

■ FEATURE

*Barker family reflect the changing face of Perth Fortress Corps*

■ OPINION

*Crest or shield? The emblem that best portrays our Army*

■ GLOBAL FOCUS

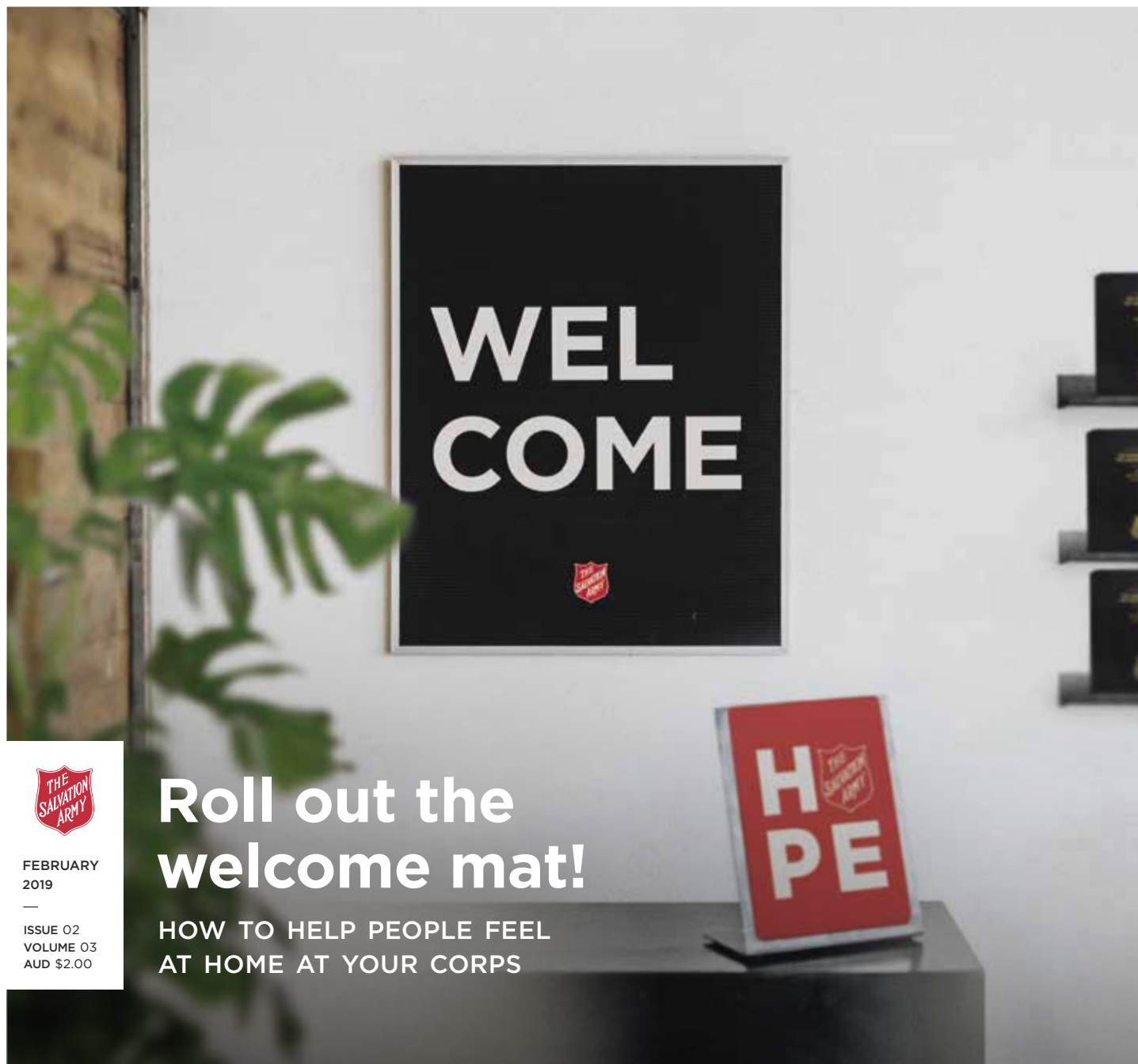
*Australian officers in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands*

■ SALVATION STORY

*Officer finds spiritual respite from 'pastoral battlefield'*

# others

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## Welcoming is a biblical mandate.

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS TO CHURCH is not complex, yet it's rarely done well. Many churches – possibly most – have some sort of structure around the way they welcome people. And that's a good thing. But have you ever stopped to think that, instead of being a process or system, welcoming is perhaps a mindset?

Melissa Brown, in an article posted on *The Gospel Coalition* website, makes this point. She contends that we are a family (I'm sure we've all heard language of church/corps family used many, many times) – a big and diverse family, but a family nonetheless. She goes on to say that families, even if they are comprised of a bunch of dysfunctional misfits (sinners), usually tend to love, include and have affection for each other. A caring family is usually one that is comfortable, natural, and genuine with the other members. So, she suggests, it's just possible that's what people are hoping to encounter, hoping to get a sense of, when they walk into a church.

And yet how many of us can truly say we make a point of including and showing love for newcomers to our corps? How many of us go out of our way to ensure first-timers feel comfortable in the new, foreign environment they've stepped into; to take the initiative and talk to them? Or are we too ready to succumb to the temptation to retreat to the comfort of our familiar friendship groups, preferring – and let's be honest – to effectively turn our backs on visitors?

The contradiction revealed in this exclusivity is that as followers of Christ

we're called to share the Gospel with our neighbours. Consequently, we throw open the doors of our buildings on Sunday morning, but then too often when visitors come, we are less than welcoming. Yes, the factors that contribute to this are many and varied, but ultimately, when you think about it, it's quite strange behaviour!

Our cover story in this issue of *Others* helps us to consider this phenomenon. It offers a number of helpful suggestions, based on information gathered from corps that regularly experience and integrate newcomers, to help you welcome people into your "corps family" in a natural and genuine way.

The Bible, of course, is very clear on the need to make people feel welcome. Romans 15:7 tells us to "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Later, in 1 John 4:11, we are given the instruction, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Ultimately, and as Melissa concludes in her article, "Welcoming is about the Gospel. It is about imitating God. But welcoming is also about common sense. Therefore, let's preach and teach from the Bible about welcoming, but let's also equip our churches to relax and welcome well." •

Scott Simpson is the  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief.





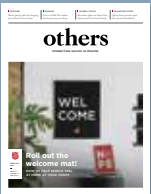


Hundreds of young people have enjoyed a life-changing week of fun and ministry at Summer Carnival, The Salvation Army’s annual youth camp on Phillip Island. Photo: Ben Knop



36

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alongside others,  
to transform Australia one life at a time  
with the love of Jesus.

Contents

Cover story

14

**Roll out the welcome mat!**  
How to help people feel at home  
at your corps

Features

18

**Breaking with tradition.**  
Peter Barker reflects the changing  
face of Perth Fortress Corps

22

**Burnie youth on fire.**  
Youth Alpha and laser tag  
changing lives in Tasmania

24

**The Arctic Circle of life.**  
Salvation Army corps thriving  
in the world’s frozen north

Regulars

7

TC@Others

8

Global Focus

10

Viewpoint

13

Mailbox

32

The Big Picture

36

News


44


Tributes


46

Salvation Story

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Join the conversation

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

 Tracey Tidd

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

 Brian Peddle

"Brilliant! Love the good news from around Australia."

 Peter Hobbs

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

 Belinda Spicer



## *Living a life beyond trivial pursuits*

WORDS COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND THE SUMMER season provide a window of time that many use to engage in the opportunity to sit around a table with friends playing board games. In 1979, Chris Haney and Scott Abbott created a board game after they found their Scrabble to be missing a few pieces. What emerged from their creativity was the game Trivial Pursuit, a test of trivia knowledge. Since then, 80 million editions of the game have been sold in 26 countries and 17 languages.

Trivial Pursuit was created to be a game; far too often it has become a way of life. Living with a focus on the trivial things of life is far from the experience of "life to the fullest" as Jesus describes in John 10 when he explains why he came into the world: "I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest" (John 10:10).

The antidote to the pursuit of the trivial is the embrace of a defining purpose. Purpose provides a master plan for life, making possible the selection of aims and goals, helping us to avoid getting lost in the trivia of each day. Purpose enables the necessary distinction between the good and the best in choices to be made. Purpose is personal. It may be informed by others – even encouraged and supported – but ultimately each person must discover and commit to the purpose for their own life. It has been said that the only purpose worth living for, is one worth dying for.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, declares his purpose when he writes, "For me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:20). Each of us, like Paul, need to choose the completion of that powerful sentence: "For me to live is ...". The honest completion of that sentence is reflected in our values – that which we commit our time, energy and finances to. Living according to the purpose described in the completion of that sentence should match what I hope others would say of me when they describe me in life or in writing my obituary. The purpose for which we choose to live will in fact be what we are remembered for long after our lives are over.

In these early weeks of a new year, let us commit to living life that avoids the trivial pursuit. Let's commit to a purpose worthy of the abundant life we've been given. Take the time to identify or reconfirm your purpose considering how that purpose will best be lived out on a daily basis. Hear the words of William Booth again: "Your days at the most cannot be very long, so use them to the best of your ability for the glory of God and the benefit of your generation."

Life to the fullest is a life that has discovered and lives with divine purpose. •

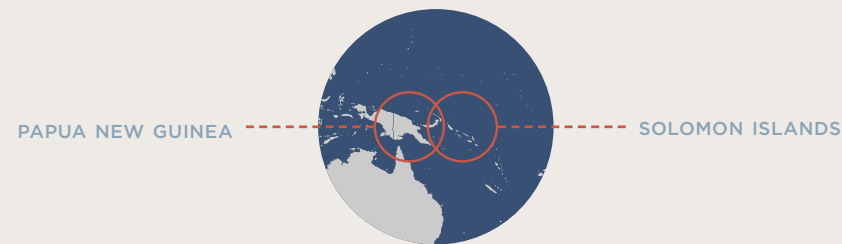
Commissioner Floyd Tidd is Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army Australia Territory.





## Aussie officers around the world – Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory.

In Global Focus this year, *Others* will be profiling the work of some of the Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we take a look at the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory.



The Salvation Army officially commenced in Papua New Guinea on 31 August 1956. Papua New Guinea became an independent command in 1994 after 38 years as part of the Australia Eastern Territory, and was elevated to territory status in 2000. Work began in the Solomon Islands (a South Pacific nation of hundreds of islands) in 2010 and was officially recognised on 1 February 2011.

There are a number of Australian officers serving in the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory. Colonels Kelvin and Julie Alley, based in Port Moresby, lead the territory. Captain Christine Gee is the Director of Health Services in Papua New Guinea, while Majors Rob and Vanessa Evans are the District Officers in the Solomon Islands.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In this land of extreme beauty, poverty and social unrest, The Salvation Army's focus is on a number of areas: the growth of the church, social services including restorative justice and settlement ministries, health services, education, and development projects. Three motels also help generate income for the territory. Ministries respond to the unique needs of the country.

In Top Town just outside the city of Lae, there is a community of women, many with children, who are trapped in the sex industry in order to sustain a livelihood. Many of the women are victims of domestic violence, which is rampant in the country, while others are separated or divorced. For them, this work is a matter of survival as there is no social security in PNG. The Salvation Army works with the children, providing a basic education.

"We also have a unique fellowship [small church] here, a fellowship made up entirely of sex workers," explains Kelvin. "With the influence of The Salvation Army, the ladies have built their own chapel in the bush." Julie adds: "The ladies came to our recent women's Bible weekend and sold billums [handmade carry bags] to finance the trip. Ours is a community where they are loved and not condemned, and they know it. Women from divisional headquarters are also involved in teaching them skills to earn an income in other ways. Many made decisions for Christ that weekend."

