

others

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March
2020

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Evangelism in a no-fault society



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WORDS
SCOTT SIMPSON

The path that calls us to self denial

DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES. IT'S A PHRASE that has received widespread use across The Salvation Army in Australia over the past decade, particularly in the former Australia Eastern Territory and primarily in connection with what were its Mission Priorities.

It rolls off the tongue quite nicely and is a call to action that can be quite effective in stirring passion for mission. But have you ever stopped to consider for a moment the gravity of these four simple words in the context of our service for God? Doing whatever it takes. Doing *whatever*.

To utter these words is to signal our absolute abandonment to God. "Take me, Lord, I am yours. I am willing to go wherever and do *whatever* to further your Kingdom." They are words that must not be spoken lightly before a God who, Scripture tells us (Matthew 12:36), will hold us accountable for every careless thing we say.

In this issue of *Others*, so much of what you will read is effectively stories of 'doing whatever it takes' in action, none more so than our article on the Self Denial Appeal (see page 36), which was launched on 23 February. The six weeks of the focused Self Denial Appeal campaign this year will follow a similar format, featuring a series of videos and culminating in an Altar Service on Sunday 29 March. These videos, as they do every year, highlight the sacrificial service by The Salvation Army – and individual Salvationists in particular – in going into dark and desperate situations to shine the light of God's love. They are people who are doing 'whatever it takes'.

Over the next few weeks as you spend time reading God's Word and praying in preparation for the Self Denial Appeal, take a moment to consider whether you really are 'doing whatever it takes' to further God's kingdom. Is your support of this vital annual appeal really 'self denial', or more a comfortable act of giving which falls short of genuine sacrifice?

A number of years ago, in the lead-up to Easter, I was shown a short yet confrontational video that depicted a conversation between Jesus and Satan. In it, Satan, in taunting Christ about 'The Fall', tells Jesus that to redeem humanity will cost him everything – that he must be prepared to lay down his life. Christ's simple yet history-altering response to the taunt: "I am willing to do whatever it takes."

For Jesus, 'doing whatever it takes' meant laying down his life – an excruciating death on a cross – before his glorious resurrection three days later.

As followers of Christ we, too, are told to daily take up our cross (Luke 9:23). For most of us, this journey won't lead to a literal cross, but it is a path that calls us to self denial. It's a road we must all take before we can truly say we are 'doing whatever it takes'. Are you willing to take the journey? *

.....
Scott Simpson is the
Assistant Editor-in-Chief.
.....



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It's been another summer of natural disasters in Australia, and The Salvation Army has once again been on the front line of the emergency relief and recovery effort. Read our full wrap beginning on page 34. Photo: Chloe McKenzie



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Cover illustration: Rod Allen

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Salvation Story

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

- * Caring for people
- * Creating faith pathways
- * Building healthy communities
- * Working for justice

MISSION STATEMENT



WORDS

COMMISSIONERS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

Investing in our future

Giving to the Self Denial Appeal a great way to start

To watch the Donaldsons' monthly video message to The Salvation Army Australia Territory, go to: others.org.au/donaldsons

WHAT IS THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT?

We hear this question in so many areas of our lives – business profitability, social outcomes, ministry outcomes and retirement savings.

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25) is a story in which a low return is challenged and a return on investment is rewarded. The story of Kennedy and Mary Mizinga, a Salvationist couple in Zambia, gives us confidence in the return on investment that is achieved through the Self Denial Appeal.

When we arrived at The Salvation Army Chikankata Mission in Zambia in the early 1990s, Kennedy was the head boy, captain of the basketball team and a leader at the corps cadet discipleship program at the secondary school. During his schooling, contributors to the Self Denial Appeal invested in Kennedy's development through the provision of educational and discipleship resources, the building of houses for teachers and general maintenance at the school.

Mary was from a family from the local Mapangazya area. She had contracted polio as a child and Chikankata hospital assisted her with medical care and rehabilitation. Again, investments of Self Denial Appeal funding had assisted the hospital to provide good-quality medical care over many years.

We met Kennedy and Mary again at the Officer Training College in Zambia. Mary came to college and as part of her training went on placement to Kanyama Corps and community development program. Kanyama was supported by Salvos on international

service; another aspect of Self Denial Fund investment.

At Kanyama, Mary ministered alongside a tall and athletic young recruiting sergeant – Kennedy Mizinga. And you guessed it, they fell in love. Kennedy became a cadet in the following training session and, following his commissioning as a Salvation Army officer, one of our sons was privileged to be a member of Kennedy and Mary's wedding party.

During the four-year period that Mary and subsequently Kennedy were cadets, the investment of Self Denial Appeal funding provided library resources, ministry resources, operational funding, building maintenance and basic furnishings to get them started in ministry.

Since then, the Mizingas have served in corps ministry, community development, district leadership and now serve as the Training Principal and Director of Special Services at the Officer Training College in Lusaka. Investing in the next generation of leaders is a wonderful return on investment!

Please join us in giving generously, even sacrificially, to this year's Self Denial Appeal.

God bless you.*

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson are Territorial Leaders, Australia Territory.



AUSSIE OFFICERS AROUND THE WORLD – NEW ZEALAND, FIJI, TONGA, AND SAMOA TERRITORY

Others continues to profile the work of some of the Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we take a look at the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory, where Majors Chris and Earle Ivers are serving as leaders of the Southern Division.

Having been impacted by numerous short-term mission connections in a number of territories around the world over the years of our officership, our interest in the internationalism of The Salvation Army is well developed. As a result, the possibility of receiving an appointment to another territory was something that we had always been open to.

Prior to our appointment to the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory (NZFTS Territory), we had always been captivated by the diversity of expression, the exploration of cultural nuances and the contextual challenges experienced by the Army in the places we had engaged with. Interestingly, and despite the relative similarities between Australia and New Zealand, it is pleasing to note that there have been many opportunities to further our interest and experience in each of these areas.

The bi-cultural journey is significant both within the nation of New Zealand as well as the NZFTS Territory, and it has been a steep learning curve for us as we seek to understand, then embrace this, within our leadership. For example,

Majors Chris and Earle Ivers say that living in Christchurch is beautiful but has its challenges as Salvation Army officers.



sports fans around the world are familiar with the sight of the Maori haka that precedes international fixtures, yet so few of us understand the rich meaning and deep heritage that accompanies not only this expression of culture but many others as well.

Within worship expressions and in public gatherings, culturally appropriate inclusions (in ceremony, song and prayer)

are frequently made with positive impact. As evidenced at the 2019 Territorial Congress, the cultural diversity of the NZFTS Territory is enhanced by the nations represented within it. With the cultural flair of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa added to the mix, there is a vibrancy perhaps unequalled anywhere in the world, and it is a delight to witness unity within that diversity. However, it is not only cultural diversity that attracts us.

Despite their relatively small population, New Zealanders are a capable people with a resilient spirit who will not easily concede defeat. Of course, as Australians, we know something of the competitive spirit seen in the numerous sporting conquests with teams predominantly wearing black – teams whose supporters take delight in ensuring those wearing green and gold know that they mean business and will not be taken lightly.

It is not too much of an exaggeration to suggest that there are comparisons in daily life, even within the expression of Salvation Army ministry. Not in some negative sense, but more to highlight the fact that there is an innate sense of confidence expressed in the willingness to challenge the status quo and yet not easily yield from deeply held perspectives.

Living in Christchurch, we are regularly confronted with the legacy of the 2011 earthquakes that sadly claimed 185 lives and caused widespread damage to property, especially in the heart of the city, but also in many residential areas. The legacy reaches beyond the physical impacts to something deeper.

As the events of the mosque shootings unfolded in March 2019, it was not only the senseless loss of life that brought distress. For many, the sound of sirens blaring all over the city and the sight of helicopters in the skies above caused many to relieve the memory of traumas gone by. Trauma that seems to remain not too far below the surface of external emotion.

There among the people, The Salvation Army was found. Nothing profound or

extravagant, but rather a simple presence with the desire to bring comfort and a listening ear as people processed all that was happening around them. Standing near the location of the mosque where the first attack occurred, at the airport as grieving families arrived and then at the place where the sea of floral tributes was being laid, a recurring theme became evident to us. No matter where in the world we are, in times of distress or disaster there is a unique ministry that is afforded The Salvation Army and it is something that we should never take for granted. A ministry welcomed regardless of colour or creed and received with appreciation.

On a personal level, we are so very blessed to lead a division located in one of the most beautiful locations in the world. The stunning scenery of the South Island of New Zealand refreshes and inspires us as we travel to the various corps across the division. The sheer wonder of God’s creative expression is before us and we can do nothing less than to stand in awe. It is a constant reminder of his glory.

We count it a privilege to be in New Zealand in these days. There is no denying that, above all, we miss the proximity of our family and friends. Thankfully, technology does much to lessen that distance ‘across the ditch’ and for this we are grateful.

We continue to grow, to learn and to experience all that God has in store for us and for the ministry of The Salvation Army in this part of the world. Our prayer is that God will find us faithful and that he will use us for his purposes to bring Kingdom difference.*

HISTORY

On 1 April 1883, Captain George Pollard and Lieutenant Edward Wright started The Salvation Army work in New Zealand at Dunedin. Social work began in 1884 with a home for ex-prisoners. Work was begun officially in Fiji on 14 November 1973, by Captain Brian and Mrs Beverley McStay, and in Tonga on 9 January 1986, by Captain Tifare and Mrs Rebecca Inia. Salvation Army work was officially started in Samoa on 1 August 2018, led by Lieut-Colonels Roderick and Jennifer Carey, with support from Captain Miriama Simanu.

TERRITORY AT A GLANCE

545	Officers
2	Auxiliary-Captains
9	Envoyes
1985	Employees
92	Corps
32	Outposts
5229	Senior Soldiers
1434	Adherents
906	Junior Soldiers

Figures taken from *The Salvation Army Year Book 2020*

VIEWPOINT

Been thinking? We bring you a selection of opinion, critical thought and topical writing to get you engaging with the world around you. To read more go to: others.org.au/viewpoint

WORDS

CAROLYN HIDE

New life from the ashes.

God's goodness evident during bushfire crisis

"But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed."

DURING THE RECENT BUSHFIRE emergency there were many people who could only see the devastation and destruction, even when the smoke had cleared. Some of these voices became louder and louder, shouting that the bush and, in fact, the whole country could never recover from this inferno.

My husband Neil and I live quite literally on the fringe of where a fire swept through the Grose Valley in the Blue Mountains of NSW late last year. From the middle of December, we watched the fire creep closer and closer to our home in Blackheath, and then we received a text in the middle of the night of 22 December advising us to evacuate.

As we read the reports in social and mainstream media, we'd be forgiven for thinking that we were all doomed, that no one could survive the monster blaze that was on the march. Although the fires were intense, not one life was lost in Blackheath thanks to the valiant efforts of the firefighters. Some properties were razed but, to my knowledge, there was no serious injury to anyone in our town.

In the aftermath of the fire, the scene was sobering, but there was also much



Photo: Carolyn Hide

to celebrate. I continued to look for the positives around me. The community spirit soared, and everyone was looking out for each other. Strangers would stop and make sure that we were okay. Through it all, Neil and I didn't want to be perceived as 'fire fascinators', but we would evaluate the situation on a regular basis by driving around the town to be able to make an independent, informed decision about whether we should stay or leave. Each time we embarked on these risk assessments we packed the car with the essentials.

Through all of the conflagration, we had confidence that the Lord was keeping us safe and that he was 'not finished with us yet!'

Once the smoke started to clear and the helicopters, with their big water buckets slung below, ceased hovering over our home, we began to find the signs of regeneration we knew would be starting to show through the ash. Less than three weeks after the worst of the fires we did,

indeed, find our bush re-emerging as we knew it would.

An expedition out to Newnes, about 70km north of Blackheath in the Wolgan Valley, also proved our theory that the wildlife was not annihilated as the media would have us believe. In all our travels I have never seen so many kangaroos and wombats congregated in the middle of the day along such a very extensive stretch of road. A large diamond python even slithered in front of our car to prove that the reptiles had also survived. God has given nature their own fire survival plan!

Through the smoke it was not always clear to see but, as in all life's journeys, having faith in the Lord kept our focus on the important things of life. We survived yet another challenge and look forward to a thriving, enriching future. *

Carolyn Hide is a Salvationist and freelance photographer (cazeilcreative.com.au).

Bible words.

