

■ FEATURE

*The mountain range in Antarctica named after a Salvationist*

■ OPINION

*Australia's culture profoundly enriched by migrants and refugees*

■ THE BIG PICTURE

*New film Tolkien resurrects 'lost' quality of brotherly love*

■ SALVATION STORY

*'I let go and let God in. It was the best decision I've ever made'*

# others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION



## NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP

Donaldsons 'released' to nurture spiritual health of Australia Territory



JULY  
2019

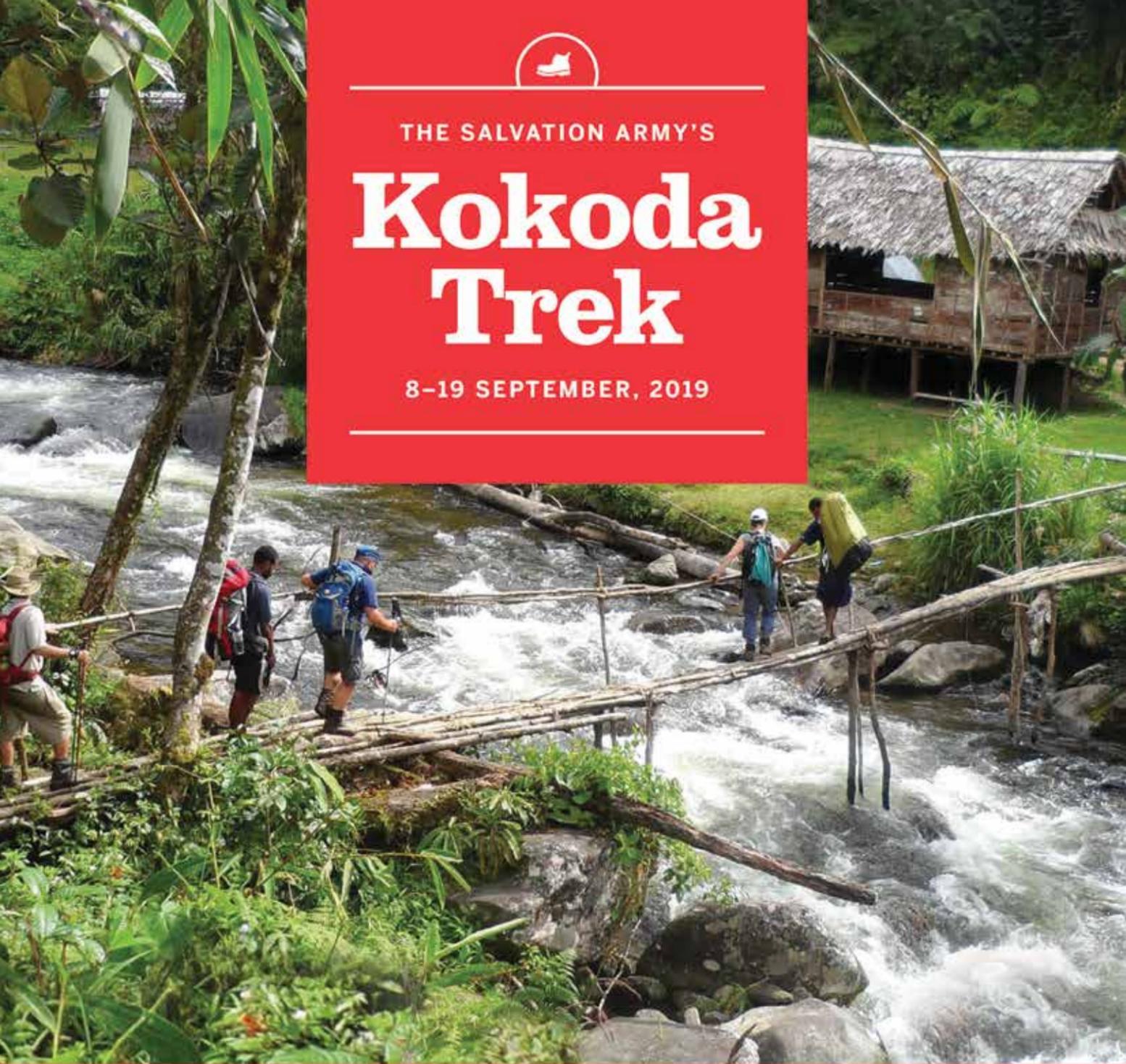
ISSUE 07  
VOLUME 03  
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THE SALVATION ARMY'S

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8-19 SEPTEMBER, 2019



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## Playing your part in the body of Christ.

WORDS LAURIE ROBERTSON

THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA TERRITORY now has new leaders. Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson have joined the team. And I say joined the team because they are emphatic in their belief that for God's will and way to be effectively carried out it takes many people working together. This came through strongly in an interview when they were asked to describe their leadership style.

Robert quickly stated that their leadership "metaphor really is the body of Christ. And scripture so clearly says that all of us belong, all of us contribute, all of us are equally important. And if one is not doing their part, all of us suffer. And leadership for us is just actually being part of the body, it's not about standing on the top or thinking you have all knowledge. It's actually being part of the body and playing your part in that and being open to and supportive of everyone who's playing their part".

"Well, we need each other," added Janine. "The wonderful people in Australia, we need you. We simply need each other to work with God, to bring others to Christ. We can't do it on our own, so there's this beautiful sentiment how God created us to be in community, to lift our hands and praise him, to join hands and work together."

So, as far as the territorial leaders are concerned, we are all in this ministry together – where helping people connect with Jesus Christ is our primary focus. But what does this really mean for us as a movement and mission and as individuals?

Do we even know what our part is or can be in? Have we deliberately sought God's guidance? Have we ever taken the plunge and given something a go to see if this is one

of the ways God wants us to partner with him? When we become aware of a need do we think it through to determine if we can be involved in the solution?