Education is a key focus area in the territory, with several elementary and primary schools, a driving school, computer school and childcare centre. The Salvation Army is also focusing on

teaching gender equality through its educational and corps programs.

Health services, directed by Captain Gee, are spread around the country, including in some of the nation's most remote regions. "We have the best urban clinic in Port Moresby, run in partnership with USAid," says Kelvin. "This clinic serves the broader community – people who can't afford health care – and specifically targets the high-risk population for HIV."

There are four centres in the country which test for and treat HIV. There is also support for those suffering from tuberculosis, as well as maternal health and infant care services.

The Salvation Army is growing across the territory. "We are seeing many new corps openings, which is both exciting and a little bit scary," says Kelvin. "Our territory is just ripe for the growth of the church. People here value their Christian faith, they hear about The Salvation Army and want to be a part of this movement. Financially we live on empty tanks, tipping in enough fuel as we drive in order to just keep going. The Lord blesses us though. He is faithful and we completely trust in him as we lead Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands."



### SOLOMON ISLANDS

There are five expressions of The Salvation Army in the Solomon Islands: Gateway Corps, Gou'ulu Mission, Honiara Corps, Moscom Fellowship, and Ramah Fellowship. They are spread across islands and seas, making travel, which is largely by small boats and trucks, challenging and time-consuming.

In the first 11 months of 2018, 23 senior soldiers and 45 junior soldiers were enrolled across the country. Home League and Sunday school are also growing, and there are six Wednesday night fellowship groups operating throughout Honiara with an average attendance of 120 per week across all groups.

Majors Rob and Vanessa Evans, who are based in Honiara, are focused on raising the profile of The Salvation Army in the country. "We've started by using the local coffee shop as our office, so everyone around knows us now," laughs Vanessa. "We've just recently had an emergency services trailer donated to us and are planning to use this for ministry during natural disasters, but also at events such as the upcoming general election. This will give us good exposure to the public."



Above: Colonel Kelvin Alley with eight new junior soldiers in the Solomon Islands. Left: Colonels Kelvin and Julie Alley (right) install Majors Rob and Vanessa Evans as District Officers of the Solomon Islands.

The Evans' are also focused on helping The Salvation Army in the Solomons become more self-sustaining. In partnership with Kokonut Pacific, the Army is planning to open a coconut oil extracting plant in North Malaita to help fund mission in the country. "The Army already owns the equipment for this plant. We will employ locals in the operation and the income the coconut oil brings will help us achieve our goal of eventually being self-funded," says Vanessa.

In addition to being a District Officer for the Solomon Islands, Vanessa is also District Director of Women's Ministries. "It's really hard here for women to get

into leadership and yet these ladies are some of the hardest working women I've ever met," she says.

In July, The Salvation Army held a conference at Gateway Corps in North Malaita, bringing together Gateway Corps, Honiara Corps and Moscom Fellowship for the first time. "During the conference they were dancing, speaking out and praising God that they were free from negativity and thinking they were not good enough for anything – which is what their society teaches them," says Vanessa. "To see the spiritual change in the women was an absolute highlight for me, that they were dancing and praising and not being afraid." ●

Viewpoint.

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Crest or shield?

*The emblem that best portrays our message and ministry*

WORDS DAVID KELLY

CLEARLY THERE ARE STRONG FEELINGS regarding which symbol – the red shield or the crest – best represents The Salvation Army.

By policy, the red shield is used for all external purposes, because it is the most recognisable Army emblem in the world. It is known in every country in which the Army serves and represents the compassionate service that impacts the lives of people, often at the time of their greatest need.

The crest is loved by Salvationists and continues to be used internally because there is more reference to what we believe, including our faith, our doctrine and our covenant. For different reasons and in different settings, each has its place.

So which best symbolises the Army, its message and its ministry? Which emblem best tells the Army story? Truthfully, neither of these.

If we are relying on artwork to symbolise what is great about The Salvation Army, then neither is going to accomplish what we need. To the best of my knowledge, neither symbol has ever led someone into a saving relationship with Jesus. Neither symbol can fully tell the motivation behind our work; neither can reveal the depth of commitment that so embodies frontline ministry.



So, if not these emblems, where do we look for the best symbols of our Army?

Try looking at the single officer serving alone in a small community, yet fully engaged in the lives of her people and the community.

Try looking at the long-time bandmaster known for their excellence in musicianship, but who expresses more emotion while telling of the growth and transformation in the youth they have mentored.

Try looking at the employee at the recovery services centre who can't wait to share the good news that three residents came to faith tonight.

Try looking at the Salvationist who, after reading on Facebook about a fellow Salvationist needing a kidney, gave one of hers.

Try looking at the faithful Salvos Stores volunteer who affirms the worth of all those they greet and serve.

Try looking at the quiet, unassuming soldier who is always the first to welcome visitors to the corps.

Try looking at the young person who is not afraid to share their faith with friends, despite a culture that seeks to demean such belief.

Try looking at the corps officers throughout your territory, who, even in the midst of challenges and hardship, still serve faithfully.

Those soldiers, employees, volunteers and adherent members are the best symbols of The Salvation Army. They are the emblems of who we are and what we do.

Let's stop the debate between crest and shield and settle on a better representation. Let's each be the best symbol of The Salvation Army we can be – in the way we live, in the way we unconditionally love others, in the way we serve, in the way we invest our lives in those around us.

The crest and shield can never tell the Army story that a transformed life can tell. ●

**Lieut-Colonel David Kelly** is the Secretary for Communications in the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland Territory. This article first appeared in *Salvationist* (UK) magazine.



**WORTH QUOTING.**

“A Spirit-filled Army tells the gospel story faithfully and trustingly, believing that there is power in the name of Jesus ...”  
- **General Linda Bond (Ret)**

Humanity 2.0

*The ethics of gene editing technology*

WORDS AIMEE PATTERSON

IMAGINE BEING ABLE TO CURE CANCER, prevent disease, improve crops and even eradicate mosquitoes. It might sound like science fiction, but it's quickly becoming scientific fact.

Researchers are on the verge of a new era in molecular biology, with the power to silence or activate specific genes using something called CRISPR. CRISPR is an acronym for “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats”, but the name isn't as important as knowing how it works.

CRISPR is part of a microbial immune system – a stretch of DNA that is able to recognise and destroy invading viruses. Scientists have been able to adapt this system to target and modify the genes of plants and animals, including human beings. Think of it like the “cut and paste” function on your computer. Like editing a sentence in a document, CRISPR can cut out an undesirable strand of DNA so it can be replaced with a desirable strand.

In 2015, a baby with leukemia was treated with genetically edited white blood cells. At the time of this writing, she is alive and in remission. In the future, CRISPR could also be used to edit reproductive cells, making changes that are passed on to offspring. For example, preventing the

development of Huntington's disease in one embryo would mean preventing it in future generations.

We aren't there yet. Even the most prized gene editing technology, CRISPRCas9, has a lot of kinks to work out. But many in the scientific community view this not as an impediment, but as a matter of time. One of the scientists who discovered CRISPR-Cas9, Jennifer Doudna, said: “The possibilities are limited only by our collective imagination.”

Imagination is a great thing – you might say it's in our DNA. But it must be tempered by ethics. Take my CRISPR metaphor. Most of the time, I think of editing in a positive way. When I edit a document, I am removing typos, restructuring awkward sentences and reversing the order of paragraphs to create an improved second draft. I can also review the second draft, and if I don't like a change I can undo it. Unfortunately, I've also been in the position of editing, then saving and closing the document. The edit has become permanent. This is what gene editing potentially offers – a second draft of humanity.

In 2015, the International Summit on Human Gene Editing released a report that focused on the risks of editing reproductive cells, including changing the human gene pool. In my view, the report overlooks the “unlimited possibilities” that can come with altering the genes of individual people. But more to the point, the report raised two ethical questions that must be considered.

First, we must resolve safety risks. Second, we need a “broad societal consensus” among global stakeholders regarding both the appropriateness of this therapy and the acceptable norms for its use.

The list of who counts as a stakeholder is fairly lengthy. In addition to the usual

suspects – scientists, research funders and policy-makers – it names ethicists, health-care providers, patients and faith leaders. Christian denominational or ecumenical bodies may be sceptical about how their comments will be received. But Christians are not called to be silent on serious moral issues, especially when the wind is blowing against us.

“  
*Christians are not called to be silent on serious moral issues.*

”  
So, beyond speaking to matters of safety, what can Christian leaders contribute? Before jumping ahead to possible outcomes, like designer babies or bionic humans, perhaps we should pay attention to more basic, immediate matters. Even a slight step across the threshold from medical therapy to technological enhancement should raise ethical questions. For instance, what do Christians say about what is good about – or for – human beings? What does being created in God's image have to do with human creativity and imagination? What does it have to do with human imperfection?

I'm convinced that if Christian leaders begin with general theological questions like these, we will be better prepared to engage in conversations on the practical ethics of gene editing technologies. And I wouldn't be surprised if some Christian ethical conclusions are shared outside our faith community. ●

**Dr Aimee Patterson** is a Christian ethics consultant at The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Winnipeg, Canada. This article first appeared at [salvationist.ca](https://salvationist.ca)





WORTH  
QUOTING.

“The love of the world and the love of the Father cannot coexist.  
And every heart loves something.” – John Piper

## What if The Salvation Army died?

*Perhaps that day needs to come*

WORDS PETE BROOKSHAW

A DECADE AGO I SIGNED THE OFFICER’S Covenant. What a privilege I felt in my heart to be able to lay down my life to serve others and lead people to Jesus Christ. That passion is still there. In fact, it is there more than ever.

You see, I have such a holy discontent that we are not doing more to support people in need and see lives transformed for Jesus. I long to increase our impact upon society. I long for more people to join the cause. I long for more people to commit themselves to the ideals of the soldier’s and officer’s covenants.

But then this nagging feeling comes upon me. I began to reflect one day on what would happen if The Salvation Army died. Let me qualify what I mean by that: I began to wonder what would happen if The Salvation Army lost its focus, so much so that it became significantly different to the original movement that I signed up to.

Maybe you have asked that question once or twice. It’s not because you or I lack faith or fail to have a view that God raised up The Salvation Army, but because we don’t want to see it be less than what God raised it up to be.

Recently, I was walking around a large lake at a local park, praying and thinking about that very question – “What if The Salvation Army died?” I felt some words in my spirit that said:

*The Salvation Army does need to die.  
It needs to die to its own image.  
It needs to die to its own strategic plans.  
It needs to die to its own narcissism.  
The Salvation Army needs to spend less time celebrating the mission it has achieved, and more time celebrating the source of the mission.  
The Salvation Army needs to spend less time focused on how good it thinks it is, how good it thinks its forebears were, but rather point to how good it believes God is.*

We need to reignite the coals of the Jesus-focused, gutsy, Spirit-filled fervour that is embedded within the very DNA of this movement. We need to re-embrace the apostles, evangelists and prophets across the globe, to join again with the shepherds and teachers to work together to establish God’s kingdom here and now.

Captain Matt Reeve was recently quoted as saying: “Movements start because their founder loves Jesus. They die when the movement loves its founder.” There’s a tension there, one that I feel and acknowledge. We are thankful to William, Catherine, Bramwell and the team. We love their focus, passion and tenacity to raise up such a movement. We are thankful to Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we should be a part of such exciting times.