A drop in the bucket. Generally used to refer to a small amount or a meaningless portion, the words are lifted in their entirety from Isaiah 40:15.

**WORDS**

JOHN STACKHOUSE

Keeping up with the Windsors and Co.

Maybe we should learn the Apostle Paul's 'secret'

ONE CANNOT AVOID ENCOUNTERING the soon-to-be-no-longer-HRH Prince Harry, his wife Meghan and their little boy Archie. They're inescapably everywhere, from tabloids to 'serious' news outlets, even as their stated reason for withdrawing from royal duties is to avoid ubiquitous press coverage.

It makes for a pleasant change from keeping up with the Kar-trash-ians, to be sure. Better accents. Less make-up. Fewer photos to hide from the children. Harrumph.

But isn't it fun keeping up with *both* families? To see who's up and who's down, who's hot and who's not? As a friend of mine, a Hollywood producer, once remarked on the world of celebrities, "It's just high school with money."

Yes, with a lot more money ... and fame, and influence, and homes, and possibilities. It's what our lives would be like, we think, if we had just had the foresight to arrange for different parents. Celebrities: they're just like us! Except more: more beautiful, more sophisticated, more popular, more wealthy. But are they more happy? More fulfilled?

The Kardashians never strike me – although I confess I don't follow them assiduously – as pictures of serene joy. Instead, they seem to be perpetually running, desperately running, in fact, to stay in the spotlight, to remain relevant, to maintain their top status as Famous People You Should Care About.

The Sussexes are running, too, bless them, but running away. They're running away from the world of royal privilege and responsibility, trying desperately to escape the fate of generations of Windsors who have suffered betrayal, divorce, frustration, alienation, and many other varieties of royal misery both public and private.

“If the people with all the status and money and privilege and influence don't know how to be content, who does? If they haven't discovered the secret of the good life, who has? How can they, at last, truly be ... just like us? Are we all doomed never to know Paul's secret?”

Bible readers look at these latter-day gods, with all their beauty and power and infighting and posturing and betrayal and grief – and our minds go to one of our own heroes, the Apostle Paul. Two thousand years ago, he writes from a miserable Roman prison cell to a group of Christian friends far away, and he says something astounding: “I have learned

to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need” (Philippians 4:11-12).

Paul had experienced privilege and power as a respected rabbi. He now knew persecution and imprisonment as a reviled evangelist. Through the surprising twists and turns of his career he had somehow learned ‘The Secret’, the great secret that has manifestly eluded the Kardashians, and the Windsors, and all the other coolest kids on the planet.

So what is it? How can we find out? If the people with all the status and money and privilege and influence don't know how to be content, who does? If they haven't discovered the secret of the good life, who has? How can they, at last, truly be ... just like us? Are we all doomed never to know Paul's secret?

Maybe – it's a long shot, but we're desperate – maybe we could ask that nerdy bloke over there. Yes, him: the quiet one in the lame cardigan who always seems, well, content ... in his weird little way. You know, the guy whose story is featured in the movie, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Go call him, would you? *

“Hey, Fred! Fred Rogers ...”

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

Bible words.

We reap what we sow. Generally accepted as cultural wisdom that means you get what you earn, the phrase is found in Galatians 6:7.

WORDS

CRAIG STEPHENS

Why I switched off.

Life without social media

THE BEAUTIFUL THING THAT JESUS has done in my heart is to bring about real substance and depth in my life. I was living life a ‘mile wide and an inch deep’ and he brought me into a place of just appreciating far more tangible and substantial things in people and in life.

When social media was becoming a ‘thing’, I was immersed in over a thousand different relationships within the context of my ministry at a local government housing estate in Sydney. My relationship world was very, very full.

When I transitioned from that context into managing a Recovery Services Centre on the NSW Central Coast (The Salvation Army Dooralong Transformation Centre), my email inbox got smashed with hundreds of emails a day – something that has become the new ‘normal’ for any office worker today.

To say I felt stretched was an understatement. I certainly wasn’t looking for another means of communication in or out. So, I made a decision to not switch on social media, because I really didn’t want to make another avenue available, either to generate communication or receive communication from.

I also, very determinedly, have in my heart a desire to be properly in

relationship with people – to do physical relationship, connected relationship with people to the degree that I can. I do have a concern that, while we can connect through social media, the depth and the quality and the substance of that, well I’m just not convinced that we can get out of it what real human relationships need.

I’m very intentional about the relationships that I have and want them to be meaningful; I want them to be relationships of substance and depth, which means I have to pick up the phone and talk to people. It requires that I go over to their home and visit with them or plan a coffee with them at a local café and

“Social media can be an intrusion, so, not signing up to Facebook, Instagram and the like has created space in my life for substantial relationships with people.”

do the things that I feel are substantial relationship things. Yes, I miss out on more broader and general announcements and so on, in the social sphere, but I just have to cop that one on the chin if I’m trying to manage substantial relationships, rather than peripheral ones.

Being a Salvation Army officer, your relationship sphere is always a stretching one. We weren’t called to live small lives; we were called to live substantial lives. There’s always going to be some sense of stretching as we serve the Kingdom and Jesus. To be available, relationally, is a very great grace. I feel like I have the capacity for that stretch today.

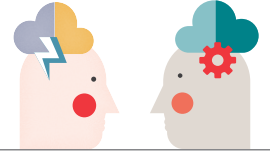


Social media can be an intrusion, so, not signing up to Facebook, Instagram and the like has created space in my life for substantial relationships with people.

If you feel your life is spread across a thousand conversations and never getting to that genuine, heart-to-heart connection with people, see it as a trigger, or an alert to the fact that something’s not quite right. Let’s get to where things are real. Let’s develop the beautiful grace of availability for people, being present with people, rather than developing our online presence.*

Envoy Craig Stephens is the New Expressions Coordinator, NSW Central Coast.

Mailbox.



The article 'Mission in a post-truth world' (*Others* magazine and online, January) by Captain Tara McGuigan drew a large response. Below is a selection of comments.



Online

COLLABORATION THE KEY

Yes, Tara, I always delight in "helping to join God's dots". And I must admit that the most exciting contexts of doing this are when we reach beyond just The Salvation Army and collaborate with services and organisations that add strength and focus to the truth and Gospel of Jesus in a true small 'c' catholic nature. There is more strength to our arm as we serve together and learn from each other's skill sets. Collaboration brings a whole new dimension to mission, but it MUST be done standing firm in the absolute truth of the Gospel and not moving truth's goalposts.

- Anne Hill



Facebook

MODELLING JESUS

Great word Tara! Outstanding leadership! Modelling the reality of Jesus in community builds authentic, trusting and truthful community. As we know, when lives learn to trust us, in turn they trust Jesus. Jesus is the way, truth and the life and his reality needs to be demonstrated and modelled by his followers. This is discipleship. Anything less than this authentic reality of God in flesh, the world spits on and rejects. So important why we make the reality of the Trinity as modelled by Jesus the foundation of soldiership today. Jesus is enough!

- Peter Hobbs



Facebook

THE WAY FORWARD

Excellent article Tara, and much to reflect on. Dynamic collaborative working on the issues and challenges of the 21st century is the way forward in today's culture if The Salvation Army and the Church generally are seen to be relevant. Thank you for your words.

-Andrew Wileman



Facebook

JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

'Rediscovering identity in Christ through pilgrimage' by Lieut-Colonel David Godkin, *Others Online*, 17 January:

Thank you David. My sister Juanita McMillan and I did the Camino in 2017 as a spiritual pilgrimage and fundraiser to fight human trafficking. The Camino is full of grace, and I felt that my inner life was decluttered by this transformative journey. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

- Melanie-Anne Holland



Facebook

INSPIRING VISUAL

'Territorial Leaders video message' by Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson, *Others Online*, 3 February:

Thanks for this wonderful visual of our roots and fruit as we stay connected to the vine - Jesus Christ. This mirrors my idea of spiritual life development as my wife and I begin our journey as Territorial Secretary for Spiritual Life Development in USA South. Blessings.

- Dean Hinson



Online

AN ENCOURAGING STAND

'Standing as one on 26 January' by Lauren Martin, *Others Online*, 28 January:

This is a very encouraging story. What a fantastic example of Salvos collaborating together and engaging with the community at this major Sydney festival. This is showing the love of Jesus with our Indigenous brothers and sisters who too often experience hardship and injustice in Australia.

- Rod Yule



Online

MEMORABLE SONGS

'Songs of contagious energy' by David Woodbury, *Others Online*, 8 January:

Thank you David. It doesn't seem that long ago since we sang some of the songs you mentioned, especially in the big town hall meetings in Sydney. I guess I am getting old when I think of the '60s. Thanks for not saying Salvo, I don't like that term.

- Peter Trick



Online

MAKING TIME FOR GOD

'Getting over the guilt thing when taking time out' by Mark Soper, *Others Online*, 21 January:

Thanks so much for this very important reminder to actually make time for God. To listen earnestly, to stop, slow down and just enjoy being with our Heavenly Father ... He must feel so neglected at times. Thanks Mark Soper.

- Vicky Baird

LOCAL MISSION DELIVERY – SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES.

Collaborating and working together the key

WORDS ROD YULE

Local Mission Delivery (LMD) is our way of working collaboratively in mission in a particular area. It is a new way for our different mission expressions to be intentionally meeting and working together in mission. An important forum for LMD is the Area Leadership Team (ALT).

Across Australia, 65 Area Leadership Teams meet every four to six weeks to collaborate in holistic mission – looking to serve the community with the love of Jesus in word and action. The teams include leaders from local mission expressions in a geographical area.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE ARE BEING EFFECTIVE WITH LOCAL MISSION DELIVERY?

One measure we use each year is to conduct an anonymous survey of all ALT members. At the end of 2019, we received over 470 responses. As the responses show (see graph) most participants on an ALT are corps officers. This can be a challenge to ensure that other mission expressions and non-officers feel included and not marginalised in these teams.

MISSION EXPRESSION	NUMBER
Community Engagement (Doorways, Moneycare, Chaplains, Communities for Children)	108 (23%)
Corps Officers / Leaders	245 (52%)
Mission Enterprises (Salvos Stores, EPlus, Aged Care, Salvos Housing)	39 (8%)
Social Mission Expressions (AOD, Family Violence, Homelessness, Youth Services)	75 (17%)

A key factor in effective collaboration is for people to feel valued by others and safe to raise issues in the ALT. The survey found that 91 per cent agreed they felt valued as members of the ALT and 86 per cent agreed they felt safe to raise issues at the ALT. This is a great foundation for healthy missional collaboration.

Indeed, there is increasing evidence of missional collaboration. Three-quarters

of respondents feel that their ALT is collaborating effectively in holistic mission. Positively, ALT members identified stories of effective collaboration in holistic mission. A few examples are listed below:

1. Working with the local corps to provide a transition house for men leaving our service.
2. Proactively engaging with other

expressions of the ALT for Easter weekend activities.

3. Moneycare is partnering with Communities for Children to provide outreach for clients who connect with Gunya Meta, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation.
4. Local corps working with the family violence service to facilitate a Mainly Music program and Christmas events.
5. Homeless Week joint program.
6. People from Doorways and Pathways connecting to the corps and attending chapel.
7. Corps has established a good partnership with a homelessness service. The chaplain is engaging with the corps and partnering with mission opportunities in the city.
8. During large-scale evacuation, the Salvos in the area knew one another, collaborated, supported, sacrificed and 'pulled together' to be one team.
9. The ALT has allowed for the forming of a close working relationship between EPlus and corps, allowing

program to be developed.

10. Many participants of the Alcohol and Other Drugs community have been linked with local corps, youth services and Salvos Stores.
11. Court chaplain is providing group Positive Lifestyle Training with eight corps members.
12. ALT held a joint mission conference.

These are exciting initiatives in our services working together to serve their communities. At the same time, 25 per cent of survey respondents did not feel their ALT is collaborating effectively. Recurring feedback was that too much time can be spent at ALT meetings sharing information and networking rather than collaborating in mission.

This is a challenge in managing the time and agenda of the team meetings. Other respondents expressed a concern that their ALT can lack a clear purpose for their meeting. These are challenges that are being addressed by all area officers.