Have we thought about how can we can become involved in discussions to enable our corps, Salvos Stores, Employment Plus office, youth program, recovery centre, Moneycare office, or headquarters to effectively minister with all other expressions of The Salvation Army in our area? And, personally, what do I know about the area meetings involving corps, mission enterprise and social mission leaders? What does collaborating with every other Army expression to transform our community one life at a time with the love of Jesus mean for me? How can I be involved in caring for people, building a healthy community, creating faith pathways and helping people be treated justly? In fact, what would a healthy community look like?

So many questions and, yet, so often we can be part of the answer – the solution. If we want to be.

The Christ-centred enthusiasm of the Donaldsons for all Salvos to deliver spirit, mind and body ministry is inspiring. They speak passionately about holistic ministry where there is a part for every one of us to play.

Are you and I up to it? I pray we are and that we will just get on and do it! ●

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson  
is Editor-in-Chief



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A gospel choir based out of The Salvation Army Moreland City Corps in Melbourne is hitting the right note with the community. See our story on page 39. Photo: Gerard Assi



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**NATIONAL  
VISION  
STATEMENT**

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

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# others

f OthersAU

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Join the conversation

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

f Tracey Tidd

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

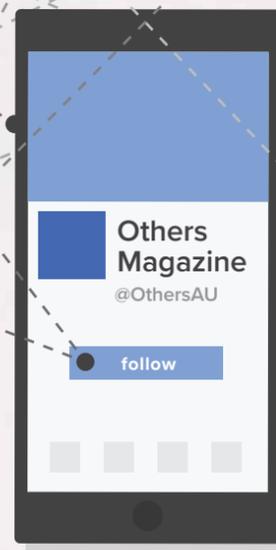
t Brian Peddle

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

f Peter Hobbs

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

o Belinda Spicer



## Honouring the past and heralding the future.

*Our mission is to encourage, pray, listen and experience*

WORDS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

WARMEST GREETINGS TO SALVOS AROUND Australia. It is a pleasure to greet you and join you in making the vision of The Salvation Army Australia a reality.

The Salvation Army has always been clear about its purpose of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, meeting human needs and doing this in an integrated and holistic manner. Our early history, theology, international mission statement, and soldier's and officer's covenants all point to this purpose and we appreciate the expression of this in a fresh and Aussie way: Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

We are committed to the vision, mission, values, pillars and mission imperatives that have been prayerfully and diligently agreed as the way forward for The Salvation Army in Australia.

In this new era, the world leader of The Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle, has issued fresh 'job descriptions' for territorial leaders. Our key responsibilities are governance (Robert), spiritual leadership (Janine and Robert in shared ministry) and a focus on women (Janine). We have been released from management responsibilities in order to bring priority and emphasis to these areas. We pray that we will fulfil these responsibilities with passion and wisdom, led by the Holy Spirit.

During our recent orientation in Australia we were able to meet and converse with all members of the Governance Board and observe its June meeting. The Salvation Army Australia Territory is in good and capable hands from a governance

perspective, with all members passionate about their faith and relationship with God, and deeply committed to the missional success of the territory. We also had time to meet the senior leadership team and several of the heads of departments. These are good and competent people, ably led by the Chief Secretary, Colonel Mark Campbell.

We look forward to getting around the territory and meeting you in your place of mission and ministry; encouraging you from the Word of God, praying with and for you, listening to you and experiencing something of your joys and challenges.

We honour the hard work and dedicated ministry of Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd. They have led the territory through an enormous transformation that is unparalleled in the history of the Army. Commissioners Floyd and Tracey, Colonels Julie and Mark, and their team deserve a high level of recognition for their quality of leadership, discernment and courage in decision-making, tenacity and persistence under enormous pressure, and their sharp and disciplined focus on the missional outcomes that all this effort, change, cost and pain has been planned to achieve. May we be both faithful and fruitful with the legacy they have left.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favour and give you his peace" (Numbers 6:24-26 *NLT*).•

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



✓ Rome is home to Australian Salvation Army officer Captain Andrew Lee, who has been the Finance Officer at the small Italy and Greece Command since January last year.

## Aussie officers around the world -Italy and Greece Command

In Global Focus this year, *Others* is profiling the work of Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we take a look at the Italy and Greece Command, where **Captain Andrew Lee** is serving.

WORDS BILL SIMPSON



**T**hink of Rome and you may think of it, as Romans do, as the Eternal City or even Vatican City – centre of the world’s estimated 1.3 billion Roman Catholics, with the Pope as its pontiff. Bible students may think of the Apostle Paul and his imprisonment and probable execution there. You may think of Rome as the world’s most expansive open air museum, with its colosseum, pantheon and forum dating back almost 2000 years.

Across the road from my recent visit were the ruins of the site where Roman ruler Julius Caesar was reported to have been murdered. There’s history – and alleged history – everywhere. Turn every corner and there is history we in young Australia can scarcely comprehend. There’s also St Peter’s Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and the catacombs – and its estimated 900 Catholic churches within the city limits, many 100m long, 100m high and almost 100m wide monoliths painted from floor to ceiling with incredible Bible-story artwork.

It’s not likely, though, that you will think of The Salvation Army. We don’t hear exciting stories of daring Salvationists on the streets of the Italian capital – or anywhere in Italy, for that matter. But The Salvation Army is there and among the small Italy (and Greece) Command team is a lone officer from the Australia Territory. Captain (known locally as Capitano) Andrew Lee has been Finance

### HISTORY

The Salvation Army flag was unfurled in Italy on 20 February 1887, although subsequent difficulties necessitated withdrawal before work was re-established in 1893. A presidential decree in 1965 recognised The Salvation Army as a philanthropic organisation. It received legal status as a religious body in March 2009. The Salvation Army began operations in Greece in 2007, in the city of Thessaloniki. Greece was recognised as part of the Italy and Greece Command in February 2011, with operations beginning in the capital, Athens, in February 2012.