However, The Salvation Army didn’t succeed because General William Booth always spoke about how good John Wesley was; The Salvation Army didn’t succeed because Catherine Booth chose to put Phoebe Palmer on a pedestal. Part of why The Salvation Army succeeded was because Salvationists not only learned and were inspired by the past, but were driven ultimately by a passion for Jesus Christ.

“  
*Movements start  
because their founder  
loves Jesus. They die  
when the movement  
loves its founder.*  
”

In John’s Gospel, chapter 15, we read that Jesus is the true vine and that the Father cuts off every branch in us that bears no fruit. Jesus says we cannot bear fruit unless we remain in him, because apart from him we can do nothing.

I look forward then, to the day that The Salvation Army dies. A day when we lay our talents, skills and abilities at the mercy seat; a day when we lay down our own ambition for that which is even better; a day when we commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the cause of Jesus Christ in the world. This is the day I long for; this is the day when we will be at our best. And praise God that, in some places, that day has already arrived. ●

.....  
**Captain Pete Brookshaw** is the  
Corps Officer of The Salvation Army  
Craigieburn. He blogs at  
[www.petebrookshaw.com](http://www.petebrookshaw.com)  
.....

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



## Mailbox.



### LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

The October issue of *Others* included, in Viewpoint, an article by Mike Frost about the acceptance of those “who do not reflect the historic European Christian composition of Australian society and embrace our language, culture and values as a people”.

Mike shared some great thoughts regarding our nation, its multicultural nature, and the value added through the acceptance of people from many countries, bringing with them their culture, food, music, dress, beliefs and much more. He spoke out against those who would wish to reintroduce the “White Australia Policy” and commented on other countries that were looking at discriminatory changes to immigration to keep “undesirables” out.

Mike then drew on Christian principles for accepting others, regardless of race, faith, colour, age, social or economic standing, sexual persuasion, etc. His comments were positive, encouraging people to show Christian love towards others.

I was then dismayed to read the Mailbox response of Major George Palmer (December issue of *Others*), in which he suggested that Mike has no right to push his thoughts on others, and included a warning to beware of people from non-Christian backgrounds. The Salvation Army’s Doctrine no. 6 states, “We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by his suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.”

Ephesians 3 states, “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” Paul goes on, “His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Surely the ministry of “The Church”, which encapsulates The Salvation Army, is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.” It is about accepting people regardless of who or what they are. In fact, I cannot find reference in the Bible to selective acceptance of people or discrimination against people who have different religious views, come from countries which do not fit the model set for the early colonisation of Australia, speak different languages, etc. After all, Jesus was from a Middle Eastern Jewish background.

Sadly, the world is full of hate messages, persecution of so many people, discrimination and oppression. I participated in an Australia Day procession three years ago and was impressed by the variety of nationalities and cultures involved. It gave me the opportunity to ponder the changes immigration has brought to this country since my childhood in the 1950s. A richness of diversity which makes Australia a great country!

Let us show love to others, reach out in acceptance and friendship, and share the love of God. Let us live out the gospel message so that people might experience this.

– Major Gary Hart



### RECLAIM ‘EVANGELICAL’

I was interested to read Dr James Read’s article in the December issue of *Others*, “Political hijacking of an adjective”, which reflects on the use of the word “evangelical”.

I think we should work hard to reclaim the word and its original Greek meaning. And why should we choose to give it political overtones? We have sought to do the same with the term OMG (Oh My God!) with the emphasis on the *my* to celebrate God in our church gatherings.

I cling to the “evangelion” of Christians, proudly espousing its root meaning

and to the faith practices it proclaims, as highlighted in Dr Read’s article.

We of the “evangelion” persuasion should not let “evangelism” be hijacked by politics. Reclaim it now!

– Anne Hill



### FESTIVE FEAST

One of our first-time volunteers, Rod Hayes, sent us (Batemans Bay Corps) a poem he had written following his experience helping at our Christmas Day lunch. I thought it was beautiful and, having asked Rod’s permission, I hope you can reprint it. The poem reads:

*“So there we all were with the Salvos for lunch,  
At Batemans Bay, a Christmas with punch.  
Made with care by a crew volontaire,  
Not only the Bay but folk everywhere.  
A Christmas lunch on the day Christ was born,  
The lonely, disabled, the poor, the forlorn.  
A gathering devised by the Salvos with love,  
A feast for us all with help from above ...”*

Rod signed off his message with the words, “Well done, a terrific day, thoroughly enjoyed it.”

– Lieutenant Rachel Knight

others

Your opinion counts.  
We want to hear  
from you!



If you’ve read something in Viewpoint or elsewhere in this issue of *Others* that you would like to comment on, then please get in touch. Email your letter of about 250 words to:  
[others@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:others@aus.salvationarmy.org)

# WEL COME

## Roll out the welcome mat!

Ten great ideas to help people feel at home at your corps

WORDS AMANDA LENNESTAL AND SAMANTHA TAN

**R**esearch has shown and continues to show that church attendance in Australia is in decline. Perhaps now more than ever, we need to be grappling with what it means to meaningfully connect with those who walk through the doors of our churches.

Visitors to Salvation Army church services have often been connected through community engagement during the week. The latest Church Life Survey (2016) shows that 15 per cent of corps attendees are newcomers. This is compared with the national average of only six per cent. One of the reasons for the Army's high rate of newcomers is the requirement of Recovery Services (NSW, ACT and Queensland only) for participants to attend church services.

The research does, however, go on to indicate that The Salvation Army is perhaps the worst performer of all Christian churches in how it retains newcomers. In part, this can be attributed to the departure of Recovery Services participants after program completion. The statistics also suggest that the majority of newcomers do not make a meaningful connection and subsequently don't return.

The greatest newcomer losses occur within the first year. The majority of the remaining cohort will stay no longer than five years after first attending/joining

The Salvation Army. Regardless of whether someone is participating as part of a Recovery Services program, or visiting a church for another reason, it's important that we grapple with how we can better support, welcome, connect and integrate newcomers.

In order to gain a better understanding of how The Salvation Army can begin to address the attrition, we have spoken with some corps who frequently experience and integrate newcomers. This information has been distilled into a list of 10 of the most common traits and behaviours that these corps exhibit. In order to make this more than a merely academic exercise, some points contain a suggested action point.

The Salvation Army's most welcoming corps:

- 1.** Have a dedicated, passionate and committed welcoming team. The team is made up of individuals who are inherently inclusive and are able to make connections. Welcoming is valued as an important and integral contribution to the work of the church, not merely as a gap to be filled.
- 2.** Identify and welcome each newcomer. Service hosts don't draw attention to the newcomer in the meeting. They understand that not everyone who walks into a service wants to be known or seen. ▶



A welcoming corps is respectful of the individual's journey. This is particularly of great importance when a corps has connection with a local Recovery Services expression. Special understanding of the joys and challenges of recovery is paramount to welcoming, connection and inclusion.

**3.** Do more than just point out the bathrooms. They are able to make people feel comfortable and at ease. This includes helping the visitor know about any children's programs, morning tea or after-church lunches that may be running.

**4.** Ensure that their meetings are inclusive and are conducted in a way that is accessible to newcomers. This includes ensuring that any welcome and announcements are geared at making newcomers feel comfortable and aware of what's going on. They don't use lots of Salvation Army "lingo", rather, they explain things in easily understood English. **Action point:** Develop materials that can be widely used in corps that explain The Salvation Army in everyday language. These materials are provided not just in English but other major community languages.

**5.** Provide welcome packs. These packs include information not only about events in the life of the church but also information about the culture and vision of the church. **Action point:** Develop some basic welcome packs that can easily have local information added and changed. Ensure that there are multilingual options available.

**6.** Prioritise genuine friendships. They recognise that for someone to settle into their church takes considerable effort on both sides. They offer and pursue an intentional relationship regardless of whether someone is simply "checking it out" or actively in the process of making the corps their home church. They don't give up on a relationship if the newcomer doesn't speak English. They learn

some words in the spoken language and show a commitment to connection.

**7.** Host well-organised, semi-regular gatherings for newcomers to gather and meet with some of the leadership of the church. These events are not held as an isolated event, but rather, augment the meaningful connections already made with newcomers. **Action point:** A visual presentation (video/graphic) created that can be used at these gatherings to better explain what it means to be a modern Salvation Army. The option of subtitles in major community languages to be included.

**8.** Acknowledge their weaknesses in inclusion and embark on developing understanding and making changes to ensure that they reflect the community they serve. **Action point:** To understand the potential for local mission delivery, corps could take the time to compare local data with their own understanding of the demographics of their worshipping community.

**9.** Are able to make strong connections with other Salvation Army expressions that are located in or near their worshipping community. They understand that integrated holistic mission requires collaboration and connection. **Action point:** Each corps to undertake a process to understand their present and potential local mission delivery. Resources like Asset Based Community Development provide an excellent starting point for discussion and reflection.

**10.** Acknowledge their limitations. They are able to express their needs for growth and improvement and actively seek input and inspiration. •

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Amanda Lennestal and Samantha Tan prepared this article while members of the Mission Support Team. Amanda has since moved into another role.  
.....

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Peter and Derryle Barker outside the Perth Fortress Corps building. Photo: Joel Gibson

## Breaking with tradition.

Peter and his family reflect changing face of Perth Fortress

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

**I**n his own words, Peter Barker was as traditional as they come. He proudly wore the uniform of the Perth Fortress Corps band, thinking it provided prestige – making him seem more important, maybe, than others who didn’t wear the uniform. The Salvation Army was his life. He loved the Army traditions. His great-grandfather, grandfather and father were Perth Fortress pioneers before him, linking the Barker family with the corps almost from its inception in 1891.

Peter has attended Perth Fortress since he was born, almost 60 years ago. His son Matthew, daughter Lauren, and grandson Eli, aged two, are carrying on the 125 years-plus Barker connection. Peter’s been a member of all of the junior sections. He’s been a songster and band member since he was “old enough to join”. He’s been band sergeant and secretary. He’s also been corps sergeant major, youth group leader and “done anything else that needed doing”.

“I remember the days when we spent all day Sunday at the Army – from the time the sun came up until well into the night,” he says. “It was exhausting, but that’s what we did in those days – knee drill [prayer], band street ministry in the morning and night, two meetings, Sunday school, corps cadets; the lot.

“And, as part of our tradition, the band wore festival jackets. We thought we were something! I was as traditional as you could get. We all were.”

But then, something changed. About 20 years ago, his wife Derryle became ill – very ill. Peter chose to step out of the band and scaled back his involvement at the corps. “I pulled right back. I had a sick wife and two young children,” he says.

“I could no longer be at the Army all of the time. It was then that I realised that I didn’t need to be at the Army all of the time. I took a stocktake, I suppose, of how we at the Army did things. What I saw was that our lives were not balanced; all we ever did was Army stuff. Personally, I was all about banding.

“We wouldn’t allow people to play in the corps band if they also played in a community band. Why did we do that? That had to change. It eventually did – and for the better.”

Peter’s reflection of himself and his corps was a catalyst for the changing face of Perth Fortress. “I play in a community band now and it’s a great opportunity to minister to other members of the community,” he says.

He became a volunteer firefighter, again to connect with the community and make a community contribution. “As I looked at my community involvement, I realised that the community is who we in The Salvation Army were called to serve and I think in many ways we were spending a lot of time serving ourselves,” he says. “I respect that many of ▶



us probably thought we were doing the right thing. But it wasn't always about the community."

Five years ago, Peter's daughter Lauren volunteered to assist a relatively new evening street outreach service in inner-city Perth aimed at connecting with the homeless community. Peter was encouraged by her experience to get involved. "At first, I thought it wasn't for me; that they didn't want old people like me doing that," he says.