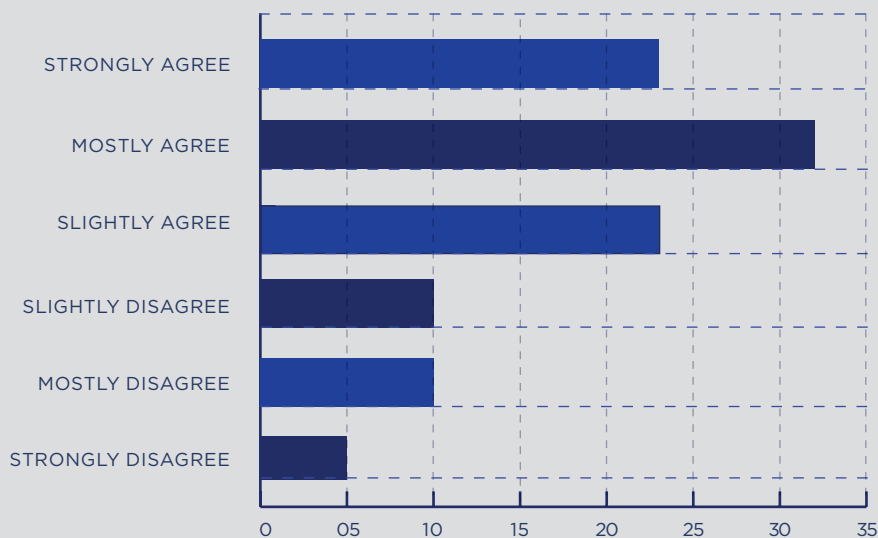
On another question, 63 per cent felt that the ALT explores innovative ways to create faith pathways for people. But that also means 37 per cent do not. Just as there are great examples of improving connections and referrals between different mission expressions, others indicated that they would like to see ALTs be more open to fostering innovations and initiatives.

As with any new way of working, ALTs have their strengths and their challenges. They are not all the same. Rural ALTs that are spread across large geographical areas find it difficult to develop practical ways to collaborate when they are so distant from one another. Some have a significant number of social mission services and few corps; others have a significant number of corps and few social mission expressions.

People are consistently enthusiastic about the value of collaborating and working together in mission. It is early days, and there are both strengths and challenges in facilitating holistic mission through our ALTs. It is exciting to see the different expressions of The Salvation Army working together in mission and looking to live out Paul's encouragement to all of us: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5).

As we work and live this way together, we will increasingly show the love of Jesus to others – and transform Australia one life at a time.*

IS YOUR ALT COLLABORATING EFFECTIVELY?

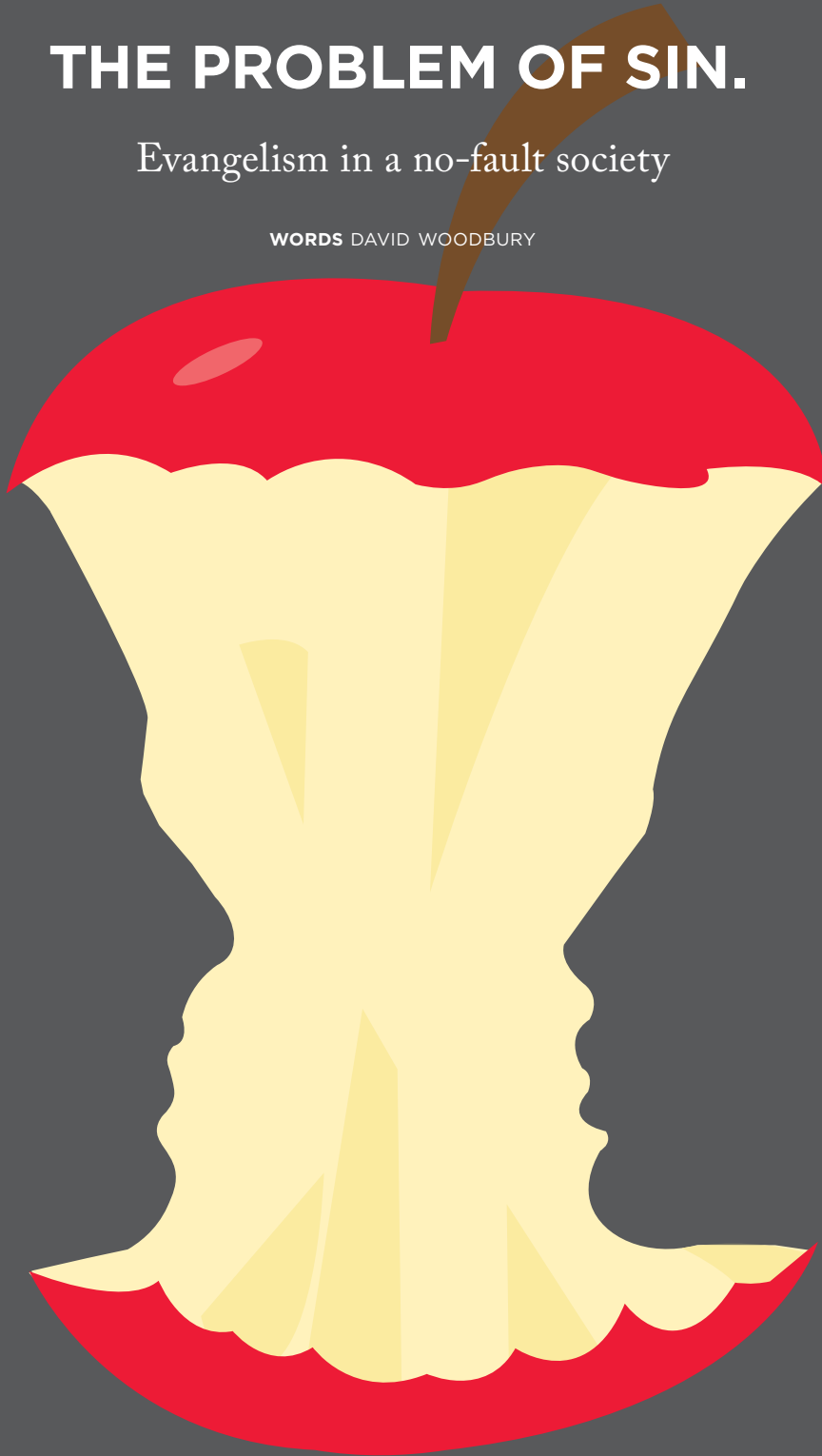


Rod Yule is General Manager, Local Mission Delivery and Resource, Mission Department.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN.

Evangelism in a no-fault society

WORDS DAVID WOODBURY



In my early teens my parents decided that I, along with my elder brother, should meet my mother's brother, who had been a prisoner-of-war for five years during the Second World War and now lived in Queensland. In due course, we arrived at Sydney Central train station to board the Brisbane Express and found our way to our allotted seats, which were in a compartment accommodating eight people.

As the long journey progressed, the occupants of the compartment began to converse. The two girls sitting opposite seemed familiar and, during the dialogue, identified themselves as fellow Salvationists. This engendered a conversation about religious affiliations and all eight in the compartment identified with a denomination of some kind.

I have pondered recently that if you were to put eight strangers together today, how many, if any, would identify with a Christian denomination? I suspect not too many. Why is that? Perhaps we live in a society that fundamentally rejects God and any personal responsibility for wrong thoughts, attitudes or actions. There is a sense of self-righteousness prevalent today that was not so predominant in previous times. People today are loath to confront their own dark side. If they do something wrong there is an inclination to blame someone else, their environment or circumstances, rather than confront their own thoughts, attitudes and actions.

We live in an age of a no-fault society; we've all seen it play out in the media. A noted sportsperson, who has committed crimes while on a drug or alcohol-fuelled bender, is brought before the courts to account for and be punished for their actions. They refuse to acknowledge their wrongdoing and enter a not guilty plea on the grounds of mental impairment, regardless of the fact they have been able to perform at the very apex of their chosen sport previously.

There has also been an over-balance on positive affirmation to the point that any sense of failure is negated and people soon lack any sense of real accountability for their failures or misconduct. We have come to the point where people will use any excuse to dissociate themselves from taking responsibility for wrong behaviour. Over the years of my ministry, I have seen a determined effort to steer away from any style of preaching that makes people feel guilty. The corollary to this is that if we remove any sense of guilt from a person's life, there is no motivation for them to change wrong or sinful behaviour.

The end result is this: if people do not feel or understand they are sinners, the message of salvation has absolutely no relevance to them. In the second chapter of Mark, we have the story of Jesus calling Levi, a tax collector. In accepting the call to discipleship Levi throws a dinner party, which Jesus attends. There were a large number of dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with these people and asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" In reply, Jesus states one of the fundamental truths of Christianity and evangelism: "Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners" (Mark 2:17 *NLT*).

In the age of a no-fault society, how do we move people from thinking they are righteous, to knowing that they are sinners in need of redemption? I put this question recently to one of our Salvation Army leaders, who promptly replied: "That's the work of the Holy Spirit." Theologically correct! Or is it? In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul has that wonderful verse about our salvation: "... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" →

However, it is verses 18-22 that follow that impinge on our subject: “And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ” (*NLT*).

I am not sure just how you can appeal to people to “Come back to God” if they think and feel they are not sinners and have been quarantined from any feelings of guilt. It seems to me that to simply shrug it off as the work of the Holy Spirit is renegeing on our God-given task of reconciliation. Somewhere, somehow, people have to acknowledge they are sinners and deal with the sense of guilt that will inevitably engender.

ACKNOWLEDGING SIN

In previous times, fire and brimstone preaching probably scared people into the Kingdom, but it would not work in today’s society. There is a need for a more like-minded approach that acknowledges our common sinfulness. Recently, Major Gavin Watts, who at the time was responsible for The Salvation Army Dooralong Transformation Centre on the NSW Central Coast [he is now Area Officer, Sydney Wide], was a guest at a seniors meeting at our corps. He commenced by saying, “My name is Gavin Watts and I am a sinner”, a variation of the introduction used at AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings. It seems to me that this is an ideal place for us to start challenging people with their sin and need for salvation; a common meeting ground of personal confession.

I am reminded of the words of an old chorus, which states a very fundamental and crucial truth: “Only a sinner saved by grace! Only a sinner saved by grace! This is my story, to God be the glory – I’m only a sinner saved by grace!”

Many have read the Bible as a rule book and not understood that it acknowledges that humanity is incapable of keeping the rules. In the book of Romans, Paul addresses this fact and enunciates

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All too often we have been guilty of presenting the Gospel in such a way that people think they have to jump through theological hoops.

”

a way humanity can be put into a right standing with God through grace, and it may well be that contemporary Christianity has not explained it too well. All too often we have been guilty of presenting the Gospel in such a way that people think they have to jump through theological hoops. The time has come when the Gospel of grace must be articulated in such a manner that it gives hope but not licence.

The promise of a right relationship with God is a free gift that comes by no other means than that of faith in the redemptive death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is given regardless of whether or not we live according to the law of Moses. It is given by him who brought this world into being and has the power to bring the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. Here is the great eternal truth; God can do the impossible, even with the weakest and most sinful of all humanity. Here is not only the Gospel of grace but also the Gospel of total redemption for the most sinful of all humanity.

The law was given by God so that humanity might know and understand how sinful they were. But God

offered a way back to him that did not depend on the law but rather on the grace that comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The law cannot be ignored or devalued, it simply means that by its presence, like King David, we acknowledge our sin and it is ever before us (Psalm 51:3). The reality is that it is impossible to profoundly appreciate grace until we have faced up to the enormity of our sin. If our sin is ever before us we will never lose the amazingness of grace.

Is there a sense in which modern Christianity has, regardless of good intentions, projected itself in such an idealistic manner that many have just simply turned away from that which they see as an impossible lifestyle? I believe that in our pursuit of a life of holiness it may well be that we can reflect such idealism. That is not to say that the life of holiness be abandoned, far from it. However, it needs to be pursued in a practical, down-to-earth and comprehensible approach that can be easily understood and feasible.

Paul writes, “We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’” There is a strong sense of compassionate entreaty here which we cannot ignore. If we are to speak for Christ we must do so in terms and the vernacular that non-Christians will understand and find engaging. However, there is a danger here that we must monitor. In seeking to be more understandable and relational we need to be on guard that we do not allow current worldly thinking and mindsets to infiltrate our Christian communities. Given the ability of human nature to push the boundaries, the reality is that current worldly thinking and mindsets can easily dilute and degrade our biblical principles.

With the fast declining numbers and the fading influence of Christianity, we need to seek out ways in which we can engage with what is basically an indifferent, and at times, atheistic community. It is my belief that the Gospel of grace with its intrinsic message of hope is the best channel of communication. How we best do that is open to authentic and courageous creativity and Holy Spirit-inspired action. *

Major David Woodbury is a retired Salvation Army officer and former editor of Salvation Army publications.

others.org.au



MORE THAN A NUMBERS GAME.

