Team Member, Inner West Multi-site, Petersham Corps.

### AUXILIARY-LIEUTENANTS

The following people have been accepted as Auxiliary Lieutenants: Sarah **Newman**, Carrum Downs, Eastern Victoria Division; Susan **Stobie**, Wyndham City Corps, Central Victoria Division; Craig **Boyd**, Alice Springs Corps, Northern Territory Region; Jessica **Frost-Boyd**, Alice Springs Corps, Northern Territory Region.

### BEREAVEMENTS

Major Howard **Trendell**, of his mother, on 20 November 2016; Major Margaret **Davies** of her sister, Major Betty **Hugo**, on 20 November 2016; Major Raewyn **Grigg**, of her father, Major Laurence **Padman**, on 27 November 2016; Major Jean **Healey** of her sister, Gladys **Allen**, on 11 December 2016; Major Heather **Jenkins** of her mother, June **Steer** on 12 December 2016; Major Phillip Pleffer of his mother, Aline **Pleffer**; Major Kirsty **McKenzie** of her father, Rev Doublas **McKenzie**, on 4 January; Lieut-Colonel Sandra **Callander**, of her sister, Greta **Paton**; Major Jean **Janssen** of her mother, Rose **Farmer**, on 8 January; Major Vic **Pitman-Jones** of his mother, Mary Jones, on 12 January; Lieutenant Cherry **Ip** of her mother on 13 January; Majors Allen and Phyllis **Hughes**, of their son, Garry **Hughes**; Auxilliary-Captain Thelma **Leher** of

her son, Edwin, on 13 January; Major Denis **Day** of his father, Geoff **Day**, on 10 January.

### PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Betty **Hugo** on 20 November 2016; Envoy John **Matthews** on 28 November 2016; Major Dirk **Nasveld** on 9 December 2016.

### BIRTH

Lieutenants Christopher and Nichole **Maxwell**, a girl, Nora Beth, on 9 January.

### GRADUATES OF CATHERINE BOOTH COLLEGE

Graduate Diploma Theology: Major Andrew **Craib**; Advanced Diploma in Theology: Lieutenant Jordan **Innes**, Lieutenant Sarah **Innes**; Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry: Captain Lynne **Turnbull**, Lieutenant Michael **Nally**, Lieutenant Dianne Size, Lieutenant Timothy **Size**.

### PROMOTIONS

To major on 3 December 2016: Captain Karen **Fleming**, Captain Melanie-Anne **Holland**, Captain Ross **Holland**, Captain Grant **Kingston-Kerr**, Captain Nigel **MacDonald**, Captain Sandra **MacDonald**, Captain Louise **Nicholson**, Captain Peter **Spindler**, Captain Wendy **Spindler**, Captain Derek **Whitehouse**, Captain Sonia **Whitehouse**.

To major on 9 January, 2017: Captain Catherine **Spiller**, Captain Rhys **Spiller**.

To captain on 27 November, 2016: Lieutenant Cara **Brackstone**, Lieutenant Jacoba **Czoban**, Lieutenant Philip **Farthing**, Lieutenant Rachael **Farthing**, Lieutenant Kylie **Herring**, Lieutenant Martin **Herring**, Lieutenant Kylie **Hodges**, Lieutenant Vanessa **Hunt**, Lieutenant Aaron **Reid**, Lieutenant Alana **Reid**, Lieutenant David **Sutcliffe**, Lieutenant Lara **Sutcliffe**.

To captain on 11 December, 2016: Lieutenant Katherine **Baudinette**, Lieutenant Angela **Locke**, Lieutenant Carol **O'Leary**, Lieutenant Heather **Stamp**.

To captain on 11 January, 2017: Lieutenant Karen **Agnew**, Lieutenant Annita **Allmann**, Lieutenant David **Allmann**, Lieutenant Penny **Cooper**, Lieutenant Joy **Crowden**, Lieutenant Megan **Dale**, Lieutenant Kristopher **Halliday**, Lieutenant Marie **Kovascs**, Lieutenant Jane **Manusa**, Lieutenant Mark **Schatz**, Lieutenant Zoe **Schatz**.

To lieutenant on 8 December, 2016: Dale **Allan**, Fiona **Allan**, Reak **Deng**, Elizabeth **Kang**, Gemma **Keogh**, Alexis **Mapleback**, Kahlia **McIntosh**, Laronie **Thompson**, Shannon **Watson**, Tracy **Watson**.

February

**SCHOOL FOR OFFICER TRAINING**

The following Auxiliary-Lieutenants have been accepted into the 2017 *Messengers of Compassion* session: Auxiliary-Lieutenant Graham **Kennedy**, Hamilton Corps, Western Victoria Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenants Mitchell and Sally **Stevens**, Floreat Corps, Western Australia Division.

**RETIREMENTS**

Majors Christine and Graham **Longbottom**, on 4 December 2016; Major Beth **Holman**, on 30 December 2016; Major Christine **Agnew**, Major Kaye **Seccombe** on 1 January 2017; Major Christine **Black**, Major Stephen **Black**, Major Sophia **Gibb**, Major Dianne **Main**, Major Graham **Moyle**, Major Julie **Moyle**, Major Cindy **Shellenberger**, Major Gail **Watson**, Major Ritchie **Watson**, Major Jim **Weymouth**, Captain Margaret **Colls**, Envoy Graeme **Bright** on 11 January 2017.

**ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR****COMMISSIONERS FLOYD (NATIONAL COMMANDER) AND TRACEY TIDD**

Geelong: Sun 29 Jan-Thu 2 Feb – National Leaders Conference.