"I filled in for my daughter one night and then I realised, hey, this is exactly what I have been reflecting on – we need to be in the community. And I have been involved ever since. For me, the last few years have been about getting out of our building and into the community where we are meant to be."

Peter, his wife, daughter, son and daughter-in-law Rachel continue to be part of the street outreach service volunteer team that feeds Perth's homeless from a Salvation Army van three nights a week. "I spend time sitting in the gutter with homeless people trying to lift them up," he says. Peter is known in the homeless community as "the old grey-haired man".

*Others* joined Peter and his team on Perth streets on a Friday night. It was cold, wet and windy. Peter knew where the homeless would be and drove the van to them. A young man crossed the street to the van. He talked to Peter about food. The young man was just out of jail. He asked Peter if he could use a phone to call his father.

Peter handed over his mobile. The man talked to his father, asking that money be put into his bank account to get him re-established. His father refused. The young man called his mother and an agreement was reached. "It's not just about food and a coffee," Peter says. "The young man needed more than that. We played a part. I am happy that we could help and did."

As we drove on, Peter said there was a lady he would like me to meet. "Her name is Jill," he said. "She sets up her bed in the same place in front of an office block every night. She never asks for much, but I like to call in to see her to make sure she is okay."

She was okay the night we called to see her. "Hello, Peter," she said. "Just something small tonight, thanks." They chatted for a few minutes and Peter moved on. "There isn't anything else we can do for

“

*For me, the last few years have been about getting out of our building and into the community where we are meant to be.*

”

Jill. That's how she wants to live. We let her know we're here for her."

Back at the corps office, Corps Officer Major Paul Hateley explains that people like Peter are changing the face of Perth Fortress Corps. "We can't be dismissive of our past mission efforts," he says. "Nor should we. The old corps saw what it was doing back then as mission. I respect that."

"But what it was doing, for example, in terms of playing music on the streets was legislated against by the civic authorities. We no longer had an automatic right to play on the streets. We had to pay \$80 for a permit every time, so we stopped doing it. But that mission wasn't replaced. We became self-serving instead of community-serving. That went on for some time – too long."

It had to change. "So, a deliberate program was implemented to move us from self-serving to serving the community," continues Major Hateley. "It has been a painful process for many. It wasn't the Army they were used to. Nobody likes being told that what they are doing is no longer effective. They believed that they were still being faithful."

"New programs and initiatives began to be birthed. Messy Church and Mainly Music began. We have teams serving breakfast to the homeless in parks around the city. We now have closer ties with The Salvation Army's homeless hostel (The Beacon). And we continue to serve the homeless three nights a week on the street."

"It didn't mean that we had to replace band and songsters – not at all. They still play a very important part. But we did need to engage more with the community. That's what's happened."

"Serving our community is part of the DNA of The Salvation Army and that's what we strive to do in a more active and effective way." ●



Clockwise from top: Peter Barker has found a balance in life as a soldier of the Perth Fortress Corps, being a member of the corps street outreach team and as a member of the band. Photos: Joel Gibson



## Burnie youth on fire.

Youth Alpha and laser tag changing lives

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS

When it comes to engaging with the teens in the town, Burnie Corps knew it needed a fresh approach. The small Tasmanian congregation had only four teens when Captains Belinda and Mark Smith began collaborating with several local churches to run Youth Alpha.

Youth Alpha is a creative 10-week course that explains the basics of the Christian faith to young people, who are then disciplined in the faith. Today, the thriving Sunday night Youth Alpha event sees anything from 25 to 70 young people come through the Burnie Corps doors to hear about the life-changing power of Jesus.

“We had three missing generations in our corps – children, youth, and young adults. So we decided we would run Youth Alpha for the four youth who went to Summer Carnival [an annual five-day youth event held at Phillip Island, Victoria],” Belinda says. “It’s blown my mind to see what’s happened. It’s actually an amazing journey ... how God facilitated all this to come together. And it goes to show how something small and insignificant can become something so huge and impacting for God.”

Small indeed. It all began when Belinda and Mark reached out to their corps cluster leader to find community. He recommended they start playing the popular interactive mobile phone game Ingress, which would connect them with locals and familiarise them with the area. After meeting a Christian couple through the game, they were informed about a nearby laser tag business run by a Christian couple from Recharge Church in Burnie.

The couple was already running Youth Alpha at the venue on a Sunday night, so the Burnie Corps teens joined in.

### GREATER IMPACT

Within a year the laser tag venue was too small for the number of young people attending and the ministry was unable to facilitate spiritual growth past the program. That’s when Burnie Corps offered its building, so they might work together for deeper discipleship and have a greater impact for the burgeoning Sunday night program. “Because the churches individually didn’t have the resources to run such a big youth program, together we’re able to have a greater impact in the community,” says Belinda.

By pairing the Alpha course with pizza, snacks and a round of laser tag every week, Burnie Salvos, Recharge Church and leaders from three other churches on the North West Coast of Tasmania have created a safe space for more than 90 young people from all walks of life to ask questions and begin a journey in the Christian faith. In an area plagued by youth homelessness, this has been particularly transformational.

“We’ve had youth come to Christ, we’ve had youth experience both physical and emotional healing, and we’ve been able to help youth connect with social services and support them through significant events in their lives. It’s blown my mind how much God is moving in this space!” says Belinda.

From physical healing, to the restoration of relationships, answers to prayer and a change in



▲ Burnie Corps youth ministry coordinator Keith Nicholls (front row, third from left) with some of the young people who are connected to the corps through the Youth Alpha program.

attitude, each young person has a story about how Youth Alpha has impacted them. And the beauty of this lies in the fact that the stories come from people still coming to faith. “Some people haven’t come to Christ yet, but they’re on the journey,” says Belinda. “And it’s about building those relationships with the youth. We see them learning how to function in a more healthy way and interact with each other, because a lot of them have not had positive role models in their lives.”

### LEADERS IN TRAINING

The inter-church partnership was fundamental in the success of the program, due to a lack of available leaders at Burnie Corps. By partnering with Recharge Church in particular, this gap was filled and the faith community has seen leaders rise up, many young people coming to faith and engaging with the churches.

This includes a young man who committed his life to Jesus at Summer Carnival last year and who has taken on youth leadership within the corps. Two of its Youth Alpha leaders who went to Summer Carnival are so committed to investing into Youth

Alpha they travel up to 45 minutes each way to mentor the growing faith community.

What’s more, teens attending the Youth Alpha program are actively seeking out leadership roles, causing the team to create a Leaders In Training group where they can grow in responsibility and take over leadership in the future. Burnie Corps this year will begin a new stage of the ministry by starting a youth-oriented church service, with the intention of connecting with the families of the teens attending Alpha – a task the combined church leadership team is chomping at the bit to start.

“We just all work together beautifully,” says Belinda. “We are finding youth connecting with Christ and slowly becoming part of our church community. The key is that it doesn’t matter how seemingly insignificant something might be; if you just surrender whatever you have to God, God will do more than we could ever dream or imagine.

“This year we have 24 youth keen and ready to attend Summer Carnival from Youth Alpha. I can’t wait to see what God will do in their lives.” ●



## ARCTIC CIRCLE

Fairbanks: Alaska

Harstad: Norway, Iceland and Faeroe Islands

Murmansk: Russia

Yellowknife: Canada and Bermuda

Canada

Arctic  
Ocean

Russia

Greenland

Nuuk: Denmark and Greenland

Rovaniemi: Finland and Estonia

Haparanda: Sweden and Latvia

## The Arctic Circle of life.

Army corps thriving in world's frozen north

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

The land of the midnight sun, the Northern Lights, months of darkness, snow, ice and reindeer – the stark beauty, extreme climate and remoteness of the Arctic Circle create an aura of mystery that draws people from around the world. Seven territories of The Salvation Army have corps inside or close to the Arctic Circle. Here, officers are often issued with snowmobiles, and corps serve the homeless, the lonely and the addicted in some of the harshest conditions on the planet. *Others* international editor **Simone Worthing** takes a look at some of these corps, the unique challenges and joys they experience, and the work God is doing through those committed to serving in these remote locations.

## FAIRBANKS, ALASKA: USA WESTERN TERRITORY

Fairbanks Corps is approximately 250km from the Arctic Circle and has been operating since the 1950s. The Corps Officers, Captains Dana and Lance Walters, lead worship each Sunday, with between 15 and 25 people in attendance.

“This is a place of incredible beauty,” says Dana. “Moose in your front yard, the Northern Lights, native culture and foods, winter sports, hunting and fishing. The 24 hours of sunlight in the summer means we grow amazing plants and vegetables.

“The temperatures in the winter, though, are well below zero and snow does not melt for months at a time. Our homeless population is at risk of frostbite, freezing and even death. [During winter], almost 24 hours of darkness adds to depression and alcohol abuse.

“Getting from one place to another can be a challenge if you have to walk because of the ice. The airport closes at 45 degrees below zero so you can lose access to the already limited medical support and specialty care. The cost of electricity or heating oil can be prohibitive for low-income and even middle-income families.”

The corps is a busy one, with church services, Bible studies, women's and prayer groups, community food boxes, seniors' ministry, a thrift store, hampers for Thanksgiving and Christmas, school supplies, rent and utility assistance grants, and summer camps. The corps is also active in the local community.

“We are part of the Fairbanks Local Emergency Planning, and Lance is head of the Northern Alaska Volunteers Organisation at disasters,” says Dana. “We participate in community health fairs and are a shelter for the elementary school adjacent to us.” ▶





Clockwise from top: In Greenland, deep snow stays on the ground for months; in Yellowknife, Canada, territorial and divisional leaders experience the local dog sleds; members of the Murmansk Corps with Command leaders and visitors from Norway; Captain Lance Walters with his dog, Spencer, going for a walk in their respective snow shoes in the middle of an Alaskan winter.

#### HAPARANDA: SWEDEN AND LATVIA TERRITORY

Haparanda is the most north-eastern city of Sweden, approximately 1000km from the nation's capital, Stockholm, 162km from the Arctic Circle and only 2km to the Finnish city of Torneå. The city's 9800 residents speak both Swedish and Finnish.

Winter extends for almost seven months here, with large amounts of snow. Snowmobiles and skis are almost as common as cars. Ice is on the ground until May, summer arrives in the middle of June, and the long winter season is very dark with less than one hour of daylight in December and January.

"When the light comes back it is lovely, but I meet so many wonderful people and I have such an interesting work that the darkness doesn't worry me," says Maud Fennvik, Haparanda Corps Officer. "The churches, local authorities and different organisations work closely together which helps make our work secure and stable."

Haparanda Corps is not large numerically – up to 40 people attend church services each week. When a wave of refugees entered Sweden in 2015, the population of Haparanda increased by about 40 per cent. Many of these people were traumatised asylum seekers, having arrived from a range of other countries, particularly Syria and Afghanistan.

"This was a big challenge, and a gift as well," says Major Fennvik. "When they arrived, our elderly and others got busy with everything from giving them lifts in cars, to language training, food, clothing, activities, Bible studies, prayer and conversation and everyday care. My experience is that our corps is a good meeting point to which people feel that they can come regardless of different backgrounds. The lonely ones quickly get new friends and meet people they get to know."

Asylum seekers representing about 15 nationalities began worshipping at the corps, with several becoming actively involved.

The corps also offers regular fellowship groups, Bible studies and prayer groups, children's activities in partnership with the Swedish church and local municipality, and, with another church in the city, cooking and baking groups. Up to 65 people visit the corps daily to attend different programs.