Developing officers for long-term ministry the key indicator

WORDS CHRISTOPHER TRODDEN

I often get asked, “How many cadets do you have for college next year?” It’s a bit like asking, “Are we there yet?” It’s a fair question; officers have always been, and will always be, central to the ongoing mission and ministry of The Salvation Army. But is the number of new cadets the only figure we should focus on?

Each time I take an extended road trip, I notice how much more attention I pay to the dashboard. Usually, I focus on my speed, but when I need to get somewhere significant or far away, I pay much more attention to the other indicators – RPMs, fuel, oil, temperature, etc.

Recently, I asked a few of the officer formation staff what were some other indicators we should take into consideration when it came to future leadership numbers. I share with you a snapshot of their responses:

Captain Brenda Young – Leader of Officer Formation

“In 2019, we saw 24 leaders released into full-time ministry, and 22 in 2018. These figures represent cadets, auxiliary-lieutenants and newly commissioned officers. What excites me about these combined figures is that they speak to the wider story of ministry taking place in The Salvation Army. They represent leaders for chaplaincy, kids, youth and worship ministry. They represent new corps officers, mission expressions and social program leaders. Each one of these leaders represents different gifts, experiences, passions and abilities that God is calling to the Army. Forty-six new ministers for mission in two years – that indicates to me God is still moving in our midst.”

Major Cathy Elkington – Personal and Spiritual Formation Coordinator

“Burnout, anxiety, stress, loss of confidence, a crisis of belief – these are a few of the many roadblocks a leader will potentially face in ministry. Just as a car’s engine is damaged when revs are kept too high, so too are the leaders who are always trying to prove their self-worth. Dallas Willard writes, ‘Spiritual formation in a Christian tradition answers a specific question: What kind of person am I going to be? It is the process of establishing the character of Christ in the person – that’s all it is.’ Knowing their [cadets] identity in Christ, how God has shaped them for ministry, learning how to change gears to rest in God’s presence ... these are key indicators that I look for.”

Captain Paul Lorimer – Officer Recruitment Secretary

“We recognise the journey towards ministry doesn’t happen in a vacuum, but occurs naturally when a person learns to discern God’s call with the help of other leaders around them. Over the past two years, we have been shifting our focus from counting cadets to the number of conversations we’re starting with emerging leaders. The number of cadets entering college each year is important, but equally important is the number of leaders being engaged with at the various stages of their journey. Some are only just becoming aware of God’s call, whereas others are gathering information or actively pursuing the next right step in their development. We focus on measuring how many conversations we’re starting, nurturing, and can keep moving forward.” *

Christopher Trodden is the Campaign Manager for Officer Recruitment.



➤ The Messengers of Reconciliation – **From left:** Shaun Featherston, Ryan Matulick, Crystal Lee, Keven Williams, Nicole Bezzina, Anthony Bezzina and Renae Phillips.

WARM WELCOME FOR NEW CADETS

The cadets of the *Messengers of Reconciliation* session were treated to an official welcome service at Eva Burrows College in Melbourne on Sunday 9 February.

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson (Territorial Leaders) and Colonels Kelvin and Winsome Merrett (Chief Secretary's office) attended the service, which was held to honour God and give the cadets a supportive start as they begin their journey to entering full-time ministry as Salvation Army officers.

The service opened with a meaningful worship time led by Captain Sonia Jeffrey, and a time of prayer led by Winsome. Janine, the Territorial President of Women's Ministries, then infused the cadets with a sense of optimism and hope in speaking about the blessings of ministry and the boundaries needed to flourish

in a life of serving others. Cadet Renae Phillips gave her testimony, focusing on the spiritual journey she had taken to accepting the call to officership. "Over the years it was like I was collecting puzzle pieces; when enough of them came together, I knew officership was the picture that God was revealing for my life," she said.

Robert then shared an insightful message about the deep work the Lord does in the life of each of his children. "The Lord's refining fire lasts just long enough to cleanse us of our struggles, but never too long as to damage us.

"Malachi 3 tells us that it's in these fiery trials that we call out to him, and he answers us. It's about relationship," he said.

– **Christopher Trodden**



There is always plenty happening at Campbelltown Corps' Friday night 'Rediscovery' meeting. Photos: Duan Kereru

REDISCOVERING THE ARMY'S ROOTS.

Adelaide corps takes 'traditional' road to serving community

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

It was something that Ted said that gave this event a far more significant meaning.

I am sitting next to Ted at a weekly Friday night meeting, open to anybody from the community, at The Salvation Army Campbelltown Corps in Adelaide. There are 50 or so people – adults and children – at the tables. Most are people with social needs; addictions in some cases. Most are Friday night regulars. Sometimes there are 70 there, some of them being faithful corps members and friends who want to help.

At Campbelltown Corps, they call the Friday night meeting 'Rediscovery', which takes its name from two words – recovery and discovery. It starts with a meal and tonight it is roast chicken and vegetables. As we share the meal, I ask Ted (Ted Wright, program organiser) if the corps held a 'traditional' Salvation Army service on Sunday morning. Ted looks at me for a few seconds, smiles and says, "Bill, this, what we're doing right now, this *is* traditional Salvation Army." Ted reminds me that this is how The Salvation Army started in poverty-stricken areas of London 155 years ago. 'Soup and Salvation' – or, at Campbelltown in 2020, 'Roast Chicken and the Gospel'.

Salvation Army founder William Booth

once said, "You can't convert a man on an empty stomach." This philosophy still being played out in a corps in Adelaide in 2020 – Adelaide, the official birthplace of The Salvation Army in Australia, where pioneers John Gore and Edward Saunders, preaching in a park on 1880, invited anybody home who hadn't had a meal that day. "Booth saw salvation as a holistic concept of body, mind and spirit rather than a purely spiritual 'business'," Ted advises.

On Friday nights at Campbelltown, dinner is followed by an explanation and challenge from God's Word. People are offered an invitation to respond to the message. Often, they do. Then comes dessert.

Campbelltown has been offering Rediscovery for almost four years. Rediscovery is advertised as a safe place to belong, a place to help recover from addictions and a place to discover new life. Tonight, large tables are set up on either side of a modest hall, which also acts as the worship centre on Sundays. A little table is established between the two adult tables especially for the children.

Ted starts the night with announcements and grace. The meal has been prepared by corps volunteers. Diners serve themselves smorgasbord-style and take their place at →

the tables. The team tonight includes Ted, a retired schoolteacher who became an envoy and served as a corps officer for a few years; his wife Judy, who has worked in addiction services for more than 30 years; Bev Fernee, a retired officer; Lorraine and Mike Adnams, who have been corps members for 40 years; Julie, a volunteer from another church; Laurel Cummins, a Salvation Army prison chaplain; Hillary and Colin Sweeney, corps leadership team members; and John Kenna, an adherent.

Corps Officers Captains Aaron and Lauren Stobie are also regular Rediscovery team members, but were away this night. There are others, too, from the corps, who assist from time to time. It's exhausting work that starts mid-afternoon with cooking and set-up, serving, leading, then clean-up and putting the hall back in place for Sunday worship.

After dinner, junior soldier Molly Sweeney leads a birthday segment. There are three birthdays tonight. Hillary and Colin lead a children's segment with a song that starts, "Get up out of bed, have a yawn and scratch your head, and say thank you, it's a brand-new day." The children leave with Hillary and Colin for 'Friday Night Fun' in another section of the corps complex. Bev leads the adults in the song 'Something Beautiful', explaining that God still loves them, no matter their faults. "Even if I screw up," one of the community members interjects. "Yes," says Bev, "even if you screw up."

Ted introduces a Bible reading based on Mark 10:17-31 – the cost and reward of following Christ. He selects community members to represent individuals in the story by reading their part. There is amusement that Jesus, tonight, is played by a woman. The presentation is punctuated by light-hearted interjections, mainly aimed at the presenters.

POWER OF A STORY

After the reading, Bev says she wants to share her life story. Usually, it seems, community members give an update of



“
 ... what we're
 doing right now,
 this is traditional
 Salvation Army.
 ”

where they are in life. But tonight, Bev has something she wants to say. She tells them that she was raised in a Christian home. Her parents were Salvation Army officers. That meant that the family moved a lot as her parents regularly received new appointments in their work.

Primary school was good, Bev says. She excelled and was dux of one school. High school was harder. She did well in art and shorthand and typing, winning scholarships to take her abilities further. But she couldn't use the scholarships because her officer parents were appointed to another state, which did not recognise the awards. In her mid-teens, she felt called to be an officer. But other things intervened. She married. Her husband Henk had no intention of being an officer. They had three children and owned their home. But her husband then felt called to officership and they went to college for training. "Did following Jesus cost us anything?" she asked the crowd,



alluding to the earlier Bible reading. “Yes, it did,” she said. The family had to give up its house and other assets. It had to give up the close support of family and friends. But we lived in many houses [provided by The Salvation Army], we got to live in many parts of Australia and we still have our family [now five children] and even more friends.

“I chose to follow Jesus. I choose to still follow Jesus,” she said. “So, what must we do to inherit eternal life? We must follow Jesus, even if it means giving up something.” Life isn’t always easy, Bev explains. But God is good, she says. “Always,” somebody adds. Bev leads the crowd in the song ‘Jesus Loves Me’. “If you want to follow Jesus, the mercy seat is open to you tonight,” she says. “What is holding you back?”

Laurel, the prison chaplain, follows with a session asking people what they think they need to do to follow Jesus. There are lots of ideas around praying and encouraging others. Somebody says that it’s important to keep the commandments. Another says he finds that hard. “I fail every day,” he says. From the other side of the room, somebody offers advice. “Well, I think that if you want to be able to keep the commandments, you need to be born again. Otherwise, you are never going to be able to do it.” “And,” says another person, “we have to do it with a Christlike attitude.”

In those few comments, there is encouragement for the team who share the Gospel with their community every Friday night. Their message is being heard. Bev concludes with the song that includes the line, “If you want the power to be a better person ...” A woman looks around the room, pointing to each person. “If you want it,” she says, “it’s yours.”

It’s time for dessert. Ted turns to me and says it’s hard to quantify results in spiritual terms. “Only God sees the heart,” he says. But one soldier has been enrolled and about six adherents accepted from the Rediscovery program. In terms of community importance, he says Friday



Left: Long-serving couple Judy and Ted Wright sitting under the Army’s ‘birthplace’ tree in Adelaide.

Below: Hillary and Colin Sweeney leading the children’s segment at the Friday night ‘Rediscovery’ meeting;

Below left: Retired officer Major Bev Fernee shares her story at ‘Rediscovery’; **Below right:** A community meal is always served before the Friday night service. Photos: Duan Kereru

night is likely to be the only decent meal some of the people have each week. In addition, they take home food each night provided by local shops. The local council supports the program, often providing funding for special events. The mayor makes occasional appearances. “I think we make a difference,” Ted says.*

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.



TAKING WORSHIP ARTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

New leadership team to bring creative impact

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

A team of eight people with wide-ranging experience in Salvation Army worship styles has been brought together to advise and encourage individuals and groups to develop creative arts throughout the Australia Territory.

To be known as the National Worship Arts Team, the group, formed from various divisions, will operate under the leadership of Ken Waterworth, Territorial Manager of Worship Arts and long-serving bandmaster of Melbourne Staff Band. It is part of a new faith communities development stream within the Territorial Mission Support Department and replaces the Creative Arts and Worship Arts departments of the previous two Australian territories.

Ken says the team has already held its first meeting, designed to help each member discover the skills each brought to the group, how they can work together and the impact they could have on the mission and vision of The Salvation Army. Territorial Commander Commissioner Robert Donaldson also attended the first meeting.

“His heart for worship arts as a tool to engage and connect people in their faith journey encouraged the newly formed team as we begin our work together,” Ken says. “The Worship Arts Team will seek to explore and implement effective use of the arts in contextual models of

innovative missional faith communities. It is our aim to encourage, support, challenge and develop individuals and faith communities in their use of the worship arts.”

All forms of worship arts would be explored. Some team members come from previous roles in the former two territories, while others have been recruited to fill new positions. Members of the team are:

Ken Waterworth (team manager): Box Hill Corps. Strong background in music education, over 40 years of ministry and leadership in The Salvation Army, including the Melbourne Staff Band. Passionately committed to music ministry and a desire to work with young people to develop their creative arts gifts.