Officer at the small Italy (and Greece) Command, since the beginning of last year. He went as an Australia Southern Territory officer and will return as an officer of the new Australia Territory. His responsibility is to oversee the finances of The Salvation Army in Italy and Greece.

Ironically, Andrew was raised a Roman Catholic – in Singapore, then Perth. His faith in his church waned as he grew into a young man. In his final years studying accountancy at university in Perth, his parents encouraged him to find work to support himself financially. He started volunteering for The Salvation Army’s Family Stores.

After university, he was offered a full-time job at the Family Stores headquarters at Noble Park, in Melbourne’s south-eastern suburbs. It was a lonely time, at first, living alone and not knowing anybody outside work colleagues. But Family Stores receptionist Mavis Sanders offered a young and shy Andrew an opportunity to meet like-minded people. Songster pianist at Box Hill Corps, Mavis suggested Andrew show up to a Sunday worship service and she would introduce him around. He did – and she did. Immediately, Andrew was connected with appropriate groups within the corps. It made him feel welcome, wanted, accepted – all the things people come looking for at The Salvation Army. Eventually, he became a soldier. That was in 2004.

While working, Andrew started further university study, including a Masters in International Community Development and a Masters in Theology. As his life was dramatically changing direction, Andrew felt the call to missionary service. The Salvation Army offered him the lay role of Chief Accountant in Pakistan. Within two years, Pakistan had been devastated by flood, displacing 22 million people. Andrew was made national manager of The Salvation Army flood rehabilitation program. It was 2010.

After four years in Pakistan, Andrew returned to Melbourne to train as a

### COMMAND SNAPSHOT

The Italy and Greece Command focuses on major social issues such as human trafficking and modern slavery, refugees and asylum seekers, and homelessness. It operates a centre for the homeless in Rome, which includes hostels for men and women, a day centre and social canteen, and a day centre for refugees in Athens.

26	Officers
4	Envoys
2	Auxiliary-Captains
2	Cadets
28	Employees
243	Senior soldiers
17	Corps
112	Adherents



Salvation Army officer, serving as assistant Corps Officer at Alice Springs, then at Palmerston (Northern Territory). Between then and Rome, he also served as Projects Officer with the Bangladesh Command and Territorial Multicultural Ministries Consultant at Territorial Headquarters in Melbourne. His Rome appointment started in January 2018.

Seeking to serve through The Salvation Army – and as a finance officer – in a city dominated by the Catholic Church with almost 2000 years of amazing history, Andrew explains it like this: “The significance of The Salvation Army in Italy is that even though we are part of the universal church and Caritas (Catholic welfare) is involved in similar mission, social work and social justice, our understanding of the poor not only means that we seek to assist those who cannot be helped by other organisations due to limitation of resources, but seek to help the poorest of the poor.

“From a personal serving perspective, I think it is always difficult to demonstrate that a finance role can show Jesus because it is a back-office, desk-bound job. Being in a finance role, it is not easy, as it tends to focus on the inside; on the cogs and wheels that run the organisation. But I believe it is a supporting role that tries as best it can to provide the necessary assistance to those out in the field winning souls for Christ.”

But Andrew says The Army *is* impacting Italy. The needy are being assisted, new soldiers are being added and two couples are studying for officership in Rome. And Andrew is confident Pope Francis would approve of his presence and position as a Salvation Army officer in Rome. “Pope Francis has spoken affectionately of The Salvation Army’s work in his homeland of Argentina. And, as a Jesuit priest, he would support The Salvation Army’s objectives in assisting the poor,” he says. “I’m content with that.”

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.

## 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](http://others.org.au/viewpoint)



## Am I my brother's keeper?

*Generosity stems from expanded worldview*

WORDS OLIVE LUCAS

MUSING IS SURELY AN AGE THING. IT'S easier to recall the 'good old days' than the immediate past.

Growing up in a small country town in the 1940s and '50s, carefully parented, sheltered and with distinct Salvation Army *Orders and Regulations* to guide my spiritual development, my Christian journey began. I listened with awe at the seemingly vibrant spiritual life so often testified to by older comrades who spoke of radical conversion and sanctification. I learnt that I needed to be in the world but not of the world. But what world?

My worldview was naturally restricted, but extended when I heard stories from missionaries freshly home from the colonies, talking passionately about 'natives' and 'little brown babies'. Strangely, I was drawn. The 'wireless' opened to me the outside world of drama, music and international affairs. The events of India's partition and independence caught my attention, sowing the seed for events that were to significantly impact my life.

Travel, and connecting with my British roots, opened up the world to me, raising questions about faith, social life and values. People think and act differently according to their conditioning and exposure. An introduction to Islam and Buddhism and other faiths, through my Salvation Army officer appointments to

India, was part of my growing awareness of accident of birth. In the early days of The Salvation Army in India, many thousands were converted to Christianity as communities. No doubt as individuals there were those who were true believers, but I have sometimes wondered about those who simply conformed.

Australia's culture is profoundly enriched by the arrival of migrants and refugees. I'm privileged to be a volunteer English-language tutor, coming in contact with hundreds of students who bring a background of religious persecution, war damage, physical privation and insecurity. Their stories would melt the heart of those who fear that our country will be 'taken over' by foreigners.

My heart was joined to an older Somali lady who sat in class quietly crooning a Somali melody, oblivious to the students around her. Maybe she was thinking of the cattle she had left behind on the arid plains of her beloved country, present in body but far away in spirit. Her worldview was so different.

A young mother, newly arrived from Rwanda with her little family, told me of witnessing the atrocities of the genocide in that battered country 20 years ago. The violence of that horrific experience is permanently imprinted on her mind. I can be part of that healing as her worldview is shifting.

A boy soldier, stolen from his family in South Sudan and forced into a tribal civil war, eventually found his way to Australia. Many members of his extended family remain languishing in a refugee camp in Kenya.