- Carina Tyskbo (translated by Karin Larsson)

#### HARSTAD: NORWAY, ICELAND AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS TERRITORY

In Harstad, or Hárstták, the winters are "mild" due to the Gulf Stream, which means the temperature is often only between 0 and -5 degrees. "There is also literally no springtime; we go from snow to an explosion of grass and leaves in approximately a week," says Captain Marit Byre Myklebust, Harstad Corps Officer with her husband, Major Helge Byre Myklebust.

The city is in almost complete darkness from November to January. "Most people call this the winter darkness, but I call it the winter light, as it's actually a very beautiful time of the year," adds Marit.

The Salvation Army has been in Harstad since 1894. Its impact in the community over the past three years has increased substantially, particularly through "Stedet" (The Place), a thriving program run by Salvation Army social services from the corps building.

"The idea [behind Stedet] was to make a come-and-contribute arena for those who have sought to fight their drug or alcohol addiction, a place to meet, to do meaningful activities together and to help each other stay sober," explains Marit. "It's sometimes chaotic and we are

certainly not on top of things, but it has a Kingdom scent to it. We are so blessed to meet all these new people."

In addition to weekly services, the corps also runs a foodbank, a seniors' meeting, and knitting club for women. The territorial Fretex program runs a thrift store, while Stedet's employees facilitate the street football team, "Armeen Harstad".

Serving in the far north in a town like Harstad can be challenging, particularly the distance between neighbouring corps and to family. "We have made a home here and I think that is the key to wellbeing and Kingdom building wherever you live, be it in outback Australia, downtown Sydney or in north Norway," says Marit.

Also in Norway, 400km inside the Arctic Circle, is Kirkenes Corps.

#### NUUK: DENMARK AND GREENLAND TERRITORY

Greenland is an autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark. Its main population centre, Nuuk, is the world's most northerly capital city and only 240km from the Arctic Circle. The Salvation Army established itself in Nuuk a little over five years ago, partly in response to a direct request from the Greenland Government, to assist with the homeless population. "It's quite simple, really," says Major Kurt Pedersen, Nuuk Corps Officer. "If we don't feed them, they starve."

There are showers available at the corps hall and blankets and winter coats for emergencies. Through a partnership with Queen Ingrid's Hospital, tuberculosis nurses visit the corps to offer general advice on health and hygiene.

Major Helle Pedersen, Kurt's wife and co-leader at the corps, is exploring ►



partnerships with local artisan craft communities about sharing their skills with the homeless to help them regain self-esteem and develop some basic life skills. The Salvation Army has also recruited a volunteer youth and families worker who is starting to build more relationships in the local community.

On Sundays, the worship hall is full, with 85 per cent of attendees being homeless. Several have committed their lives to following Jesus. For a full report on the work in Greenland, go to [others.org.au/features/the-true-northern-lights](http://others.org.au/features/the-true-northern-lights) – David Giles

#### MURMANSK: RUSSIA COMMAND

Two degrees north of the Arctic Circle lies Murmansk, Russia's northernmost city and, with a population of over 300,000, the largest people base in the Arctic by far. Captains Andrei and Tatiana Slashchev are the Corps Officers at Murmansk, where around 20 people attend each week.

The corps programs focus on serving the homeless, underprivileged families, and people with disabilities. Together with the Norway, Iceland and Faeroes Island Territory, The Salvation Army operates a thrift store, and SPAtex, based on similar lines to the well-established Fretex rehabilitation and recycling program run by The Salvation Army in Norway. SPAtex brings in funding for Salvation Army programs with the goal of providing employment and rehabilitation opportunities [through relationships with government labour departments] particularly for people with disabilities.

"The extreme weather in Murmansk is a challenge for many in this city, but the joys include supporting and helping people and working on joint programs with the Norway Territory," says Lieut-Colonel Alexander Kharkov, Russia Officer Commanding.

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*We have made a home here and I think that is the key to wellbeing and Kingdom building wherever you live, be it in outback Australia, downtown Sydney or in north Norway.*

”

#### ROVANIEMI: FINLAND AND ESTONIA TERRITORY

Rovaniemi Corps, in Finland, is just 6km outside the Arctic Circle and is the country's northernmost corps. Rovaniemi is recognised as the official home of Santa, and the Santa Claus Village tourist attraction brings in around half a million visitors each year.

With a rapid rise in tourism since the 1980s, the corps has also seen the demand on its services increase. Many of the city's immigrant population have found their way to The Salvation Army, where they have been given assistance with learning the Finnish language and culture lessons, as well as the practical support of food, clothing and toys for children.

New members have been enrolled during the past few years, with many of them in the 20-40 age bracket. This has brought new life to the corps. "The plan is to train these new corps members so they can take on more responsibility at the corps for the future," says Major Pirjo Mikkonen, Corps Officer.

#### YELLOWKNIFE CANADA: CANADA AND BERMUDA TERRITORY

Yellowknife is located in the Northwest Territories of Canada, 4900km north-west of the capital, Ottawa, and 400km south of the Arctic Circle. About 25-30 people attend the corps, with most being long-time members. As in other places

within or close to the Arctic Circle, residents face unique challenges.

"In many remote northern locations in Canada one of the greatest challenges is not the cold or the isolation, it is the regular turnover of individuals who move north for work and leave at the end of their term," explains Major Al Hoeft, Area Commander. "Over the years the congregation has been as large as 150 on a Sunday morning, but continually replacing those who move away is a never-ending task."

There are, however, many "wonderful" elements to living so far north. "There is a real sense of community – people spend a lot of time together and strong bonds develop over the years," says Major Hoeft. "We [also] have access to some of the most wonderful parts of God's creation – 24-hour daylight in the summer and the Northern Lights in winter. And the corps owns a snowmobile for the officers!"

Corps ministries include an emergency shelter, soup line, food bank, parole supervision, community-based mental health support, withdrawal management services, and a Christmas hamper program, both locally and "fly-out" to several isolated communities across the North. "We are also always very conscious of the unique cultural elements of our area and strive to honour the First Nations cultures of our region," says Major Hoeft. ●



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## End of an era.

College will always hold a special place in Joan's heart

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN AND SCOTT SIMPSON

**L**ate last year, a celebration was held at Eva Burrows College in Sydney's Bexley North, to mark the end of Salvation Army officer training at the site. Just over a month later, another significant yet lower profile occasion, with a strong connection to the college, was also being quietly observed.

Joan Pack was private secretary to then-training principal Major Ian Cutmore when the training college moved to the Bexley North site from Petersham in 1980. She'd been a cadet-in-training (1971-73) and then, from 1976, on staff at Petersham before the shift to Bexley North.

"I was actually the first person to live on this [Bexley North] campus," says Joan. "When the relocation was being completed Major Cutmore said to me, 'Would you like to go and live there?', because my unit had been finished. So I said 'Yes, that would be great'. So to be the first person to live here, that was pretty cool."

In 2007, Joan once again found herself working at the college, this time at The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Heritage Centre. However, just as officer training at the site has now drawn to a close, so, too, has Joan's official association with the college. As part of the transition to a national territory, responsibility for administration of heritage centre operations has transferred to Melbourne. It means that as of 31 January, Joan's employment with The Salvation Army ceased.

She is able, though, to look back fondly on many years of faithful service to God and The Salvation Army through the college.

"It was absolutely wonderful to work as secretary to Ian Cutmore," she says. "And it [the last few weeks] has been quite an emotional time for me, to have been present for the move from Petersham, seen the opening at Bexley North, to have come back here [to the Bexley North campus] to work in the heritage centre on staff, and to now see the end of the officer training college."

Joan's other strong connection to the officer training college has been through the Friends of the Cadets, Ladies Auxiliary.

The auxiliary was established in 1978 by June Dermott. She had the idea that money should be raised and an auxiliary created to support cadets in training with their additional expenses. Funds were to be raised through a subscription membership to the auxiliary from Salvationists across the Australia Eastern Territory, known as "Friends of the College", later to become "Friends of the Cadets".

Joan became involved with the auxiliary around 2000.

"In those early days the auxiliary helped the cadets with dry cleaning, shoe repairs, toiletries and other things like that," she says. "As the balance [of subscriptions] grew we were able to extend what assistance we gave the cadets, helping them with



Joan Pack has a long association with The Salvation Army training college at Bexley North, dating back to the day it opened in 1980. (Back row, from left) Pam Garland, Major Margaret Watters, Major Deborah Robinson (chaplain and college representative) Heather Quilter, and Helen Bouquet; (front row, from left) Joan Pack (secretary), Barbra Sims (president), Ann Apolony (treasurer) and Betty Bull. (Absent) Major Beverley Mole. Photos: Lieut Peter Martin

any financial hardship that they may come across. Mostly it was for out-of-pocket medical expenses and helping their children either at school or for Salvation Army camps.

"Every year, children of the cadets were given Easter eggs and Christmas gifts. The ladies of the auxiliary also came alongside the cadets to support them spiritually through prayer and pastoral support. We also provided the cadets with a uniform white shirt or white blouse for Christmas to be worn at Commissioning."

When Joan resumed employment on the college campus almost 12 years ago – an experience she describes as "coming home" – she stepped up her involvement with the auxiliary and held the position of vice-president/secretary, and then secretary for 11 years.

"How have I found it? It's been a real ministry," she says.

The Friends of the Cadets, Ladies Auxiliary had its last meeting in late-October 2018. Members of the auxiliary are being encouraged to join "College Friends", to continue to support cadets in training at the new national college. For more information, phone 03 9847 5400.

To watch two videos on the history of Salvation Army officer training at Bexley North, go to [vimeo.com/305949193](https://vimeo.com/305949193) and [vimeo.com/306051184](https://vimeo.com/306051184) •





Words Mark Hadley

01.

BODYGUARD

Rating: M  
Channel: Netflix

THIS YEAR'S GOLDEN GLOBE FOR BEST ACTOR in a TV Drama went to Richard Madden, the lead in the surprise streaming TV sensation, *Bodyguard*. When asked backstage why he thought the series had done so well, Madden replied that the show's moral ambiguity made it more identifiable to its audience. In that respect *Bodyguard* is a sign of the times we live in, where trust is something we no longer associate with those in charge.

*Bodyguard* is a six-part series about a soldier rebuilding his life after traumatic

tours of duty in Afghanistan. Madden stars as David Budd, the military man turned police officer. While on a trip with his children, Budd foils a terrorist train bombing. His reward is an appointment as the specialist protection officer for the Home Secretary. But the Right Honourable Julia Montague (played by Keeley Hawes) is a hard-bitten politician who also happens to have played a lead role in sending Budd's regiment to war. Her political decisions exposed him to horrors, which led to him developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Now Budd's life is a constant conflict of interest: responsible for safety of the woman who helped ruin his marriage. And that's just where the drama gets going.

*Bodyguard* is the perfect example of what the Brits do best in political thrillers – real, honest-to-goodness tension. More than 10 million people tuned in live for its last episode, making it the highest-rating program in the BBC's multichannel history. However, the series also highlights a significant change in the way we are coming to view authority figures. The key question that emerges is, "Who can you trust?" Everyone who's supposed to be protecting the average citizen has an ulterior motive. The politicians are angling

for power, the secret service is seeking influence, and the police are busy trying not to look bad. And the bodyguard? Well, the dilemma for Budd is he can't work out if he wants to protect the Home Secretary or kill her.

All this makes *Bodyguard* the series for our time. International studies show trust is on the decline. OECD figures reveal that the trust in its member governments has been generally deteriorating since 2006. However, researchers from Oxford University say there is one group that seems to have kept their hold on trust – those with a strong religious commitment: "Being raised religiously raises the level of trust by two per cent. If a person regularly attends religious services, the level of trust increases by another 20 per cent."