Brian Hogg (music publications consultant): Mooroolbark Corps. Music educator and composer. Many years of experience in brass, vocal and contemporary music. Heads up all Salvation Army music publications. Bachelor of Education. Worked as high school music teacher.

Shushannah Anderson (worship arts coordinator, NSW/ACT): Sydney Congress Hall. Bachelor of Performance. Professional experience in Sydney theatre scene. Background and training in drama and dance. Spent time



Opposite page: The National Worship Arts Team at a recent gathering – **Back row from left:** Daniel Casey, Brian Hogg, Campbell Barnes*, Commissioner Robert Donaldson (visiting); **Front row from left:** Carlene Butardo, Louise Mathieson, Julia Roper, Britteny Ling, Shushannah Anderson and Ken Waterworth. *Campbell’s contract with the team has concluded.



at the Glory Shop (arts and discipleship) in New York developing her craft. Passionate about seeing the arts used as a strong evangelical tool.

Louise Mathieson (worship arts coordinator, Queensland): North Brisbane Corps. Leader in corps worship and preaching teams, using opportunities in singing, playing piano and creative writing.

Dan Casey (worship arts coordinator, SA/NT): Ingle Farm Corps. Passionate about enhancing current worship arts expressions and creating new pathways. Involvement in secular music. Hopes to bring support, encouragement and a ‘new voice’ to The Salvation Army.

Julia Roper (worship arts coordinator, Victoria): Ringwood Corps. Over 30 years experience in various worship arts, including vocal, brass band, timbrels, dance, drama and worship band. Julia has extensive experience in community theatre productions, as well as composition and creative writing.

“

It is our aim to encourage, support, challenge and develop individuals and faith communities in their use of the worship arts.

”


Brittney Ling (territorial Just Brass consultant): South Barwon Corps. Currently bandmaster. Aspiring composer. Loves singing and playing piano. Heavily involved with Just Brass, instrumental music teaching and directing bands.


Carlene Butardo (Just Brass administration and training coordinator): Administers 29 Just Brass programs. Attends Stairway Church in Vermont (Melbourne).


Ken Waterworth says each team member will work as a support partner with local mission expressions. “The team will be based across the country as they encourage and develop individuals and faith communities in their use of the worship arts,” says Ken. *

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.

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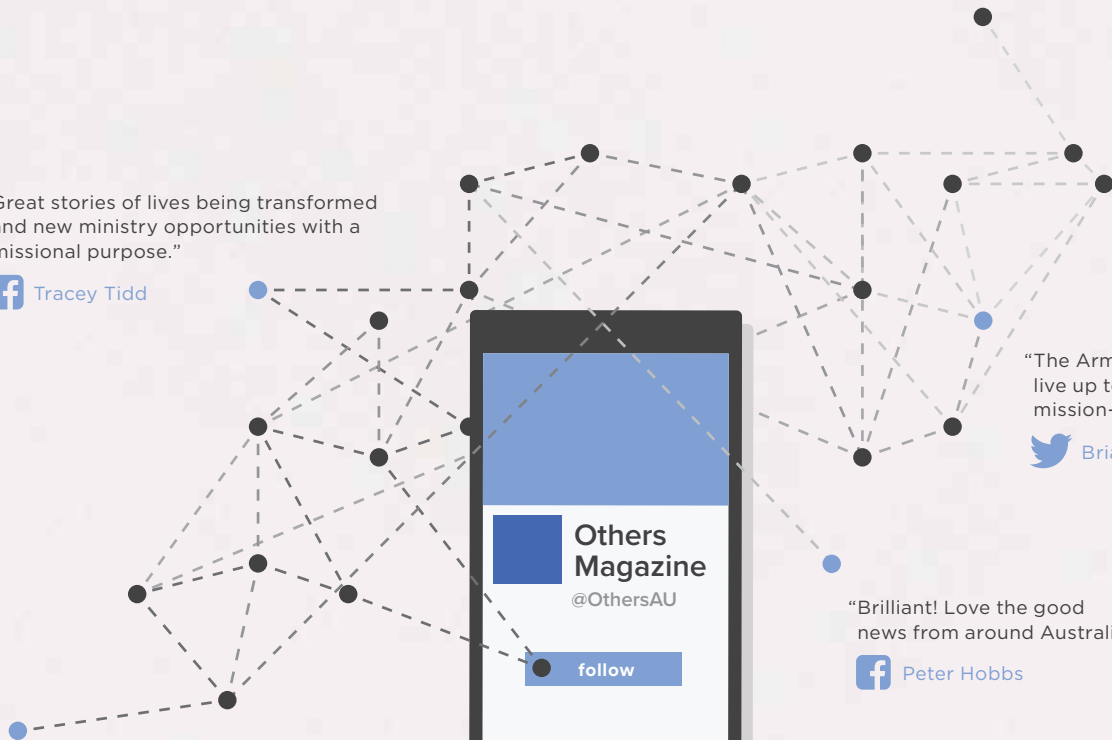
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Join the conversation

“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



Remarkable women who shaped our history.

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS celebrated every year on 8 March, yet women are honoured every day of the year at The Salvation Army Australia Museum. Taking a stroll around the Melbourne museum exposes you to the inspiring stories of a handful of trailblazers.

General Eva Burrows

Sitting discreetly among shelves of famed Salvation Army hats, General Burrows' bonnet evokes the same humility as its former owner. She requested that her bonnet be given to the museum after she died, and it was duly delivered to Australia Museum Manager Lindsay Cox six weeks after she was promoted to glory.

Brigadier Georgina Collins and Nursing Sister Marjory Scoble

An array of medals honours the role of two Salvationist women who played pivotal roles in the Australian Army Nursing Service. The emblem of King George V is displayed on one such medal, given to Brigadier Georgina Collins, one of nine Australian nurses from The Salvation Army Bethesda Hospital in Melbourne who served during World War One in Egypt and France. Lieut-Colonel Marjory Scoble, a nursing sister also from Bethesda, served during World War Two, receiving six medals including the Africa Star and the Pacific Star, two medals rarely awarded to women in that era.



Major Mary Anderson

Major Anderson was a legendary figure at the Melbourne Police Courts in the first half of last century. Appointed in 1913 to support women and girls in distress, she spent the next three decades of her life interceding for them at the courts. She also oversaw Salvation Army women's shelters from 1917. The museum displays her Order of the Founder medal, which she received in 1943, and her MBE, awarded by the Governor of Victoria, which Major Anderson received just months before her promotion to glory in 1956.

Adjutant Mary Murray

Adjutant Murray served as the Assistant Secretary of the Naval and Military League in the Boer War from 1899-1906, risking her life to support troops on the front lines. Her handbook and a memorial china plate pays tribute to this extraordinary woman. *

The various displays of hats, medals, plates and other memorabilia at the Salvos' Australia Museum in Melbourne honouring Australian Salvation Army women.



The Salvation Army Museum is located in Melbourne and Sydney. The Melbourne site, at 69 Bourke St (floor 4), is open from 9am-4pm Monday to Friday, and 9am-4pm on the first Saturday of the month. The Sydney site, at 32a Barnsbury Grove, Bexley North, is open from 9am-2pm Monday to Saturday.

Keep up to date with Salvation Army history at [facebook.com/SalvosMuseums](https://www.facebook.com/SalvosMuseums)



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THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN

Rating: M

Release date: 20 February

Words Mark Hadley



The Professor and the Madman is a moving story about a mind at war with itself, and those who do more than look on. James Murray, played by Mel Gibson, is a man faced with a monolithic task. It's 1878 and Oxford University Press has been striving for years to complete the definitive dictionary of the English language. They remain dubious that a Scotsman without a single degree can steer their august project.

Murray might not be a professor, but his self-education is staggering. He has 23 languages at his command, from the familiar to the obscure. But will they be enough? The English world is awash with imports, jargon and idiom that

desperately need defining. So, Murray hits on a scheme to have that world mail him its contributions and complete the task in a decade. What he doesn't anticipate, though, is that his most prolific supplier will be the inmate of an insane asylum.

Enter William Chester-Minor. Sean Penn plays a retired American army surgeon who has fled to London in the hope of outrunning personal demons. He is convinced that a soldier from the American Civil War hunts him every night, bent on murder. In a fit of terror, he takes his service revolver and shoots an innocent father, an act that sees him committed to Broadmoor asylum for the criminally insane. Chester-Minor's life becomes a maze of horror and rage from which he cannot escape. However, the dictionary project offers a ray of hope. Through it he finds a true friend in Murray, and a path to purpose and peace – if the world will let him take it.

The revelation that Murray is working with a madman threatens to undermine the credibility of the entire project. Viewers will expect all sorts of clever arguments to be mounted by Murray at this point, pointing to the equality of all men or the immensity of Chester-Minor's contribution. Yet it's actually his faith that takes centre stage. Instead of trying to argue the insane man's merits, Murray offers to his anxious wife the need that connects them both: "What about

repentance, what about redemption? What are you so afraid of – that a bad man could be redeemed?"

One thing that made Jesus' ministry so controversial was its attractiveness to society's least regarded members. Some of Jesus' contemporaries claimed it revealed his lack of standards; others held it as proof of his own debauchery. Jesus' response? We're all failing, but you need to see your sickness before you go searching for a saviour: "Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'" (Mark 2:17).

It's madness to think we can escape this world without troubles, that we will never face a problem that a credit card couldn't solve. By contrast, it's brilliance to realise the solution to our problems doesn't rest with us. Chester-Minor picks from Murray's language that he's a God-fearing man. He thinks that explains his confidence he'll complete his task. Instead, Murray suggests the only qualification for the strength he's drawing on is admitting to God he needs it: Murray: It's all by grace alone. Chester: I wish I had experienced more of that. Murray: You will, sir, you will.

No surprise that the man who ends up showing Chester-Murray God's grace, is the man who clings to it himself. *



02

MILITARY WIVES

Rating: M

Release date: 16 March



Military Wives is set on a military base in the north of England, where the families of the enlisted are farewelling their loved ones as they leave on a peace-keeping mission in Afghanistan. Kristin Scott Thomas plays Kate, the prim and proper wife of the brigade's commander. This is the fifth time she has seen her husband depart for a tour of dangerous territory.

Playing opposite is Sharon Horgan as Lisa, the wife of the newly promoted regimental sergeant major. Her informal responsibility is to keep up the spirits of the loved ones left behind, though she'd much rather remain 'one of the gang'. When Kate decides she'll take a hand in organising respectable and non-alcoholic pastimes for the women, a choir is formed. The stage is set for a tussle between two very different personalities,

but neither Kate nor Lisa are aware of the life-changing effects their little musical exercise will have.

Military Wives is inspired by a true story that has resulted in a now world-famous choir formed entirely of those married to the military. The choir begins as a means of just keeping their minds off the dangerous work their loved ones might be doing, and begins badly. The women involved are so tone deaf and divided that their singing sounds more like "... the incantations of a bunch of witches". But as they find music that conveys their real feelings, a new and beautiful voice emerges.

And that in a nutshell, is the question *Military Wives* poses. How do we get through the hardest times in our lives? For the characters, it begins with community and a shared understanding of the pressures. As good as these are, it becomes clear something more will be required: sacrifice for the sake of the other. I'm reminded of the words of American pastor Tim Keller when he describes what a true friend is: "They're the sort of person who says, 'I'll do whatever it takes. I will not let you fall'." Kate is ready to sit with the wife of a soldier who's been killed in action, despite the dark memories it raises of her own son's loss. Likewise, Lisa is prepared to sacrifice the perfect lyric because it pains her older friend to hear it sung. And when

we see something like this being played out on the big screen, we naturally long to live in such relationships.

Sadly, studies suggest that, despite our numerous technologies, we've never felt more disconnected from those around us. However, the Bible assures us that a *Military Wives* relationship is within reach of us all.

When Jesus Christ's enemies wanted to insult him, they called him a "friend of tax collectors and sinners!" – the greatest outcasts in his society. Yet the Bible draws a line between everyone who has rejected God and that label 'sinner', for the sake of showing us just what a friend he can be for us: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

I'm not ashamed to say I was moved more than once by the sacrificial love *Military Wives* promotes. But I was comforted too. I could recognise the community and shared understanding, and particularly depth of devotion displayed, because I've experienced it in my relationship with Jesus. If you want to enjoy a feel-good film, then *Military Wives* is for you. And if you want to feel what it so lovingly displays, then the Bible says you can have that too.*

Mark Hadley is the culture writer for *Others*.