I think about the gentle Tibetan Buddhist monk who trekked over the Himalayan mountains into the refuge of India. How wonderful for him to eventually find

sanctuary in Australia after fleeing the oppression of Chinese occupation of his country. Here he faces the challenges of a new language and Western culture with courage and determination.

The question of Australia's intake of refugees and asylum seekers is valid and vexed, threatening our precious standard of living and challenging our self-centredness. Are we willing to make sacrifices in order to share our generous resources and freedom? All these dear people have stories dominated by painful memories. Again, accident of birth? Where is justice? Doesn't the hierarchy of needs apply to them too? Physiological safety, belonging, sense of self-esteem, self-actualisation?

In a foreign environment, as a new, young widow, my worldview took me to the Himalayan mountain range in the far north of India. On a clear afternoon, I sat numbed, alone and in tears on what seemed like the top of the world. Snow peak after snow peak transported me. For a while I soared above the mysteries and unanswered questions of an earth-bound soul, to the silence of eternity. That moment would have been an easy transition to the place that is 'fairer than day' where the worldview is exquisite.

But back to The Salvation Army that shaped me all those years ago in that small country town, and set me on a God trajectory. I'm glad there is revival in our mission, to fight injustice, poverty and oppression. Perhaps materialism, self-centredness and arrogance should be added to the list.

The questions of who am I, what am I here for, of what consequence am I, remain. I can filter these questions through the lens of the big picture, and the impact of sharing life with people whose culture is in complete contrast



WORTH QUOTING.

"In God's school we learn through the heart rather than through the head, and by faith rather than logic." - Samuel Logan Brengle

to mine, but also with a faith nurtured initially in a Salvation Army setting, now enriched by broader Christian expressions and a multicultural environment.

All will be resolved when the faithful join the thousands and thousands around the Throne, wearing white robes, both black and white faces gleaming. The worldview will be stunning. But the question and the challenge remain, posed in the words of the scripture: Am I my brother's keeper? It's difficult to answer in our Australian culture of protected individualism. Will our conscience and reason allow us to be generous in thought and action? ●

Lieut-Colonel Olive Lucas is a retired Salvation Army officer who attends Stafford Corps in Brisbane.

## Is Sunday worship attendance necessary?

*Jesus and the early Church set the example*

WORDS DAVID WOODBURY

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THIS MAGAZINE HAVE been giving us glimpses into many of the innovative and exciting new Salvation Army ventures being developed to connect with our communities. A cursory glance at the reporting would indicate that there is an increasing number of peripheral groups and activities being established that take mission to the community; a move in the right direction.

However, at a time when Sunday meeting attendances have dramatically declined, we may need to examine the necessity for attending religious services each Sunday.

Can the operation of these new ventures be a replacement to the traditional Sunday gathering of believers? It may well be that some see such a traditional gathering as redundant, obsolete and out of touch with today's community. Does the traditional gathering of believers each Sunday have a scriptural basis and can we justify it from a biblical basis and church history?

The first pattern we must examine is the example of Jesus during his earthly ministry, and it is true that he spent much of his time away from the established religious institution and among small groups. However, any perfunctory reading of his ministry clearly demonstrated that he was committed to regular attendance at the synagogue or temple. There are more than 100 references in the four gospels to Jesus being in the religious institution of his day. Clearly, attendance in, and commitment to, a regular gathering of believers was paramount in his lifestyle and the example he has left for us.

If we move forward to the example of the early Church we find a similar, even more committed pattern of attendance: "They worshipped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity" (Acts 2:46). Once again this is a strong, recurring activity in the history of the early Church as recorded in Acts. Apart from the strong scriptural example of regular attendance, there are many positive and fundamental reasons for our active participation with a body of believers, the least of these the crucial need to belong in community. The reality of today's world with the influence of technology and the internet etc., which has a tendency to isolate, is that we need community more than ever. A regular gathering of believers is a primary building block in creating a meaningful and effective community.

Regular attendance at gatherings of believers allows us to utilise to the fullest the gifts God has given us and in so doing we build up the body of Christ, the Church. "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other" (Romans 12:4-5 *NLT*). There is also a sense in which the voice of God may well be amplified and reinforced when we meet together as a community of faith, where we are surrounded by like-minded believers and where corporate prayer and testimony provide us with a stimulus in our spiritual journey that is unparalleled.

What this regular community of faith gathering may look like will be defined by each generation, and we diminish the power of the Church when we try to inflict tradition and bygone culture. The early Salvation Army had two significant gatherings for its people: the Holiness Meeting and the Salvation Meeting. Both served specific needs for the community of faith. The Holiness Meeting to teach, build and encourage the spiritual community and the Salvation Meeting to reach out with the message of salvation. While the terminology may not be applicable today, the crux of their reality remains. We still need to teach, build and encourage the spiritual community and reach out with the message of salvation.

The Church, which is the physical replacement for the Body of Christ, needs a constant and identifiable presence in the world and that presence is best manifested in the regular meeting together of the broad, inclusive community of faith. ●

Major David Woodbury is a former editor of Salvation Army publications. He blogs at [woody1940.blogspot.com](http://woody1940.blogspot.com)



WORTH  
QUOTING.

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Hooked on porn.

*For those who want to stop, there's help*

WORDS LYNN ARMSTRONG

IN 2018, EVERY DAY AN AVERAGE OF 92 million people visited Pornhub, one of the largest pornography websites on the internet. It's estimated that 25 per cent of all search engine requests are for pornography. The digital age has made sexually explicit material more accessible and anonymous than ever before.

Attitudes about porn are changing, too. If you ask teens and young adults which is worse – pornography or not recycling – the answer is not recycling, according to a 2016 Barna report called *The Porn Phenomenon*. The report also showed that more women are using porn, and that young people are increasingly 'self-pornifying' – sharing images of themselves, rather than others.