The study's authors don't dig into what it is that makes religious people more trusting, but related statistics don't suggest they're any less aware of the sort of untrustworthy characters that populate *Bodyguard*'s world. It seems more likely that they have put their trust in something else, and this affects the way they see others. The apostle Paul's encouragement to the Christians in Rome springs to mind: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

*Bodyguard* suggests that our authorities are untrustworthy, because they can only be trusted to act on their own behalf. As brilliant a detective show as it is, its perspective misses the most famous piece of evidence to the contrary. For about 2000 years now, the Bible has been proclaiming that God so loved the world that he died on a cross to save those who put their faith in him. That's right – a no-holds-barred self-sacrifice, from the highest authority for you and me. Clearly that's the sort of bodyguard you *can* put your trust in. ●



Words Mark Hadley

02.

THE HATE U GIVE

Rating: M  
Release date: 31 January

THE LESSONS FROM SOME FILMS SNEAK UP on you. Others wear their heart on their sleeves. *The Hate U Give* has it all in the title. Starr Carter, its young heroine, learns the painful truth that the hate we visit on others has a way of rebounding on all of us.

*The Hate U Give* is based on Angie Thomas' *New York Times* best-selling novel. The message is clear: the anger we pour out on others enforces a cycle of sin that harms us all. In Starr Carter's case, her life has been enveloped by the hatred of others, and she is desperate to see that cycle broken.

Amanda Stenberg (pictured) plays our 16-year-old lead, living in the fictional American suburb of Garden Heights. It's a poor, crime-ridden and predominantly black neighbourhood. However, her parents have chosen to send her to a private, primarily white school called Williamson Prep because, as Starr puts it, "... the [local] high school is where you go to get junk, high or pregnant." The consequence is something of a double life. At school Starr has to be cautious not to be too "ghetto" because, though slang is hip for rich kids, for her it's just a stereotype. While at home she has to be careful not to be too Williamson because her "people feel she's pretending to be white.

Nevertheless, Starr's worlds collide when one of her childhood friends, Khalil, is killed by a white policeman. The African American teen is pulled over while driving her home. When he reaches for a hairbrush, the officer panics and shoots him three times. Starr now has to decide whether she will give evidence to a grand jury, and throw off her precariously balanced life.

*The Hate U Give* is aimed at young adults, though there are heart-rending moments

likely to move any family member. It's a confronting portrait of the cycle of poverty, crime and prison that grinds down so many US communities. The particularly American nature of its problems can also be distancing, but there are two points where Christians will especially find a connection.

The first is the battle Starr goes through preparing to testify. She is painfully aware that telling people what she saw will change her in the eyes of everyone she knows. She fears her neighbourhood will see her as a snitch, while her school friends consider her a charity case. Yet her father, a reformed gang member, says speaking out shows how much she loves those she speaks for.

The second resonance relates to Starr's name. Her father gave all of his children "powerful names" to inspire them to break the cycle that enslaves their community. Her older brother is called Seven, after God's perfect number, and her younger brother Sekani, which means joy. She is called Starr because she has a duty to shine. It reminded me that everyone who entrusts themselves to God is also given a powerful name: "The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it ... and I will also write on them my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

Our new name is God's own name, and so it doesn't draw its power from our limited resources but his endless ones. He writes it on his children so that no matter how dark the situation, or determined the opposition, they know their place with him can never be taken away. ●

others

To watch our video reviews of new movies and TV shows go to [other.org.au/reviews](https://other.org.au/reviews)





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OTHERS

NEW RELEASES

## O1.

PETER BROOKSHAW  
AND STEPHEN COURT

JESUS CHRIST!

Review: Lauren Martin



PETER BROOKSHAW AND Stephen Court's *Jesus Christ! Nine lies, half-truths and outrageous misconceptions about the most revolutionary person who has ever lived* may

be a small book but it certainly packs a punch. I'm still to read the first book in the series, *Holy!*, which is written in the same style – “unpacking nine lies, half-truths and outrageous misconceptions about the most radical experience you’ve ever lived” – but I’m certainly in the market to get myself a copy after reading *Jesus Christ!*

*Jesus Christ!* is theology that’s easy to understand, written in simple, punchy English. But don’t think for a minute that makes this book wishy-washy or watered down. There are so many hard-hitting facts in this little tome that many times I found myself stopping to re-read and contemplate segments. (I love those little “aha” moments that take you a level deeper in your faith and understanding of just how amazing our God is!) The questions at the end of each chapter are helpful in processing the content at a personal level, or would make a lively group study.

There are some books you read and then put on the shelf. This isn’t one of them. I can see myself continually referring to *Jesus Christ!* and lending or gifting it to friends who are asking big questions of our big God. Thanks Peter and Stephen, I’m already looking forward to the next instalment.

*Jesus Christ!* is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018) and Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).

## O2.

ANGELA STRICKLAND (EDITOR)

THE SALVATION ARMY  
YEAR BOOK 2019



THE 376-PAGE *THE Salvation Army Year Book 2019* provides a complete overview of Salvation Army ministry around the world. First published in 1906, the annual publication incorporates details of the organisation’s work and ministry in 131 countries, with facts and statistics supported by reports, articles and colour maps and photographs.

The *Year Book* includes information from more than 50 Salvation Army territories, commands and regions, covering every aspect of ministry from schools and hospitals to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and transitional housing projects for homeless people. As well as statistical data charting numerical growth, there are chronologies, historical information and a helpful Salvation Army glossary.

“One part of the *Year Book* that I really enjoyed doing this year was putting together the articles ... [they] have so much information about specific things that we’re doing in The Salvation Army,” says the book’s editor, Major Angela Strickland. “I think it’s important to get those stories and those messages out there.”

This year’s special articles include “Equipping a Modern Army”, written by Commissioner Merle Heatwole, The Salvation Army’s International Secretary for Business Administration. There are also features on child protection and advances in anti-human trafficking work in Brazil. “Soul-saving Snapshots” includes inspiring short reports of effective but very different ministries in Madagascar, Hungary, Australia and Cuba.

A foreword by General Brian Peddle, international leader of The Salvation Army, reads, “This book provides snapshots of the Army’s work internationally. It is an incredible narrative that is saturated with the miracle of the divine dynamic. Peruse it and be blessed. Pray through it and watch God’s continued blessing unfold, and believe as I do that God is willing to do more, and will do a new thing among us. So, how is the Army doing? This book tells the story.”

*The Salvation Army Year Book 2019* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018), and online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The publication is also available as an e-book, for Kindle-compatible devices and Kobo.

## O3.

ALLEN SATTERLEE

THE KINGDOM REVEALED



IN THIS SERIES OF 30 devotionals, Lieut-Colonel Allen Satterlee, The Salvation Army National Editor-in-Chief in the United States, unpacks

the message Jesus gave to his followers, revealing counter-cultural truth to transform daily spiritual living. Jesus taught that the kingdom was not something far off, but a depiction of the Christian life – a life of holiness – attainable in the present.

Ideal for groups or individual Bible study, Satterlee’s conversational style, personal anecdotes and contextual insights offer readers a deeper look into some of Jesus’ most well-known words.

*The Kingdom Revealed* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) and Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



# Summer Carnival ... fun, family and faith for those who need it most

SUMMER CARNIVAL IS IN ITS eighth year and while the annual Territorial Youth Councils has become an important part of the calendar, it's more than just another event.

"This isn't just a camp or another event," explains Adam Purcell, the newly appointed National Youth Secretary. "The campers get fun and family, and it changes their lives."

This year's carnival, held at Phillip Island Adventure Resort for the fourth time, was attended by more than 500 campers and leaders.

"You have to experience Summer Carnival to understand it," says Adam, who went for the first time this year. "I first heard about the music and the videos, but it's completely different when you're in the middle of that crowd of young people. There is so much intention put into spiritual formation."

Spiritual formation is the purpose of Summer Carnival and everything on the program is structured around an intentional spiritual framework. The theme this year was "Loved right now", focusing on the story of Zaccheus, and the spiritual framework was woven into the messages, the music, and the small group material.

The intentional approach to spiritual formation resulted in at least 16 campers making first-time decisions to follow Jesus, with hundreds of responses in



total, often involving at-risk young people from challenging backgrounds.

"Summer Carnival becomes this fun, family environment," Adam says. "As you walk through the gate, it doesn't matter where you've come from, who you are, or who you usually hang out with. It is the most remarkable thing to

see – 400-plus young people finding the freedom to be themselves. The difference that a young person can make in their own life, when they have the revelation that they are loved regardless, is incredible."

Leaders from this year's event reported that Summer Carnival helped bring about positive change in campers with

experiences of mental illness, family breakdown and abuse. The carnival offers fun and family to those young people who need it most, but these campers can experience faith as well.

"Fun, family, and faith are the three spinning plates of youth ministry," Adam explains.

"Having fun and family is



just a social club. Having only faith aspects can leave out a generation that needs fun to be initially engaged. The balance of these is what creates the experience young people want, for the encounter with God that they need. And that is what's so exciting about Summer Carnival. We've literally just sent 500 young people back to

all different parts of Australia. Summer Carnival is not about the five days we're here. It's about the 51 weeks that we go and put this into action."

For now, Summer Carnival 2019 is done, but the fun, family, and faith it offers to those young people who need it most has only just begun.

– Anthony Castle

^ (Top row from left): Three of the many inspiring guest speakers at Summer Carnival at Phillip Island Adventure Resort this year were Adam Purcell, Megan Young, and Fulton Hawk.

(Bottom row from left): Summer Carnival revolves around fun, family and faith, and there was plenty on offer during the week, whether it was worship, cricket, carnival rides or hanging out with friends.

Photos: Ben Knop, Jacob Dyer and Lachlan Scallion Photography.



# God's Sports Arena kicks off in Port Moresby

▼ GOD'S SPORTS ARENA, A THRIVING Salvation Army church in the heart of Brisbane, has launched a service in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea.

The international expansion of God's Sports Arena came about through the successful Hope and a Future project – a mentoring, leadership and holistic health program sponsored by the Australia Territory.

Every year for the past five years, a number of emerging Papua New Guinea Salvation Army leaders have travelled to Queensland to participate in the program, during which they run the Gold Coast Marathon. During their visit the participants also attend God's Sports Arena in Brisbane.

Bill Hunter, the God's Sports Arena leader and Hope and a Future coordinator, said he was approached last year by former participants with an idea. "They requested that a God's Sports Arena service be run in Papua New Guinea because they loved it so much in Australia when they were exposed to it," he says.

Each church service at God's Sports Arena follows a sporting theme, with a whistle being blown to start the service, and seat swapping at "half-time". It's a casual-style church service, with contemporary worship, an encouragement segment, testimonies and a "Sportsman's Prayer" at the end.

"Papua New Guinea services are fairly traditional," says Bill. "The God's Sports Arena service is far less formal, very relaxed and with the aim of loving and encouraging people who attend."

The first service was held on Sunday evening 6 January at



▲ Greg Vali (second from left) leads the singing at the inaugural God's Sports Arena service in Port Moresby.

## Giving young people a hope and a future

▼ WHILE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, The Salvation Army Hope and a Future team selected the 2019 Hope and a Future participants.

Dozens of young people applied to be part of the program, which includes teaching, training and mentoring on four pillars: faith, fitness, education and

leadership. Ten participants, as well as two mentors, were chosen.

Local Salvation Army Territorial Youth Secretaries, Captains Kila and Pouna Komu, will again be part of the Hope and a Future team for 2019.

Australian mentors who will run the Gold Coast Marathon with the participants are Bill Hunter (Gods Sport's Arena leader and Hope and a Future coordinator), Adrian Kistan (General Manager, Mission Inclusion, Territorial Social

Program Department), Captain Brad McIver (NSW Public Relations Secretary), Captain Krista Andrews (Carindale Corps Officer), and Lauren Martin (*Others* Magazine journalist from 2508 Salvos, Helensburgh).