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Listen

NEW YORK STAFF BAND

PROCLAMATION



The latest double-CD set from New York Staff Band is an impressive and compressive compilation from several noted composers. The set comprises 22 diverse tracks, from the more traditional march, including 'Seafarer' by Norman Bearcroft, through to a bullfighting song, 'La Virgin De La Macarena', arranged by Mark Freeh. Guest artist Philip Cobb, who features predominantly on the album, is a renowned soloist on cornet and trumpet whose expertise is evident in an arrangement by Eric Ball of Elisha Hoffman's hymn, 'Glory to His Name'.

The CD opens with the title number 'Proclamation', by Tom Davoren, based on the George Duffield hymn 'Stand Up for Jesus'. No doubt this is the band's signature presentation that sets the tone for the album. Resident composer and band member Dorothy Gates contributes her expertise in three selections; in particular, a monumental work, 'The Glory of Jehovah', written originally for New York Staff Band at the Canadian Staff Band's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2019. With its basis in the book of Exodus, the work has a playing time of almost 25 minutes and I suspect that a live presentation of this piece would be quite impressive.

Under bandmaster Derek Lance, the presentation is of high quality and much of it will appeal to the brass band enthusiast. My pick is Gates' arrangement of 'Rest', by Phil McHugh and Greg Nelson.

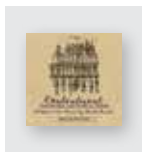
Proclamation is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018)

or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au.
– David Woodbury

Listen

KEITH BANKS

CONTENTMENT



Retired Salvation Army officer Commissioner Keith Banks reads his poetry in a powerful and engaging way for a new audio download from SP&S Tunes. The author has crafted verse that is accessible and meaningful, with many of the poems featuring complementary music arranged or composed by eminent Salvation Army musician Gary Rose.

From heartfelt verse, reflecting on loss and personal circumstances, to witty takes on everyday observations, the poet's voice conveys aspects of his own faith journey that he hopes will help others encountering similar ups and downs.

A sample track, inspired by Psalm 23, has been released on Soundcloud – sar.my/bankspsalms23. The audiobook is available to download from SP&S Tunes at spstunes.com/content01
– IHQ Communications

Read

PHIL LAEGER AND STEPHEN COURT

STAYED



Peace often feels like a distant reality in this world, yet Christ promised us perfect peace. In *Stayed*, the latest book from Major Stephen Court and musician Phil Laeger, we are directed back to the secret, or source, of all peace – solitude with Christ. Expounding on the verse,

"You will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is stayed on you, Because he trusts in you" (Isaiah 26:3 *NKJV*), they reframe our time with God as an experience rather than a religious act, and explain how being 'stayed' in the Lord is our source of life.

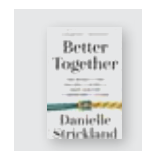
Biblical context and the original meaning of the verse is crucial to this understanding, but Court and Laeger do a brilliant job of connecting this spiritual practice with fundamental truths that define our faith. With an added 21-day devotional and free resources, this is an invaluable book in our hectic world.

Stayed is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au Kindle edition at Amazon.com.
– Jessica Morris

Read

DANIELLE STRICKLAND

BETTER TOGETHER



Danielle Strickland's latest book, *Better Together: How Women and Men Can Heal the Divide and Work Together to Transform the Future* is a timely release showing how gender equity hinges on more than a changed mindset – it depends on changed practice.

Strickland has expertly crafted this book to redefine what it means for males and females to be equally partnered in business, marriage, culture and life. Unafraid to address taboos, such as the belief that males and females should never be alone together, and linking inequality with human trafficking, pornography and sexual harassment, this book could be a game-changer in our culture if we embrace it. Available from koorong.com



◆ The main street of the small township of Mogo, south of Batemans Bay on the NSW South Coast, was one of the worst-hit areas of the bushfire disaster. Salvation Army personnel are continuing to work in this area. Photo: James Gourley (AAP for The Salvation Army)

▼ AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN RAVAGED by an unprecedented bushfire crisis this summer, with many communities across the country left devastated.

The Salvation Army – as has been the case for decades – has been, along with a number of other charities, at the forefront of the emergency relief and now recovery effort.

The Australian public, corporations, Salvation Army partners and other donors have given generously in response to this disaster. As of when this issue of *Others* went to print on Monday 24 February, pledges were still being made to The Salvation Army Disaster Appeal, which was launched on 9 November 2019.

“To date, of the money pledged, \$23.2 million has been received,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Neil Venables, Australia Territory Communications Secretary.

Salvos join community on the long road to bushfire recovery

“The Salvation Army has distributed \$17 million of this. Over \$7.5 million has been spent towards immediate emergency and relief efforts since our Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) teams were activated in September 2019.

“Over \$9.5 million has been distributed directly to over 6800 individuals and families in terms of hardship payments – cash payments for emergencies, given through face-to-face conversations with Salvo recovery workers on the ground and the bushfire telephone line. These payments cover things such as petrol, food and emergency accommodation.

“We are confident that the

balance of funds pledged will be honoured, as we have seen in the past.”

Colonel Winsome Merrett, Chief Secretary of the Australia Territory, said money that has been raised will be spent or committed by June 2020 to the immediate and longer-term recovery of those affected by the 2019-20 bushfires.

“The SAES teams have been active in the bushfire crisis since September 2019, with more than 3000 staff and volunteers involved,” she said.

“We have provided over 250,000 meals and over 240,000 light refreshments and personal packs to first responders and evacuees.

“Our personnel and mobile units continue to remain on the ground, providing immediate financial and emotional assistance, a hand of friendship or a listening ear. Our staff are currently supervising a dedicated telephone line for financial assistance and have helped thousands of people.

“We thank the Australian community for its support. Our Community Engagement and Emergency Services teams are continuing to work with federal, state and local partners in disaster response and recovery plans to map out the steps ahead.”

The Salvation Army is also establishing a nationally



◆ **Top left:** Colonel Winsome Merrett lends a hand at the Batemans Bay evacuation centre; **Bottom left:** Captain Amanda Hart ready to help people at a relief centre in Victoria; **Above:** Salvation Army worker Kyron Statton delivering supplies on Kangaroo Island.

coordinated and locally embedded Bushfire Recovery Team.

“We are involved in government forums and collaborating extensively with community groups around a response plan, which will include financial assistance,” said Neil.

“We are continuing to operate a dedicated telephone line where workers can assess and deliver material aid, provide outreach workers in local communities across Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia, and case-workers based in communities to deliver holistic assistance, including financial, emotional and psychological responses.”

The Salvation Army, on the back of many years’ experience in helping people recover from disasters and also in alignment with what is considered best practice in this area, has developed a three-phase approach

to recovery. Phase one is emergency response; phase two is initial assessment and provision of emergency financial support; and phase three is ongoing recovery support, which can be the longest phase as people rebuild their lives.

“The focus of The Salvation Army’s work now is to provide support to people who have lost everything,” said Neil. “It is anticipated that this phase will continue for at least the next 12 months, but potentially also move into a two- to three-year time frame.

“The Salvation Army aims to provide a suite of support services and grants to individual households that will be tailored to their needs. These needs will be assessed and determined through the one-on-one relationship with a Salvation Army caseworker and the impacted household.”

Additional support for

housing and employment will be provided through The Salvation Army service network via Salvation Army Housing and Employment Plus.

The Salvation Army’s multi-stage response to the bushfires is supported by a University of Melbourne study into the Black Saturday bushfires that devastated parts of Victoria in 2009. More than 170 people died in those fires and over 2000 houses were destroyed.

The study, ‘Beyond Bushfires’, showed that, while immediate assistance during a disaster is critical, many people needed to access costly emotional and practical support at the time of rebuilding, but that support was not as easily available.

“It is critical that in our care of those impacted by these fires, The Salvation Army is responsive to these longer-term needs,” said Neil.

– **Simone Worthing**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA GETS THIRSTY FOR BUSHFIRE RELIEF

South Australians have slurped \$43,642 worth of frozen slushies in one week in the name of bushfire relief.

Statewide convenience store/petrol station chain OTR (On The Run) announced that 100 per cent of sales from CHILL slushies would go to The Salvation Army and the South Australia Country Fire Service (CFS) Foundation during a campaign in January.

Joann Skene, OTR Head of Community Partnerships, said the CHILL fundraising total had been achieved within a week and was part of OTR’s overall contribution of \$105,000 to bushfire relief since mid-December.

“The Salvos and the CFS Foundation provide essential support services for communities, and we are so proud to work with these charities through our OTRGive program,” she said.



◆ The Salvation Army’s Mark Foyle and members of the South Australia Country Fire Service sample a slushie at an OTR outlet.

Showing the love of Jesus around the world



◀ The story of Malakias and The Salvation Army's work in Greenland will be shown in week five of the Self Denial Appeal.

THE SIX-WEEK SELF DENIAL Appeal campaign is underway in corps around the Australia Territory, culminating in Altar Sunday on 29 March.

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson launched the appeal on 23 February by appearing in the first of a series of videos to promote the Army's work around the world.

This year's theme is Love Beyond, with videos focusing on the countries of eSwatini, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Greenland.

A separate video has also been produced for children's ministry, in addition to resources for youth and an online devotional series.

"This Self Denial Appeal series will demonstrate how The Salvation Army is showing the love of Jesus," said Janine.

A video is being shown each week leading up to Altar



• Michelle Watts is the Senior Producer of the 2020 Self Denial Appeal video series.

Sunday when Salvationists and supporters are asked to prayerfully consider giving one week's salary to the Self Denial Appeal.

Each video shares the story of the far-reaching impact of self-denial funds on the Army's work.

The first story will focus on Thema from eSwatini in

Africa, who is a volunteer community carer at a Salvation Army HIV/AIDS clinic.

The Army's work in the highlands of Papua New Guinea will then be shown, following Major Iveme Yanderave as she visits disadvantaged people.

Next stop is Myanmar, where a community blood donor group operates under the leadership of Zaw Moe at a Salvation Army centre.

The series then heads to Greenland where Malakias tells his story of being homeless in one of the coldest places on earth and finding a new life as a volunteer at the local Salvation Army centre.

Michelle Watts, Senior Producer of the Self Denial Appeal video series, and the Salvos Studio team spent two and a half weeks last year filming the series. Michelle said she found the experience

refreshed her passion for the Self Denial Appeal.

"As a Christian, I feel like it's a huge honour to see what The Salvation Army is doing around the world. We are always so welcomed. They invite us into their houses. They are generous with their time and what they have," she said. "What surprises me is always the reach of The Salvation Army. We are in more than 130 countries now; we're so well connected."

Last year, \$3.2 million was raised, which went to community development projects in Malawi, eSwatini, Kenya, Northern India and Tanzania. Mission support projects were also funded in Tanzania, Northern and Western India, PNG, Indonesia and Kenya.

Funds can be donated online at any time at selfdenial.info

— Jessica Morris

Caravan club a 'church' on the move

IF LIFE IS A HIGHWAY, THEN church should be a moving vehicle. Just ask The Salvation Army Caravan Club in Victoria.

For more than a decade, Salvationists with a love for adventure have hooked up their caravans and hit the road, congregating at caravan parks across Victoria, South Australia and NSW to fellowship, relax and serve.

"My husband Kevin and I joined the Caravan Club in 2008. We enjoyed the fellowship and the relaxation of it – it wasn't a heavy program or anything like that; it is like being on a retreat, sharing with fellow Christians," said Pat Drinkwell.

Hailing from Greensborough Corps in Melbourne's north, Kevin and Pat organise the



◆ Members of The Salvation Army Caravan Club in Victoria who worshipped at Wangaratta Corps in Victoria during their most recent caravanning mission trip.

twice-yearly trips. Salvos from Geelong, Gippsland, northern Victoria, metropolitan Melbourne and even South Australia travel cross-country for the 10-day adventures. They can bring their caravans, mobile home or stay in a cabin.

From art gallery visits to mini-golf tournaments and boat cruises, they come ready for anything. This often includes encounters with other campers

who are invited to join the club's daily devotions.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Warren Golding includes all caravaners in these devotions and many wonderful moments of people's experiences of God moving in their lives have been told," said Pat. "The Holy Spirit has and is with us all these times."

Where there is a local corps, you can be sure the local band

will be bolstered with a plethora of extra cornets and other brass instruments on the Sunday. And on the off chance there is no Salvos corps in the region, the campers always partner with a local church.

People interested in joining the caravan club can contact Pat Drinkwell on 0407 984 477 or email pkdrinkwell@outlook.com. The annual fee is \$10.