Porn has gone mainstream, achieving widespread cultural acceptance. And although Christians seek out porn less often, and feel more guilt and shame when they do, there's no question that porn is a problem in the Church – even for pastors.

Is porn harmless or a public-health concern? What kind of impact is it having on us, on our relationships, on society?

Studies have shown that, for young people, exposure to X-rated imagery and pornography is linked to earlier onset of sexual activity, increased risky sexual behaviour and higher tolerance of promiscuity. It also creates unrealistic beliefs about sex, twisting perception about what's normal.

When it comes to brain activity, neurobiologists have found significant similarities between porn use and drug use. Our neural pathways prioritise novelty – so every time we do a 'hit', it's something new, and that touches the reward centre of the brain, releasing dopamine.

But like addiction, the novelty effect wears off. As people become desensitised to 'regular porn', it takes more extreme images to attain the same arousal and gratification. In recent decades, porn has become increasingly violent and degrading toward women. In this hardcore porn, "Women are always ready for sex, and are enthusiastic to do whatever men want, irrespective of how painful, humiliating or harmful," Gail Dines writes in *Pornland*.

*"Is porn harmless or a public-health concern? What kind of impact is it having on us, on our relationships, on society?"*

This script – of male dominance and female submission – has disturbing consequences. It leads to an increase in negative attitudes toward women, dominating and sexually aggressive behaviour, and apathy toward victims of sexual violence. It contributes to a culture in which violence against women is acceptable.

The use of pornography is also a gateway to the purchase of sex, which fuels prostitution and human trafficking. Another reality of the porn industry is the sexual exploitation of children. In Canada, where I live, Statistics Canada reported that between 2006 and 2016, the number of child pornography offences increased by 233 per cent.

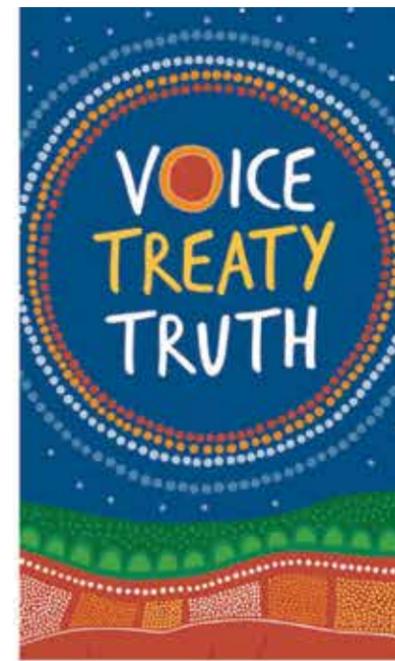
It's not only Christians who are calling attention to the harm caused by porn. The website **FightTheNewDrug.org** is a non-religious organisation that seeks to raise awareness of the way porn affects the brain, relationships and society, by using science, facts and personal stories. How is the Church responding to the challenge of pornography? Unfortunately, the Barna report revealed that pastors are low on the list of people who are helping others stop using porn – there's still so much stigma.

It's time for us to get informed and start having courageous conversations. We need to get comfortable talking about healthy human sexuality, about the beauty of God's intent and purpose for sex, and the cost when we're not doing things God's way.

We need to build trusting relationships within our congregations and ministry units, to create spaces of grace – safe and generous places to talk about life in all its fullness, to be real with each other, remembering that we are all sinners saved by grace. We need to walk graciously with each other, remembering we have a God who renews minds and transforms lives.

For those who want to stop using porn, there is help. The Salvation Army Pastoral Services Department is available if you need resources (email [tsapastoralservices@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:tsapastoralservices@aus.salvationarmy.org)). Like addiction, it can be a long road back, but there is hope. Porn hides in the dark and happens in isolation. The only way out is in community. We can't recover on our own – it requires encouragement and accountability. Let's bring it into the light. ●

**Lieut-Colonel Lynn Armstrong** is the Secretary for Program in The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory. This article appeared at [salvationist.ca](http://salvationist.ca)



07 - 14 JULY 2019  
Let's work together  
for a shared future.



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Through reconciliation, The Salvation Army acknowledge the First Nation peoples of Australia as the traditional custodians. We further acknowledge and pay our respects to past and present Elders, giving thanks for their wisdom which has sustained their people since the beginning of time and we pledge to support future generations.

# NAIDOC Week Activities

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The week is celebrated not just in our Indigenous communities but also in government agencies, Corps, churches, schools and workplaces.

VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH. are three key elements to the reforms called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These reforms represent the unified position of First Nations Australians. This year it's about all Australians working together for a shared future. Let's make NAIDOC a week for getting as many people as possible on board to understand and support VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.

## HERE ARE 10 IDEAS TO CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK:

- On or about Sunday 7 July we encourage all Salvation Army Corps to unveil newly placed window stickers acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land they are built on. As part of this, also present a theological explanation of VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH, either by Officers, or local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders, or both, as part of the unveiling. The stickers are being mailed to Corps. Background notes and video links to help with teaching will be available for download from Toolkit.
- Display the National NAIDOC Poster downloadable from [www.naidoc.org.au/resources](http://www.naidoc.org.au/resources)
- Theme your community cafes, Emergency Relief days, youth nights, or bible studies with a focus on the NAIDOC theme. Post NAIDOC week photos to #NAIDOC2019TSA
- Collaborate or partner with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and/or churches to celebrate NAIDOC Week (e.g. host a morning tea, have a stall or hold a concert).
- Conduct an Acknowledgement of Country and pray for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.
- Visit local Aboriginal and Torres Strait sites of significance or interest in your local area.
- Invite local Indigenous Elders to speak or give a Welcome to Country at your workplace and or Corps (there are usually fees attached).
- Hold a flag raising ceremony on NAIDOC Week at your Sunday service. Flags are free from your local federal Member of Parliament. Display both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the Australian and Salvation Army flags.
- Offer members of your Corps cultural awareness training to help increase our understanding of ways we can better connect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's stories into any play group or Sunday School style activities during NAIDOC week. Your local library would be helpful with suggestions.