The team is encouraging Salvation Army runners, joggers and even walkers to sign up for the Gold Coast Marathon – either the full 42km marathon, the 21km half marathon or the 10km or 5.7km alternative events.

Gold Coast Marathon as a result of the Hope and a Future program.

"We just love investing in our youth," says John, with Greg adding, "Because we've been invested into by Salvation Army leadership here in Papua New Guinea and the Hope and a Future program, we want to do the same for the young people

around us. We want to see the youth grow in their faith and develop in their leadership."

Bill says it's rewarding to see young people taking ownership of running a church service.

"This is empowering them to be leaders and to better reach their community through a less formal approach to church."

– Lauren Martin

# Army releases \$2 million for mission innovation

▼ THE SALVATION ARMY HAS released \$2 million for the first six months of 2019 to create opportunities for new expressions of mission in local communities across Australia.

This is in response to the "Innovation Fund" announcement by Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd at Still Others late last year.

This funding is to "enhance innovation at the front line of mission and serve as a catalyst for fresh and creative expressions of mission with ongoing contribution to the fund in the annual budget provision," said

Commissioner Tracey Tidd, in announcing the Innovation Fund at Still Others.

The "creative expressions", aligned to the national strategy, will enable progress in the "encourage innovation" imperative, under the pillar "We will pioneer".

Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Territorial Commander, encouraged people to "start dreaming, start thinking, about how we can innovate our mission expressions".

The \$2 million fund, being administered by the Army's Enterprise Project Management



▲ The commissioners making the announcement at Still Others.

Office, is initially for ideas requiring up to \$20,000. For those wanting to apply, a checklist must first be completed.

Applicants can also discuss their ideas prior to application to ensure they are aligned with the fund goals.

For more information and a copy of the checklist, email [innovation@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:innovation@aus.salvationarmy.org)

Notification of the first tranche of funding will be on 25 February. There will be further tranches depending on the response received.

"We are working on a complementary process for larger innovations over \$20,000," said Chief Secretary Colonel Mark Campbell.

– Simone Worthing

# Soup, Soap and Salvation – it's all happening in Mackay

▼ THURSDAYS ARE ALWAYS eagerly anticipated by the staff and the community members of Mackay Corps in North Queensland. It is indeed an extremely God-filled but busy day, which complements the massive efforts that this small corps performs week in, week out.

Over the past few months, volunteer staff have been praying specifically about how to provide better assistance to the community.

They experimented one Thursday, providing a small meal to those who sought assistance at Salvos Connect. The experiment worked, and that one small meal has changed lives for the better and greatly improved the culture at the Salvos Connect site.

Volunteers have also been utilising their newly acquired SAES (Salvation Army

Emergencies Services) catering skills to provide a substantial meal alongside the SAL (Salvos Assessment Line) Connect assistance of a Thursday. What started as a simple idea has grown into a full-blown weekly production.

To see the excitement that is generated each Thursday is infectious. Conversations. Connections. Friendships. "Soup, Soap and Salvation" – it's all happening in Mackay. Some don't want to leave!

The Salvos Connect site is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to noon. What has evolved from community members attending only for financial assistance or a hamper bag has turned into a friendship group.

Some people attend, not to receive a welfare card or a handout, but because this



▲ Volunteers with a missional heart have transformed Mackay Corps' weekly Salvos Connect experience for those seeking assistance.

has become their only social outing for the week. They join with us to share time with their newfound friends. The Salvation Army has become their second home. Mackay is their "Thursday church".

Following these humble beginnings, the Positive Lifestyle Program has also

been introduced and, after only two weeks, has made a very large impact in people's lives. Volunteers and community members eagerly anticipate Thursdays. Salvos at Mackay are changing lives one person at a time, with the love of Jesus. – Captain Steve Spencer (Mackay Corps Officer)





▲ The Salvation Army contingent marching in the Pasadena Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

## Youth band shines at Rose Parade

▼ THE AUSTRALIA TERRITORY Youth Band (ATYB) joined more than 400 instrumentalists from bands across the USA, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, as well as individual musicians from Brazil, South Africa, Jamaica and India, to mark the 100th occasion of a Salvation Army band marching in the iconic Pasadena Rose Parade in the USA on 1 January.

This year's event saw a record number of Salvation Army musicians taking part – the majority of them young people.

Typically, more than 180 Salvationists march down Pasadena's Colorado Avenue each year. The group is usually comprised of Southern California-area band members, a guest band and individuals from other territories.

The Tournament of Roses Parade travels along the city's Colorado Boulevard, cheered on by more than one million spectators with many millions more watching live on national television.

The Salvation Army Rose Parade Band is organised by the California South divisional music department, led by Bandmaster Kevin Larsson, who has served in the post for 18 years.

"It's the world's biggest open-air," he says. "That's why we keep on investing into it ... we're playing *Amazing Grace* or *Stand up for Jesus* and often the name of the song is displayed on TV, so we can reach millions, millions and millions with that ministry," he said.

The ATYB's tour began 26 December when the group,

made of up musicians from all over the country, arrived in Los Angeles. The band was led by bandmaster Ken Waterworth, executive officer Captain Matt Reeve, Chris Brindley, Wayne Collyer and Jordan O'Brien.

The ATYB joined other participating Salvation Army bands at an international music school at Camp Mt Cragg, west of Pasadena, and were broken into eight international sub-bands that performed and led worship at local corps throughout the week.

The ATYB also performed at a National Basketball Association game (LA Clippers v Sacramento Kings). They also played at a Bandfest for 10,000 people, and marched in the Disneyland Parade on 3 January.

– **Simone Worthing**

## Slovenia the focus of World Day of Prayer

▼ SALVATION ARMY CORPS AND centres around the country will either be holding or enaging in special worship services early next month, in recognition of the annual World Day of Prayer.

The Army has a long history of involvement with the inter-denominational, world-wide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. The first Friday in March is traditionally acknowledged as the World Day of Prayer, which this year falls on 1 March.

Every year, the worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme.

In 2019, the focus is on Slovenia, with the theme, "Come. Everything is Ready". An original piece of artwork (pictured) is also created each year to reflect the World Day of Prayer theme.

"I believe that in The Salvation Army we are given every encouragement to pray – when we meet together and on a personal level," said Lois Denholm, who is the Divisional Representative for The Salvation Army on the South Australia World Day of Prayer Committee. "So it is a natural fit that The Salvation Army would want to be part of World Day of Prayer each year on the first Friday in March."

For more information go to [worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)



## Major Morgan awarded top academic honour

▼ THE FORMER NATIONAL HEAD of The Salvation Army Eva Burrows College, Major Gregory Morgan, has received the University of Divinity's Distinguished Service Medal for his achievements and contributions as "a leader, missiologist, author and teacher".

The Salvation Army connected with the University of Divinity (formerly the Melbourne College of Divinity) in 2005, entering the field of higher education. In 2017, with the new national college being formed as part of Australia One, the Army conducted a selection process and decided to partner nationally with the University of Divinity for its higher education qualifications.

Major Morgan undertook his Bachelor's Degree in Theology at the University of Divinity, as well as his Masters of Ministry, which focused on the training of officers.

"Eva Burrows College is a



▲ Major Gregory Morgan (second from right) accompanied by his wife, Major Priya Morgan, accepts his award from the University of Divinity's Professor Peter Sherlock (left) and Dr Graeme Blackman.

hidden gem, helping the organisation mature," says Major Morgan. "There is so much to gain for so many by engaging with the college. Our emphasis is on praxis, not just academic achievement; the goal of education for The Salvation Army is to make us more informed and effective activists."

Training officers is a vital activity of the college, but it also runs a full vocational stream offering qualifications from certificates to degrees in sectors as diverse as alcohol and other drugs, financial counselling, business administration, leadership and management and community services.

Major Morgan served for 14 years in various roles on college staff, and was appointed the National Head of College in August 2017.

He and his wife have now left for Britain to take up divisional leadership roles in the United Kingdom.

– **Barry Gittins**

## Army appoints gender equity researcher

▼ FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE Salvation Army in Australia has appointed a full-time gender equity researcher, to be based at Eva Burrows College.

Major Christine Faragher took up this appointment on 9 January. The role (Researcher-Gender Equity) is an initiative being jointly supported by The Salvation Army and the University of Divinity – of which Eva Burrows College is a



▲ Major Christine Faragher

recognised college.

"Both the university and The Salvation Army want to see higher level research in this area, so there is good support from both institutions," said

Major Faragher, who has already completed research for a Master's thesis on the spirituality of The Salvation Army.

"I have been shaped by study in the Arts, Theology, Spiritual Direction, and Supervision so I come to this research with a solid foundation across a number of streams."

The topic of Major Faragher's research will contribute to a PhD.

"The focus of the PhD, which is yet to be determined, will give the research shape," explained Major Faragher. "It will be worked out with both my academic supervisors at the university, and in consultation

with the Army's Gender Equity Committee, headed by Colonel Julie Campbell."

Colonel Campbell, National Gender Equity Advocate, said that it will be of great benefit to have formalised research and information in this area, both nationally and internationally, after years of discussions and exploration of the topic.

"This is an investment for generations to come," she says.

The Gender Equity Committee recently successfully recommended that the target for women in leadership be lifted from a minimum of 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

– **Simone Worthing**



# Enrolments

INALA CORPS  
QLD



CAPTAIN LEANNE STEVENS, INALA CORPS Officer, accepted Dawny (right) as a senior soldier on 18 November.

BRUNSWICK CORPS  
VIC



TERRITORIAL COMMANDER COMMISSIONER Floyd Tidd accepted 21 adherents in what was a momentous occasion for Brunswick Corps on 10 December. The group, pictured with Commissioner Tidd (far right) and Brunswick Corps Officer, Envoy Margaret Coombridge, and Associate Corps Officer Captain Meg Dale (centre), all completed a 20-week adherency course, which flowed out of a weekly Bible class run by the corps.

CAIRNS CORPS  
QLD



MAJOR BEN JOHNSON, CAIRNS CORPS Officer, accepted Simon Gazmer as an adherent on 9 December. Simon leads the Nepalese congregation at the corps.

CESSNOCK CORPS  
NSW



CAPTAIN DARREN LLOYD, CESSNOCK CORPS Officer, accepted Lee Lester and Erin Copeland as adherents on 6 January. Lee is a community volunteer and Erin is the Red Shield Family Store manager.

NOOSA/COOLUM CORPS  
QLD



SARAH CHARLES WAS ACCEPTED AS AN adherent on 18 November. The ceremony was conducted by then-Cadet Steph Savage.

VICTOR HARBOUR  
SA



MAJOR HOWARD TRENDELL ENROLLED Barbara Smoker as a senior soldier. Barbara is pictured here with her husband David Smoker (recruiting sergeant), and Victor Harbour Corps Officers Majors Howard and Elaine Trendell.

Send us your enrolment stories.

We want to share your stories. Please send details, including date of enrolment, name of corps or centre, name of enrolling officer(s), soldier(s) and/or adherent(s), and a high-resolution photo to Simone Worthing at [simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org)



Commissioners Bronwyn and Lyndon Buckingham (centre) with Salvation Army officers of the Rwanda and Burundi Command. The Buckinghams led Officers Councils during their tour of Rwanda.

## Buckinghams lead commissioning in Rwanda

COMMISSIONERS LYNDON AND Brownwyn Buckingham led a celebration weekend in Rwanda on their first visit to Africa as Chief of the Staff and World Secretary for Women's Ministries.