Geelong: Sun 29 Jan – Installations of Colonels Mark and Julie Campbell.

Hurstville: Sun 5 Feb – Welcome to the *Messengers of Compassion* session of cadets and installation of Lieut-Colonels Kelvin and Cheralynne Pethybridge.

PNG: Wed 8-Mon 13 Feb – Visit to Papua New Guinea Territory and installation of Colonels Kelvin and Julie Alley.

#Commissioner Tracey Tidd only

\*Commissioner Floyd Tidd only

**COLONELS MARK (NATIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY) AND JULIE CAMPBELL**

Geelong: Sun 29 Jan – Thurs 2 Feb – National Leaders Conference.

Hurstville: Sun 5 Feb – Welcome to the *Messengers of Compassion* session of cadets and installation of Lieut-Colonels Kelvin and Cheralynne Pethybridge.

#Collaroy: Fri 10-Sun 12 Feb – Captivated.

Granville: Sat 25-Sun 26 Jan – 125-year Celebrations.

#Colonel Julie Campbell only

\*Colonel Mark Campbell only

**COLONELS GRAEME (CHIEF SECRETARY-IN-CHARGE AUS) AND KARYN RIGLEY**

Darwin: Sun 5 Feb – Installation of Northern Territory regional leaders, Captains Richard and Katie Parker.

Ringwood: Sat 11-Sun 12 Feb – Welcome to *Messengers of Compassion* session of cadets

#Colonel Graeme Rigley only

\*Colonel Karyn Rigley only

**LIEUT-COLONELS KELVIN (CHIEF SECRETARY-IN-CHARGE AUE) AND CHERALYNN PETHYBRIDGE**

Geelong: Sun 29 Jan-Thu 2 Feb – National Leaders Council.

Hurstville: Sun 5 Feb – Welcome to *Messengers of Compassion* session of cadets and installation of Chief Secretary-in-Charge and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries.

Stanmore: Wed 8-Thu 9 Feb – Forward Together Conference.

#Collaroy: Fri 10-Sun 12 Feb – Captivated Conference.

#Townsville: Tues 14 Feb – Captivated Conference.

#Brisbane: Fri 17-Sat 18 Feb – Captivated Conference.

#Canberra: Tues 24 Feb – Captivated Conference.

ACT: Wed 1-Thu 2 March – Divisional officers fellowship, NSW and ACT Division.

\*Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge only

#Lieut-Colonel Cheralynne Pethybridge only

February

others

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**The Salvation Army  
International Staff  
Songsters**

**AUSTRALASIAN TOUR**

**CONCERT  
DATES**

Save the Date  
– Further details  
to follow

<b>Monday 3 April</b>	<b>Perth</b>
<b>Wednesday 5 April</b>	<b>Brisbane</b>
<b>Friday 7 April</b>	<b>Auckland, NZ</b>
<b>Saturday 8 April</b>	<b>Wellington, NZ</b>
<b>Monday 10 April</b>	<b>Sydney</b>
<b>Tuesday 11 April</b>	<b>Canberra</b>
<b>Wednesday 12 April</b>	<b>Hobart</b>
<b>Saturday 15 April</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>



## Love and acceptance turned my life around.

WORDS | TAMMY STEVENS

I was brought up in a Baptist family and went to church on Sunday most weeks, but by my teens I had forgotten about God.

I met my first husband in high school and by the age of 22, I was already divorced with two children. Five years of depression, drunkenness and affairs followed, until I met the man I thought was my “Mr Right”. Over the next 15 years I had four more beautiful children, but things at home took many dark turns.

My husband had an affair and was introduced to (the drug) ice and eventually I, too, started using ice. Sadly, particularly for the children, we travelled the road of addiction for a couple of years before I'd had enough. I knew I (and we) desperately needed to change. There was much anger and violence along the path and many, many times I just wanted to end it all.

We moved from NSW to Gladstone in Queensland to try and make a break. When school started in 2015, my daughter met a girl and they became very close friends. Through this friendship I got to meet this girl's parents, who happened to be Salvation Army officers – Lieutenants Chris and Kay Ford.

Around this time my marriage broke up and there were many family problems. Kay provided much-needed support and, slowly, my life started to look up. My daughter was invited to camps and youth group at The Salvation Army and her older sister, who has autism, was interested, too. So when they were at youth group, I stayed so that my daughter with autism would feel comfortable.

They loved it, but something amazing was also happening to me – my eyes were again opening to God. The Fords found out that I was studying community services and asked if I would be interested in volunteering for Doorways (a Salvation Army program that provides emergency welfare relief and financial



counselling). That gave me confidence and I started to go to church and very quickly felt loved and accepted.

With three children with autism, I did not bring two of them to church the first week, but Kay insisted. I remember saying, “Oh no, you don't want them here”, and she said, “Yes we do, the Lord wants everybody”. I think the biggest part of my journey of healing has been the acceptance I've found through our church.

To me, church feels like a little piece of heaven, or what I imagine heaven will be like – full of acceptance and love and my children love it as much as I do, if not more!

Last year, I became a senior soldier and my daughter became a junior soldier. I am so thankful that despite the pain and mistakes of the past, I firmly believe that God has led me here to help others. I have been through divorce, drugs, domestic violence, struggles with money and depression – and so when people who say they have no hope come in (to Doorways) for help, I can tell them that there really is hope.

I remember when I first asked Kay why God would put me through all this, she said, “God hasn't put you through that, you chose to go the way you did, but now God is going to use what you have done to help others and he is going to use you for good”, and I am just so grateful.



**Tammy Stevens** and her daughter Kelei after being enrolled at Gladstone Corps.

# others

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