## CONNECT

To get in touch with a local Indigenous community, to find out about sites of significance in your area contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry Program Administration or search for the Land Council in your local area.

To find out about NAIDOC week events in your locality go to <https://www.naidoc.org.au/get-involved/naidoc-week-events> which has a postcode search and social media links.

## Live, love and fight for our First Nations peoples.

*Continuing a regular series looking at ways that The Salvation Army is engaging in mission across Australia. This includes initiatives in evangelism and discipleship, advocacy and social policy, community engagement and service provision. The intention is to offer ideas and stimulate action for holistic mission that expresses God's love for the individual, the community and all of creation.*

**T**o “live, love and fight, alongside others” is an odd vision of leadership – to lead from beside and not in front – until you understand that it is emulating the love of Jesus, who became one of us, shared our walk and died our death.

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week – Voice. Treaty. Truth – is an invitation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to exactly this kind of leadership – to “work together for a shared future”.

To live alongside our First Nations peoples must involve making peace over the question of the land we occupy together; a treaty. Non-Indigenous Australians today weren't alive when the land was taken, but we continue to be the beneficiaries of that taking. Indigenous people, meantime, continue to bear the trauma of how it was taken.

To love alongside our First Nations peoples starts with hearing them. ‘Voice’ refers to a First Nations voice enshrined in the constitution. The Uluru Statement from the Heart, from which the three key elements of the 2019 theme are drawn, talks of the “torment of powerlessness” to evoke 200 years of top-down policies that have failed more often than they have succeeded. Why does God hear our prayers? Because to love is to listen.

To fight alongside our First Nations peoples is to fight for truth telling. The Salvation Army joined other organisations in 2017 to support the Uluru Statement, while the Federal Government now “supports a process of truth telling as part of our nation's journey to reconciliation. A truth telling process would acknowledge the history and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians – and the impacts and consequences”.

Eighty per cent of Australians also support this process, but its effectiveness will require still more support and leadership of the sort The Salvation Army is well positioned to bring. The kind that gets

alongside, living, loving and fighting in the name of the transforming love of Jesus.

Shirli Congoo, The Salvation Army General Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry, has asked Dr Lynore K. Geia to write the accompanying article. Read Dr Geia's article, and also consider the activities being planned for NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week (7-14 July). Use the activities as an opportunity to travel the journey towards a shared future this NAIDOC Week and beyond (see ad on page 13). •

### Mission in brief

- The Policy, Research and Social Justice Department has released its ‘Red Shield Appeal Financial Distress Review’, which highlights the financial hardships that people have endured. Read the report at: [others.org.au/RSAreview](http://others.org.au/RSAreview)
- In June, all Australia Territory Area Officers gathered for a conference in Geelong. It was a platform to gather and share experiences of the new national structure.
- Following the success of the Federal Election website, the Policy and Advocacy team is working with the Army's Government Relations to make contact with all parliamentarians to further The Salvation Army's policy priorities.
- New research into domestic workers and modern slavery, ‘Service or Servitude’, was released on 11 June to coincide with the International Day for Domestic Workers.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry team is keen to have people post photos of NAIDOC Week events to #NAIDOC2019TSA on Instagram.



## Let's work together for a shared future.

WORDS DR LYNORE K. GEIA

Everything has a season. Seeds are sown, some fall by the way and some grow. The National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) is a flourishing seed.

Its conceptual origin can be traced to Aboriginal people in the 1920s, who saw a need to bring the First Nations peoples' voice into a space where it had been deemed vox nullius (no voice). Namely, to promote the status of Australia's First Nations peoples from constitutional exclusion to inclusion.

In gaining understanding of a thing, we have to ask ourselves what happened, where are we currently, where do we need to go, and what do we need to do? Throughout history there are always points in time when the geopolitics of nations undergo processes of profound

change. If we look at the life of Yorta Yorta man William Cooper and his work in the 1930s, we can glimpse the seedbed of NAIDOC. Cooper was a ‘Kingdom’ man whose heart and vision for freedom was not only for his people, but for other peoples who were living under oppression. I believe there are many First Nations peoples who, like Cooper, have a heart for reconciliation, not just as a political process, but hearing a divine call to bring to the fore the voice for justice. It's a voice of representation and transformational reconciliation.

Over the decades, the concept of NAIDOC has gathered momentum as a celebration of cultural survival, a movement of social reform, one that now brings together First Nations peoples and the wider Australian community, heralding a voice for change. NAIDOC now enriches our nation of Australia. It is a voice to the nation that says we are still here, celebrate with us!

As with Cooper, the First Nation peoples' voice continues to be integral in leading

the way. Likewise, First Nations Christian leaders also have a key role to play in the transformation of the nation through the work of the Spirit. The development of a treaty requires us to treat each other in a way that fosters partnerships in truth, privileging the leadership of First Nations peoples and their voice, working together and supporting national initiatives for our healing.

We look to a future where light exposes the dark places through truth, respect, and giving dignity to First Nations peoples by Makarrata [an Aboriginal ceremonial ritual symbolising the restoration of peace after a dispute] that can only bring freedom to our nation to flourish. Let's celebrate NAIDOC Week and work together for a shared future. •

*Dr Lynore K. Geia is a Bwngcolman woman from Palm Island. She is an academic and health professional who approaches her work from a holistic model of caring for the body, mind and spirit.*



**Top right:** Salvation Army representatives with the Uluru Statement from the Heart, an official painted and signed canvas, which was presented to then Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in 2017. The statement calls for a ‘First Nations Voice’ in the Australian Constitution.



Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson bring a wealth of international experience with them as Australia's new territorial leaders. Photo: Jacob Dyer

## New era of leadership.

*Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson talks to new Australia Territory leaders, Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson*

**Laurie:** *An appointment in Australia where you actually have family living in Melbourne is not a bad bonus. How much does family mean to you, and can you share a bit about your family?*

**Janine:** We have three sons, two of whom have lived in Australia since 2005, and so to be with them is just lovely, to have more opportunity to meet together. We have a lovely Australian daughter-in-law and we're soon to have another one, so how blessed are we? To be a part of their lives again, especially with a wedding coming up, is incredible. We're very thankful.

**Laurie:** *And you've got another son still at home in New Zealand?*

**Robert:** Yes, our younger son lives in Wellington. As a family, we have spent a lot of time apart because of our international appointments, so it's an absolute bonus to be able to watch the rugby together, eat a meal together, to be able to enjoy doing a few things together.

**Laurie:** *Can you tell us how you both came to faith?*

**Robert:** I came from a non-Salvationist family, but

I was dedicated in the Army and then really I'm the product of children's ministry and just a medium-sized suburban corps doing kids ministry well: including me, loving me, raising me. The critical moment for me, however, was when we were at training college and there was a moment when I realised that actually my Christian faith was a great deal of head knowledge, which I believed and agreed with and had committed to, but it really hadn't got right down into the heart and changed me. And it was a very significant day where I committed my life to the Lord in a very new way. In some ways I say I got saved at the training college.

**Laurie:** *Janine, is your story similar?*

**Janine:** No, it is quite different, my parents are now retired officers. When they were the corps officers in a lovely little town called New Plymouth, on a Sunday morning when I was seven, I was sitting at the back of the hall with the lady who was minding me, and I felt the call of God on my life and wanted to go forward. I can still remember that feeling of fear of walking up and making that commitment, but it was incredibly real to me as a seven-year-old. Obviously there's been much development since, but I love the fact that God calls us young and speaks ▶



◉ Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson interviews the Donaldsons during their brief visit to Australia last month. Photo: Jacob Dyer

into our hearts and our lives when we're young.

**Laurie:** You said that there's been lots of development. Can you expand on that a little bit?

**Janine:** A real place of development for me was when I was in my early 30s, when we worked in Zambia and we faced situations that were horrendous. I wondered sometimes where God was and he reminded me that he was with me, and I had all that I needed. That was a very powerful time for me in my spiritual development.

**Laurie:** What about you, Robert?

**Robert:** The 10 years we spent in Africa really shaped us; just the living of life in a different culture, learning a different way of thinking, approaching life, approaching family, approaching faith, thinking about your relationship with God, even the style of worship was very formative for us. And the other thing is, just as the Word of God says, it's the ongoing challenges of life that we all face and we respond to. As Christians, our growth and development is all about his Word and his spirit in us and how we respond to those pressures, disappointments, losses, challenges and difficulties that we face. It's that day-by-day growth. Yes, there have been significant moments along the way, but just really a steady development and relationship with God.

**Laurie:** Have you certain spiritual gifts that stand out, that you see are the ones that God uses often?

**Janine:** I really hope and pray that I could be an encourager, that people would feel that I encourage them. I think it's really important in a Christian context that we encourage one another. So, I hope that's a gift that people would see in me. I think, too, sometimes, I can be quite discerning. That's been helpful to me in ministry over the years.

**Laurie:** Robert?

**Robert:** Well, mine's being quite clear really in teaching; that's been a huge part of my life as an officer and something that I've fitted into quite easily and comfortably and really get energised by, especially teaching the Word of God. And I think in more recent years, just with growth and development, I've realised that a range of elements of who I am and how God has wired me has given me a big-picture view, a quite strategic view.

**Laurie:** Do have you a personal mission statement?

**Janine:** Mine is quite simple: love God and love others and treat others how you would like to be treated yourself. I think that when people see that, that reflection of God in you that invites them, I don't think it always needs a lot of words. I think in the Church we have to really show that.

**Laurie:** What about you, Robert?

**Robert:** Mine's very related, actually, to foundational documents in The Salvation Army. I love the International Mission Statement, and that really is my personal mission statement. It's the three elements of it: preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, meeting human need in his name without discrimination, and doing that in an integrated manner. And, of course, that aligns perfectly with the whole aspiration and goal of the Australia Territory. And what I love about it is that it's supported by one of the 'I wills' in the Soldier's Covenant, and clearly what the purpose of a Salvation Army officer is. The Officer's Covenant is clearly to live a godly life, preach the gospel, and care for those who are in need. And that triple focus of preaching the gospel and caring for people and doing it in a holistic, integrated manner, that's what my life is committed to.

**Laurie:** Over the past few weeks, since the announcement was made about your new appointment, you've probably been thinking a bit about Australia. What kind of things have been coming into your mind?

**Robert:** I believe, and let's be frank, the Army is struggling in the Western world, in the main. We're in decline in terms of our evangelical preaching the gospel. And it's typical, we're 150 years old. You do have to rebirth the mission and reclaim your identity because mission does drift and focus just wanders and we get very diverse in what we do. And Australia has actually had the courage to really answer the simple question of why do we exist. As you'll probably pick up, I love what's been done because the heart and soul of The Salvation Army is this integrated holistic mission. And Australia has really grappled with that, grasped that, and written it in a contemporary way that suits Australian society and will resonate with people. It's also had the courage to say, now we have to structure to achieve that. That's been an enormous journey; the layer upon layer upon layer of change, the discipline, the rigour of that, the pain of that, to actually say we have got to get critically focused on this one reason we exist.

**Laurie:** Holistic integrated mission is a lovely phrase and we've heard a lot about that kind of thing. What does it actually mean to you?

**Janine:** We look at the whole person, and it's finding pathways for that person to come into relationship with God. It's so scriptural, isn't it – love the Lord

your God with everything? And this has been a big part of the journey you've been on in Australia. I just love that and it's how God wants us to be whole in every part of our being. It's extremely exciting, and I think the [Salvation Army] world is still looking at Australia.