A march of witness in the

country's capital, Kigali, opened Sunday's activities, with the international leaders taking the salute. This was followed by the ordination and commissioning meeting of the *Messengers of Compassion* session of cadets, and a second meeting

where the newly commissioned officers received their appointments. The following day, after presiding over Officers Councils, the commissioners took time to pay their respects at the Rwandan Genocide Memorial in Kigali.

## European dignitaries witness the Army at work

POLAND'S FIRST LADY, AGATA Kornhauser-Duda, endorsed Salvation Army ministry during a fundraising event in the capital, Warsaw.

Mrs Kornhauser-Duda visited the Army's stall at the annual International Charity Bazaar and thanked Salvation Army staff and volunteers for their "great ministry in 2018 for the poor people of Poland ... as you do always".

Meantime, Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid made an



The First Lady of Poland, Agata Kornhauser-Duda (centre), with Salvation Army representatives in Warsaw.

informal visit to The Salvation Army's Narva Corps (on the Russian border) as part of a program where she met with several active community groups in the city.

The president took time to speak with the Alpha course

participants who were gathered at the time.

The Corps Officers, Majors Mihail and Liudmila Baglai, welcomed the president and explained the extensive community work undertaken by The Salvation Army in Narva.

## Polytechnic to boost education in Liberia

THE SALVATION ARMY IN Liberia has broadened its education capacity with the opening of a polytechnic, which will award degrees and other tertiary qualifications.

Education is a major need in Liberia, which is rebuilding after years of civil unrest and the 2014 outbreak of Ebola.

It is estimated that just 47 per cent of the country's 4.8 million population are literate, with most of Liberia's young people living in communities with little or no opportunity for formal education.

## Social bodies mark 10th anniversaries

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL Justice Commission (ISJC) and International Moral and Social Issues Council (IMASIC) recently marked their 10th anniversaries.

IMASIC is a body of officers and Salvationists from across the world who meet twice a year and are responsible for developing positional statements for The Salvation Army.


In recent years, IMASIC has begun initial work to develop positional statements on sexism, capital punishment and the creation of life. Discussions are also taking on issues related to human sexuality.

Casey O'Brien-Machado, The Salvation Army Social Justice Coordinator in Australia, based in Sydney, is a member of IMASIC.

The ISJC is part of The Salvation Army International Headquarters, and is based in New York City.



RUTH HENDY

 RUTH ELIZABETH HENDY was promoted to glory on 1 October, aged 95. Her funeral service was conducted at Golden Grove Corps in Adelaide’s north, by Majors Paul and Wendy Hateley, on 12 October. Daughters Valerie Hill, Miriam Evans and Denise Rigley shared recollections of their mother’s life and Christian service, granddaughter Sarah Williams read from Psalms and another granddaughter, Michelle Sboro, reflected on her nan’s life.

Ruth was born on 7 February 1923, the youngest of seven children of George and Prescilla Belton, in the village of Great Waking, England. At 16, she started work in the Migration Department of The Salvation Army International Headquarters in London. When World War Two broke out she was transferred to the Red Shield Services for the Armed Services and was posted to Dover.

It was at Dover that she met Ernest Arthur Hendy. They were married on 26 May 1943, their partnership of love and devotion spanning 63 years until Ern’s promotion to glory in September 2006. They were both officers for a time, before immigrating to Australia in 1971, where Ruth worked for The Salvation Army thrift shops and finished her working career in the Children’s Court Services in the State Department of Community Welfare.

Ruth was a woman of steadfast faith. Her devotion and loyalty to God was exhibited in many practical ways and the spiritual welfare of those with whom she came into contact was her primary concern. Norwood Corps, where she served as a songster and junior soldier sergeant for many years, had a special place in her heart.

Ruth was a loving and faithful wife, a proud mum of four children, Nanna to

seven grandchildren, and devoted “Big Nanna” to 20 great-grandchildren. She was a woman who had a great love for her family and cherished them dearly.

After transferring to Adelaide Congress Hall in her latter days, Ruth suffered ill health and reluctantly gave up her home to reside in residential care. Her Christian influence with both residents and staff was evident to the end.

BERNICE STEWART

BERNICE VALERIE STEWART WAS PROMOTED to glory on 19 October, aged 88. Lieut-Colonel Peter Laws conducted the Committal Service, and the Thanksgiving Service at Hurstville Citadel in Sydney. Lieutenant Adele Williams (niece) offered a prayer, and Captain Gai Cathcart (niece) presented a song. Various people assisted Jennifer (daughter) and her children to give tributes, including Major Ian Hutchinson (nephew) and Captain Joycelyn McIver.

Born in 1929 to Captains Thomas and Clarice Hutchinson, the family, following the death of Clarice, moved to Orange in Central West NSW, where Bernice grew up. The family attended Orange Corps where Bernice became junior timbrel leader.


At 21, Bernice moved to Taree where her service for God included timbrel leader, women’s voice leader and deputy songster leader, as well as primary leader at the outpost Sunday school of Cundletown. When the corps started Guards and Boys Legion, Bernice and her husband Tom, whom she married in 1963, became leaders.

Following a move to Sydney, Bernice became involved at Rockdale Corps, as Sunbeam leader and later Home League secretary. After a transfer to Hurstville Corps, Bernice worked tirelessly for the Home League.

Despite working full-time, Bernice always found time for others, including in a volunteer capacity with Hurstville Meals on Wheels, and as a bookkeeper. Bernice and Tom were gracious in hospitality, providing a home for many young Salvationists seeking accommodation in Sydney.

Bernice is survived by Tom, daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Mark, three grandsons, her brother Doug Hutchinson and sisters Gwen Fischer and Margaret Williams.

ADOLPHUS (DOLPH) FISCHER

 ADOLPHUS (DOLPH) DAVID Fischer was promoted to glory on 15 September, aged 87. Major Dudley Mortimer conducted the funeral service at a packed Taree Salvation Army.

Major Michael Hogg, the Taree Corps Officer, offered prayer; Captain Gai Cathcart (niece) sang Dolph’s favourite song, *In Heavenly Love Abiding*, accompanied by Lieutenant Adele Williams (niece) on the flute; and Joy Kirby (niece) read from 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Owen Tisdell, corps sergeant major, brought the corps tribute, recalling Dolph’s significant involvement, his readiness with a testimony, and his ability to quote Scripture off the top of his head.

Sons Warren and Neil paid tribute in the service, reflecting on their dad’s love for God, giving faithful and dependable service, and being a great father.

Dolph was born on 16 June 1931, the third child of Salvationist parents Les and Winifred Fischer. He was a junior soldier, senior soldier, bandsman, songster, male voice party member, and young people’s sergeant major of the Taree Corps. In 1954, Dolph married Gwen Hutchinson, and, being a carpenter and joiner, built their family home.

About people

**APPOINTMENTS**  
*Effective 9 January*  
Major Naava **Brooks**, State Manager, Family Violence – Western Australia, Social Mission Department (additional appointment); Major Darren **Elkington**, Corps Officer, Moreland City/Northern Hub – Team Leader, Victoria Division (change of title); Captain Melanie **Cop**, Corps Officer, Moreland City/Northern Hub – Team member, Victoria Division (change of title); Captain Susan **Lamotte**, Corps Officer, Moreland City/Northern Hub – Team member, Victoria Division (change of title); Captain Taryn **Singer**, THQ Mission Support Officer, Office of the Secretary for Mission (second appointment); Major Christine **Faragher**, Researcher – Gender Equity, Eva Burrows College; Lieutenant Nicola **Poore**, Corps Officer, Macarthur Corps, NSW/ACT Division (change of title).

*Effective 14 January*  
Colonel Mark **Watts**, Returning from Overseas Service – Appointment to be announced, Chief Secretary, IHQ.

*Effective 1 February*  
Auxiliary-Lieutenant Karen **Clark**, Corps Officer, Caloundra, Queensland Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Tim **Clark**, Corps Officer, Caloundra, Queensland Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Catherine **Philpot**, Corps Officer, Centenary Corps, and South Brisbane Community Project Officer, Queensland Division.

**CANDIDATES**  
Graham **Kennedy** (Torquay, Vic) has been accepted as a residential cadet as part of the *Messengers of Grace* session 2019.

**RETIREMENTS**  
Major Phil **Cardew**, on 9 January; Major Roslyn **Walker** on 9 January; Major Cornelia (Nellie) **Moed** on 20 February.

**PROMOTED TO GLORY**  
Lieut-Colonel Phyllis **Barnard**, on 16 December; Major Dennis **Hill**, on 17 December; Envoy Don Nottage, on 6 January; Major Margaret Jones, on 11 January.



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# The wounded healer.

WORDS SCOTT STRISSEL

THE TELEPHONE RANG IN MY OFFICE. It was a dark, rainy afternoon. Billowing clouds hung ominously in the sky. Inside, another tempest was brewing. The last couple of years in ministry had been difficult, and I was contemplating my resignation as an officer. I was frustrated, hurt and ready to call it quits. My heart was heavy as I answered that telephone.

Little did I know that the prayer in my heart was about to be answered. A local pastor was calling to donate some food to our soup kitchen. I politely said I would be right over. I pulled into the driveway of the church, parked at the adjacent gymnasium structure and knocked on the front door. The pastor ambled to the door and welcomed me in. He led me to the kitchen where the food was all nicely wrapped and ready. But then, something truly remarkable happened. I had come for food to feed others, but the Lord had other ideas in mind. I needed nourishment of the heart – for I was weary, worn and at the end of my rope.

Pastor Steve began to talk about his ministry, and gave me a brief tour of the building. We chatted for a few more minutes and it felt like I was in a safe place, far away from judgment and ridicule, and so I shared with him my hurt. I told him about the heartache I had



➤ Captain Scott Strissel found healing in an unexpected place.

experienced in ministry, and the wounds inflicted on the pastoral battlefield. It was like letting go of a burden I had been carrying for far too long.

He understood. He didn't say, "You just need to try harder", or "Perhaps you aren't walking with the Lord enough", or even "Maybe you're just not cut out for ministry". Instead, he just listened.

He let me expose the festering wounds in my heart that refused to heal. I had not been able to articulate them, let alone face them, before. But here, in a gym kitchen, I bared the wound and infection to the light. Leaning on a stainless steel island in a small kitchen, he prayed for me, and the power of the Holy Spirit began working in my heart.

I can't tell you that I was miraculously healed in an instant, but the pain, bitterness and hurt started to mend. I was a broken vessel in need of repair, and the hands of God were more than willing to remould me. Dare I say that the pastor was only the conduit, while the Lord applied much-needed salve to a wounded life.

Pastor Steve asked if it would be okay if he contacted a couple of other pastors that he knew, and if we could all meet over breakfast sometime soon. I accepted

the invitation and left with the food in my hands. I had come to receive food for people in need, when I was also in need myself – in need of spiritual nourishment and hope. I walked away from that encounter a little lighter.

A short while later, Pastor Steve called and, true to his word, invited me to breakfast with a group of pastors. I found a group of guys who loved being with each other. They laughed together over coffee and toast. I felt as if I was being welcomed into a fellowship I didn't deserve, and yet here they were warming my heart.

Over the course of the next few months, I met with this group every couple of weeks. There wasn't any agenda except to encourage and pray for one another. I am forever grateful that Pastor Steve stopped on his journey to pick up another weary traveller. It was a divine appointment that stands as a turning point in my life, and helped to heal my wounded heart. ●

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**Captain Scott Strissel** is the Divisional Youth Secretary and Divisional Candidates' Secretary in the Midland Division, USA Central Territory. He blogs at [pastorsponderings.org](http://pastorsponderings.org)  
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