– **Jessica Morris**

Salvos Housing a partner in new anti-slavery program

THE SALVATION ARMY WILL partner with the Sisters of Charity Foundation to operate an innovative housing program for survivors of modern-day slavery in Australia.

The program was launched in Sydney last month in the presence of Governor-General David Hurley, who is also a Sisters of Charity Foundation patron.

A first for Australia, the

program will see the Sisters of Charity Foundation and Salvos Housing deliver transitional housing for survivors of modern slavery based on a new model aimed at transitioning people to independent living.

The Global Slavery Index 2018 estimated that on any given day (based on research done in 2016), around 15,000 people were living in slavery-like conditions in Australia.

"They might be migrant workers being paid minimal wages and working long hours, a child bride being forced to marry by her father, fruit pickers isolated and underpaid on rural farms or child labour in its worst forms – but there is growing evidence that modern slavery is alive and well," a joint statement released by the two organisations said.

The Sisters of Charity

Foundation has provided seed funding for the program, as well as brokerage to help clients set up a home. Salvos Housing will work with people impacted by modern-day slavery to find suitable accommodation that is affordable as well as accessible for work and transport.

The Salvation Army will also provide ongoing case management and support.

– **Lauren Martin**



Youth enjoy summer of fun and fellowship around the territory

THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE have connected with Salvation Army youth programs over the summer, enjoying a ton of fun, faith and fellowship.

Two of the most popular events have been Summer Carnival and Summer Splash (story opposite page).

More than 500 young people and leaders experienced a deep sense of togetherness at the annual Summer Carnival at Phillip Island Adventure Resort in Victoria in January.

The theme of the annual event was ‘We’re Found Together’, which was developed in response to a year of research by the Army’s Youth and Young Adults Department into what the young people of today need.

John Marion, Youth and Young Adults Specialist, said interviews conducted with dozens of young people across the Australia Territory found

that many teenagers were experiencing a sense of disconnection, loneliness and isolation.

The department used the research to design the look and feel for 2020 Summer Carnival, held on 6-10 January, with the theme focusing on the notion that young people are ‘found together’ in God’s love, that our identity is in his family.

“So, if young people feel like they’re alone in the world, or if they feel like they don’t know who they are, or who they’re meant to be, we’re found together and we’ll kind of figure it out together,” said John.

Fourteen-year-old camper Rebekah Carter, from Kalgoorlie (WA), says she went to Summer Carnival for the second year in a row to reconnect with friends.

“I had such a great time last year and I wanted to see my friends from the previous



Rebekah Carter, 14, and youth group leader Cameron Mallory, both from Kalgoorlie Corps (WA), at Summer Carnival.

year again,” she said. “What impacted me the most about the carnival this year was all the kind people who were there, and the atmosphere that just made everyone feel like they belonged and could be who they are and not be judged.”

Rebekah said she encountered Jesus in a deeper way and

the time given to prayer was an important element for her.

Organisers said this was the overwhelming feedback from those who attended – that people felt accepted and loved for who they were.

“And that’s what we want,” said John. “We want Summer Carnival to be reflective of the Kingdom of God – not just talked about but actually experienced.

“What’s really important for us is that Summer Carnival is not about music or sermons ... it’s this culture, that we’re found together, that everyone is invited, everyone is included, that no one’s left out. That is what makes the difference in young people’s lives.”

John said there were 34 first-time commitments to Christ this year, 20 recommitments and 160 other responses.

– **Lauren Martin**



◀ **Far left:** A worship session in full swing at Summer Carnival; **Main photo:** The ‘fun day’ at Summer Carnival always produces a scream or two. (Photos: Jacob Dyer); **Above:** Cadet Sarah Walker shares a message at Wollongong Corps after its Summer Splash event at Jamberoo Action Park; **Left:** Decisions for Christ were made at the Wollongong service.

Making a splash for God the aim of nationwide events

POOL PARTIES ARE THE BREAD and butter of any youth group, but now The Salvation Army Youth and Young Adults Department is diving deeper by making Summer Splash bigger and better than ever.

Summer Splash is not a new idea, with the water-themed event being held in various centres over the years, but the youth department decided to bring the 2020 edition under the one banner with a uniform format.

Locations throughout January and February included the Gold Coast, Wollongong, Geelong, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin and Perth. Events were advertised on social media and then held at water parks like Dreamworld on the Gold Coast



◀ A uniform look to advertising Summer Splash, like this ad promoting the Wollongong event, was the aim of the youth department.

or Jamberoo Action Park near Wollongong. Each event was followed by a worship service back at a local corps in the evening where the Gospel was preached.

Close to 1500 young people took part in events nationwide.

“Summer Splash is about creating a safe and supported place for young people where they find fun, family and faith,” said Auxiliary-Lieutenant Adam Purcell, Youth and Young Adults Secretary. “We want young people across this

nation feeling that they are part of something bigger. This event is a safe place, either at a pool, beach or aquatic park, where young people can hang out and have a lot of fun. And at night we hold a combined youth group event in each location. It includes music, hanging out, dinner together and a message.”

After the success of this year’s events, Adam said the youth department is already planning the 2021 program to be bigger, wetter and more fun.

“We want corps to find a water park and then host a night meeting. Wouldn’t it be amazing if in 2021 we had dozens of locations and connected them all through social media? That’s the dream.”

– **Jessica Morris**

Glenorchy in a state of loving their neighbour

THE STATE OF TASMANIA IS challenging locals to love their neighbour, and Glenorchy City Salvation Army is leading the way.

Last month, Glenorchy Salvos hosted the launch of Neighbour Day, a month-long state government initiative being run by Relationships Australia to create rapport in the community.

With responsibility for this year's festivities being handed to Glenorchy City Council, it wasn't long before they called in a favour from their friends at the Glenorchy Salvos.

"The council needed a venue to launch Neighbour Day and often launch events and initiatives are held out of our new site," said Captain Jeff Milkins, Glenorchy City Corps Officer.



Relationships Australia Tasmania CEO Mat Rowell and Glenorchy City Mayor Kristie Johnston presenting one of their Little Street Libraries to The Salvation Army Glenorchy City Corps. Image courtesy of Relationships Australia Tasmania.

"So when they called about two weeks out it was just logical. It aligns perfectly with what we are trying to do here at the site.

"Neighbour Day agrees with what we are about in terms of building community, making friends and being cared for. Loneliness is a big issue in this part of the community.

"Any good friendship often starts around a meal, so when

the Glenorchy City Council brought in the food for our regular community lunch, the event had a flying start."

Mayor Kristie Johnston and Relationships Australia Tasmania CEO Mat Rowell, who both attended the launch, challenged locals to host a barbecue or a similar event to boost community connection.

One of the Neighbour Day

initiatives is the Little Street Libraries, with one donated to the Salvos.

"People are encouraged to take a book and leave a book and connect with others in the community while they do so," said Jeff. "We want people to get to know their neighbour and have a chat – even around a little library!"

– Jessica Morris

Townsville recovery efforts ongoing a year after the floods

LAST MONTH MARKED A year since devastating floods hit Townsville in North Queensland, yet The Salvation Army is continuing to partner with other churches and agencies in the recovery work.

Last October, the Community Rebuild Project sourced a government grant and The Salvation Army partnered with The Oasis Townsville,

a referral and support hub for military veterans, to run 'Operation Townsville Assist'.

"We wanted to get at least two or three families back in their homes before Christmas," said project manager Floss Foster, who has identified another 40 homes. "We repaired five houses in five weeks, a total of 1339 hours in volunteer labour, saving property owners over

\$55,000 in labour costs."

Floss said teams of veterans install kitchens, gyprock, vanities and wardrobes, or paint and do whatever minor works are needed.

The Salvos have a Community Rebuild Project community worker in Townsville who is continuing to connect with people, advocating for them and providing assistance.



An 'Operation Townsville Assist' volunteer working on one of the five houses the group restored.

Enrolments

MACARTHUR CORPS

NSW



SIX SENIOR SOLDIERS WERE ENROLLED AND two adherents accepted at Macarthur Corps recently, the first at the newly established corps. Pictured (from left, back row) are Debbie Griffin, Cherise Holley, Michelle Robert, Bruce McCubben, Captain Nicola Poore, (front row) Hanna Thomson, Elizabeth Murray, James Holmes and Sandra Smith.

CARINDALE CORPS

QLD



CORPS OFFICERS CAPTAINS KRISTA AND Tim Andrews recently enrolled Brianna and Ross Crear, Connor Buckner and Nora Lawson as senior soldiers, accepted Carolyn and Howard Foster as adherents, and reinstated Ian and Michelle Wayman, and Cathy and Mike Quayle as senior soldiers. The group, which has a strong family connection, is pictured above.

LEONGATHA CORPS

VIC



SIX SENIOR SOLDIERS WERE ENROLLED AND two adherents accepted at Leongatha Corps on 2 February. Pictured (from left) are Captain Glenn Smith, new adherents Robin Simpson and Judith Williams, new soldiers Rebekah Nicholls, Paul West, Amy West, Thelma McInnes, Ashley McInnes, Captain Kerry Smith, and new soldier Christine Ainsley.

ECHUCA-MOAMA CORPS

VIC



AUXILIARY-LIEUTENANT SONIA EDWARDS enrolled four new senior soldiers on 12 January. Pictured are the new soldiers and their prayer partners (from left) Darren Sperling (new soldier), Rob Hughes, Colin Turnbull (new soldier), Barbara Kissell, Jacqui Cavanagh (new soldier), Jess Turnbull (new soldier), Tamara Sperling and Aux-Lieut Edwards.

MENAI CORPS

NSW



MARK SOPER, CORPS LEADER, ENROLLED Jonathan Skuthorpe as a senior soldier, with Kerrie Daley and Shondha Moore accepting their Corps Discipleship Covenants (corps membership for people who don't want to become soldiers or adherents). The group is pictured above left. Mark also enrolled seven junior soldiers, pictured (from left) with their prayer partners: Bethany Domrow, Bonnie Durston, Eliana Domrow, Aaliyah McKay, Holly Soper, Jessica Moore and Zoe Soper.



Women's ministries launches new era



Commissioner Rosalie Peddle stands next to the new women's ministries logo and vision statement.

A NEW VISION STATEMENT and logo for international women's ministries has been launched in London.

Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, World President of Women's Ministries, conducted the 12 February launch, which was live-streamed through YouTube and Facebook and watched around the world.

"I want to challenge all women leaders of The Salvation Army – and that includes officers and soldiers and friends – to reimagine women's ministry in their own context," she said, "to discover what new things we can be doing to speak into and overcome the challenges that women and girls are facing in our world today."

The event featured an art and photographic exhibition and a series of videos from around the world of women engaging with women in unique, culturally appropriate ways that have opened up pathways to faith, hope and transformed lives.

For more information and the statement go to: others.org.au/womensministries

Army responds to outbreak of Coronavirus

SALVATION ARMY MEMBERS and staff in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are continuing to provide whatever assistance they can despite the restrictions that have been put in place to slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus from China.

Eva Cho, Communications Director for The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command said: "Even with the anxiety surrounding the Novel Coronavirus here, we are very proud of the corps officers, soldiers and staff from our social services who brave the uncertainties and visit many families in their communities – especially the elderly and housebound – to provide them with essential foodstuffs, meals and masks for their protection."

To mitigate close contact and potential infection, corps programs have been suspended, although some corps have used recording or live-streaming to share their Sunday worship.

Peddles bring encouragement to Indian territories

THE SALVATION ARMY'S WORLD leaders experienced a time of celebration, joy, encouragement, love, transformation and blessing when they visited India's Northern Territory and Western Territory last month.

General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle were blessed through meeting the people and enjoyed the hospitality, traditional food and the colours of the culture.

During their week in the India Northern Territory, the Peddles visited Salvation Army schools in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Batala and the Mac Robert Hospital in Dhariwal, Punjab, as well as conducting several large public meetings.

The visit to the India Western Territory gave the Peddles the opportunity to bring encouragement to Salvationists and friends from Gujarat and

Maharashtra and also gain firsthand experience of the challenges faced by The Salvation Army in these regions of India.

These two distinct regions, with their own languages within the same territory, often mean duplication, so the Peddles participated in similar events to reach the maximum number of people and ensure the gospel message was shared in their own language.



General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle in Indian headdress during a parade.

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 8 January

Major Darren **Elkington**, Assistant to the Chief Secretary – Governance Portfolio, Office of the Chief Secretary (title change).

Effective 10 February

Captain Paul **Lorimer** Executive Officer, Melbourne Staff Songsters – Mission Support Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (additional appointment); Auxiliary-Lieutenant Steven **Freind**, Youth and Young Adults Secretary, WA – Mission Support Department, Office of the Secretary for Mission (additional appointment, pro tem).

Effective 17 February

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Deb **Strapp**, Associate Corps Officer, Victor Harbor Corps, South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Athol **England** on 15 February; Major Alan **Hughes** on 14 January; Major Melvie **King** on 11 January.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON
(TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

8-11 March – NSW Officers Fellowship at Leura, Blue Mountains.

15 March – Installation of Commissioners Julie and Mark Campbell at Wellington, New Zealand.

18-24 March – International Conference of Leaders 2020 at Lisbon, Portugal.

COLONEL WINSOME MERRETT
(CHIEF SECRETARY)

8-11 March – NSW Officers Fellowship at Leura, Blue Mountains.

20 March – Surrender20 Leaders Lunch.

We are working to help people become better people; then this will become a better world.

- General Eva Burrows



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ROBERT CASSIDY



MAJOR ROBERT CASSIDY was promoted to glory on 30 December, aged 88. His funeral service was held on 14 January at Camberwell

Corps (Vic.), conducted by Major Mark Kop.

Robert Charles Cassidy was born to John and Ann Cassidy in Koondrook (Vic.). He was the middle child of five. He accepted Jesus at 19 and was actively involved in Kyabram Corps (Vic.). At that time, Kyabram Corps was run by a young lieutenant named Betty Simpson, who caught his interest.

In 1953, he entered The Salvation Army Training College, joining the *Heralds* session of cadets. Following commissioning, Robert was appointed to Echuca (Vic.) before marrying Betty, a captain, in 1955 and being appointed to Millicent (SA) to begin their joint ministry. This was followed by corps appointments at Invermay and Queenstown (Tas.), during which time they were blessed with the births of Evan, Debby, Lloyd, and twins Bram and Bruce.

In 1964, the Cassidy family moved to Victoria where they were appointed as corps officers to Mordialloc, Wonthaggi, Clayton, Box Hill North (Koonung), followed by Geelong Central with Belmont and Ringwood. They were then appointed to the Public Relations Department at Territorial Headquarters in Melbourne, followed by an appointment to the Gill Memorial Home in 1985.

Robert then spent two years as Assistant Territorial Social Secretary, before being appointed to Western Australia as the State Social Secretary, followed by the State Program Secretary. In 1994, they moved back to Victoria to take up an appointment as pastoral care officers for retired officers before retiring from active service on 1 January 1997.

In retirement, Robert maintained his interest in photography and music. Betty was promoted to glory on 12 February

2012, and shortly after, Robert moved into Willowbrae Nursing Home.

DAWN ARMSTRONG



MAJOR DAWN ARMSTRONG was promoted to glory on 25 December, aged 89.

Her funeral was held on 6 January in Maddington (WA), conducted by Major Dennis Dell.

Dawn Winifred Armstrong was the first child born to Bob and Elsie Armstrong, on 27 May 1930. After leaving school, she worked for the State Electricity Commission in Perth for seven years. Dawn entered The Salvation Army Training College from Perth Fortress Corps (WA) in 1956, to join the *Swordbearers* session.

After commissioning, she was appointed to assist at Orbost Corps (Vic.). From here she was appointed to assist at Carlton and then Altona Corps (both Vic.), then as corps officer of Bellerive (Tas.) and Eaglehawk (Vic.), before a brief appointment in Melbourne Metro Divisional Collecting. She was then appointed as corps officer of Goodwood Corps (SA).

Dawn took a break in service for three and a half years to assist a friend in need. She returned to official duty in May 1965, as corps officer of Creswick Corps (Vic.), then Yarraville/Newport (Vic.), and then Huonville (Tas.). She then moved to Western Australia and held appointments at Northam, Bunbury, Bentley, Rivervale, Medina/Rockingham and Katanning, before returning to Victoria in 1982 to take up an appointment at Healesville Corps.

Dawn was then appointed as assistant manager at Mary Anderson Lodge, becoming manager six months later. She also served as women's court welfare officer and chaplain (Melbourne) before returning to Western Australia as manager of the Community Outreach Centre, Fremantle. Dawn entered retirement on 1 June 1990.

ALLAN SMITH



ALLAN SMITH WAS promoted to glory on 16 November, aged 86. His funeral service was held at

Hurstville Corps (NSW), conducted by Lieut-Colonel Graham Durston.

Allan was born into a Salvation Army family in Brisbane on 2 August 1933, the eldest child of Arthur and Winifred Smith. He had a younger sister, Richelle. Allan married Janice in 1959 and was the proud father of two sons, Rodney and Darrin, and had six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

From his teenage years, Allan served as a keen and dedicated Salvationist. He was a bandsman for over 60 years, the last 50 as a soldier of Hurstville Corps. During this time he taught many young people how to play an instrument. Allan ran his own cleaning business for many years with his wife Jan, and was highly respected for his integrity, dependability and hard work. The wonder of his father's conversion from life as an alcoholic as a young man was influential in Allan's commitment to engage in the mission of the Army. He was a keen reader of Australian and church history, especially Salvation Army history.

Allan was a dedicated husband and father and a fine Salvationist who will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends at Hurstville Corps.

BERT DOBSON



CAPTAIN BERT DOBSON was promoted to glory on 5 November, aged 91.

Bertram Henry Dobson was born to Leila and Alexander Dobson in Penguin (Tas.), on 7 May 1928. He was the youngest of 10 children. Bert worked as a shift operator

at Tioxide Australia. He married Betty in November 1952.

Bert and Betty entered The Salvation Army Training College from Ulverstone Corps (Tas.) in 1953 to join the *Heralds* session. Their first appointment as commissioned officers was to Port Augusta Corps (SA), then Echuca Corps (Vic.). Other Victorian appointments followed with time spent in Yea, Benalla and Golden Square. It was from here that they left officership, only to be reaccepted as territorial envoys in 1982 and take up an appointment at Ashfield House, Tasmania.

In October 1982, Bert and Betty had their rank reinstated and in January 1983 they were appointed as thrift shop managers at The Anchorage (Vic.). They were then appointed as chaplains at the Gill Memorial Home (Vic.) and then as the assistant officers at The Anchorage Community Service Industry. They entered retirement in 1993.

KEN AGNEW



MAJOR KEN AGNEW WAS promoted to glory on 15 November, aged 69. Kenneth William Agnew was born on 12 February

1950, to Kenneth and Enid Agnew, in Camberwell (Vic.). He was the eldest of four children. Following school, Ken trained as a sheet metal worker. After completing his apprenticeship and working in the industry for a few years, Ken then became a schoolteacher.

In 1969, Ken met Christine and they married in 1971. Over the years, their

family grew with the births of Karen, Linda and twins Scott and Vaughan. The family moved to Alice Springs in 1995, where Ken took up a position as an evening support worker at the Red Shield Hostel. After 12 months, Ken became manager of the hostel.

Ken and Christine were working as territorial envoys before becoming auxiliary-captains on 26 August 1999. At this time, they were corps officers at George Town Corps (Tas.). From here they were appointed as corps officers to Bunbury (WA) before Ken took up an appointment back in Victoria as a planned giving consultant at Territorial Headquarters.

In November 2010, Ken and Christine returned to corps work in Victoria, taking up appointments in Horsham and then Stawell, with Ken taking on additional responsibility as chaplain at Ararat Prison. Ken retired on 1 March 2015.

Ken also worked as a police chaplain on and off for a period of 18 years, a role he continued throughout his retirement. He loved chatting to people and was often found supporting community events. Ken enjoyed the freedom retirement allowed to visit his children and grandchildren often, which he loved.

ALAN HUGHES



MAJOR ALAN HUGHES was promoted to glory on 14 January, aged 90. His funeral service was held on 23 January at Caloundra

Corps (Qld), conducted by Commissioner James Condon.

Each of his four remaining children participated in the service. Frances Mills

shared the family tribute of a loving and caring father who was very wise and a strong godly influence. Greg Hughes paid a brief tribute before reading a poem he had written especially about his father, titled 'The Nearly Perfect Man'. Derek Hughes, accompanied by Wendy Hughes on the piano, sang 'They Shall Come From the East'.

Pastor Tim Hughes (grandson) represented the grandchildren and great-grandchildren in paying a warm tribute to their 'Poppy'. Major Fred Shaw spoke on behalf of Caloundra Corps, where Alan and Phyllis Hughes had worshipped for almost 30 years in retirement. Commissioner Condon, in his message, spoke about humility and servanthood – two key traits of the life and ministry of Alan.

Alan Hughes entered The Salvation Army Training College in 1950, joining the *Standard Bearers* session of cadets. Following commissioning, he was appointed as the assistant officer to Windsor Corps (NSW). In 1952, Alan was appointed to Singleton Corps (NSW) and on 10 January 1953, began his joint ministry with Phyllis. During their time at Singleton, Garry was born.

Over the following years, Alan and Phyllis were appointed as corps officers to a further nine corps across NSW. During this time, they extended their family with the births of Wayne, Frances, Wendy, Gregory and Derek.

In 1974, Alan was appointed as chaplain to the courts and spent six years in this ministry, before working in Papua New Guinea as corps officer of Koki Corps for two years. The family moved back to Australia and over the next 12 years Alan served in a number of social and corps officer appointments, before entering retirement on 1 March 1994.

Tribute reports.

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

WHEN I MET JESUS, LIFE SUDDENLY MADE SENSE

WORDS JARED SHEEHAN

I DIDN'T GROW UP IN A CHRISTIAN FAMILY and, although I knew about God, I was never encouraged to have a relationship with him. Despite this, I still had a good upbringing and my parents tried their best to show me how to be a good person. I played sport, hung out with mates and generally just 'cruised' through my comfortable upbringing.

But when setbacks and tragedy hit, a lack of resilience and greater purpose left me struggling to cope. One day, after school, one of my good friends took their own life. Another friend was killed about six months later.

I just didn't know how to deal with it all. These two things sent me on a massive downward spiral and completely changed me. And not in a good way. I started hanging out with the wrong people, I was angry and was getting into every fight I could, I was drinking heavily, doing party drugs and pretty much anything I could to forget about it all.

Then, one of my friends invited me to attend a Salvation Army basketball carnival, which seemed like a fun thing to do. During the week, I met loads of people who were 'different', but different in a good way. I was curious. And one of the people I met stole my heart. Natalie Smith was blonde, beautiful, fun and engaging, and we quickly struck up a friendship.

Meeting Nat and getting to know the person she was got me interested in knowing more about why she was such an amazing person and how God had played



◀ Jared Sheehan and Natalie Smith met at a Salvation Army basketball carnival (above left) and later married. (Above right) Attending a family wedding with their first son, Oliver.

such a big part in her life. So, as our relationship grew so did my knowledge of God.

Within six months of dating, I accepted Jesus into my life. It was a complete turnaround and life suddenly made sense. I can honestly say that since becoming a Christian my life has changed drastically for the better. Speaking from experience as someone who's tried it all, there's nothing more fulfilling than living life God's way and discovering a purpose with eternal impact.

Nat and I have since married, and we have two sons, Oliver and Archie. We attend Menai Salvation Army in Sydney.

About six years ago, I felt called to become a Salvation Army soldier. To be honest, I never used to see the point in people becoming soldiers. I thought it was pretty weird and just didn't really get it. Over time, as my relationship with God grew, I started asking God what more he

wanted of me. To my surprise, gradually my opinion of soldiership changed.

I realised that becoming a soldier was nothing to do with the things you can or can't do or about the uniform, but it's about me stepping up and making a covenant with God; a covenant that I can't argue with. How can I disagree with giving God every single part of my life and saying I'm going to rid myself of anything that could possibly cause me or anyone else to stumble?

Sports ministry remains a passion for me and I still play basketball twice a week in community teams.

I feel like God uses me where I am, with the people that I meet. I can try and change the stereotypes that people have about Christianity, just by meeting them where they're at and journeying with them. I can try to show them who Jesus is. *

As told to Lauren Martin

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A man wearing glasses, a grey parka, a blue and red plaid shirt, and dark pants stands in a snowy landscape. In the background, there are several large ships, including a red and white one and a larger white one with a red cabin. The scene is set in a cold, possibly Arctic or Antarctic, environment with icebergs in the water.

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