**Robert:** For me it goes back to the redemptive theology of [Salvation Army founders] William and Catherine Booth, which was highly evangelical, but then had this social holiness aspect, and the integrated holistic thing is about keeping those together because we have been through some decades where we've institutionalised social services and we've moved them away from the interaction of Salvationists, through our Soldier's Covenant. That's what we sign up for. And it's about rediscovering that identity and bringing it back together. That absolutely excites me and before we knew we were coming here, I was beating the drum loudly to other people about, look at this [Australia] model, look at how they've expressed it in today's language. It's been very much on my heart, in my prayers for Australia to be successful. And now we get the wonderful privilege to come and be a part of that.

**Laurie:** It's typical with any change of leadership that people start to say, "Okay, what are these new people ▶



going to change?" How would you respond to that?

**Robert:** Well, how arrogant would it be for us to come in here after all the effort that's been put in and think we know better? We love Australia, but we're not Australians. We're not at the front line, we're not out there serving and know the daily interaction. Australians have worked hard to define their mission and leadership has made courageous, bold, painful decisions about how we're going to structure and how we're going to resource to achieve that. I fully agree with the approach that's been taken. Our job is to come in with decisions that are made and do our part in the body of Christ, which is to lead, to inspire, to encourage.

**Laurie:** One of the big changes has been to the governance board system. What are your thoughts on the model?

**Robert:** The motivation internationally for The Salvation Army to change its governance structure at the top of each territory was a developing theology about leadership, the need to really draw attention to our mission again and reignite the mission. In some other places, we had some legal compliance issues that we needed to address and the requirements, correct requirements of the world today for accountability in governance that we were not in some places, not reaching the standards we

should. And I have, for the last couple of years [as International Secretary for Accountability and Governance], gone around holding up Australia as a model to aspire to, where the principles were taken and applied through the theological lens, through the legal lens, and through the cultural expectation lens, and a governance board was formed. And it's been a wonderful model, it's been superbly done.

**Laurie:** It's excellent to hear you aligning all that back to mission all the time, because some of the criticism has been that we're becoming too corporate, too professional, that we are we leaving our roots behind.

**Janine:** No, I don't believe that's the case at all. With new memorandums of appointment from the General [world leader of The Salvation Army], now in line with all that's happened with governance, we are actually the spiritual leaders of the Australia Territory. What an enormous privilege that that's our title. And while Robert has other things that are part of his work, as I have, that's actually our joint title; we're spiritual leaders.

**Laurie:** Can you unpack that a little bit more for us, of why this is now being said from the General's office?

**Robert:** It relates back to the principles of governance, and there's got to be some separation between governance and management, there's got to be independence. So, all of that has resulted in the General saying to me, in my memorandum of appointment, "You are the chair of the board". And then he says to both of us, "You are the joint spiritual leaders of the territory", and then to the chief secretary, "You are the operational manager of the organisation". The wonderful benefit of that, is that whereas territorial commanders in the past have been immersed in a huge amount of management issues, we get released from that to do the strategic work, the governance work, the elements of governance that are obvious to people. But then we have time to actually really commit to leading this movement spiritually. Who wouldn't want that privilege of having free time to get around the territory, to engage with people at the front line, to put your arm around them, to pray for them, to thank them, to encourage them, to hopefully inspire them?

**Laurie:** I'd like to ask you about gender equity, which is a significant part of the new Australia Territory. How do you see both of you being involved in this area?

**Janine:** My first thing to say is that Australia leads



**WATCH THE VIDEO!**

This is an edited version of a video interview that Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson conducted with Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson. To watch the three-part interview, go to [others.org.au/donaldsoninterview](https://others.org.au/donaldsoninterview)

the way in this as well and so there's something to be incredibly proud of. I think we've got a handle around what that means, we've done a lot of talking about it, a lot of listening, a lot of reading and becoming educated with actually what that means. Now I just think we need to do it and as part of leadership, we just need to keep that in mind all the time; just do it.

**Robert:** We've had a theology [in The Salvation Army] from day one of gender equity, but our theology and our practice has been very distant. And it is just simply that; just do it. As a result, there are some women who have been marginalised and perhaps missed some development steps, or opportunities that have been predominantly given to men. Now, if we need to backfill those, let's get on and do it, but let's not make that an excuse for not just getting on and doing it. Just do it.

**Laurie:** Is there anything else you'd like to say to the people of The Salvation Army in Australia?

**Janine:** Well, first we want to honour and recognise the work of Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd and Colonels Julie and Mark Campbell. We come on their shoulders and it is an enormous privilege for us. We honour them, and it's important for us to say that. It's a real joy to be coming to serve here

and we commit ourselves to loving you, to embracing you. We, too, have our own frailties, we are far from perfect but we love God and we want to serve him and do our best and hear his voice. I can't wait to see what God's going to do.

**Laurie:** And you, Robert?

**Robert:** Again, the word privilege has been the one we've used the most – the privilege of coming to be a part of this is just astounding. I think the key message from me is the direction is set, it has our full support, and we're coming in to be part of the team. I think also we recognise it's not been easy and with courage comes pain. And so, we want to come in and just support where there's been pain and bring healing and bring wholeness so that ultimately we can see the results of this very defined vision and mission and the strategic imperatives. And actually really see some wonderful outcomes, or as the Bible says, fruit for the kingdom of God. It's an enormous privilege and we're looking forward to meeting people on the front line and getting to know everybody and working with them. ●

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**Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson** is Editor-in-Chief of The Salvation Army Australia Territory  
 .....

## Rising from the ashes.

Couple sees God at work amid life's setbacks

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

On a cold night in August last year, Colin and Marcelina Patrick stood out the front of their home and watched helplessly as it burned to the ground. As the fire engine sirens wailed and lights flashed, the couple clutched each other and their pet bird, which Colin had managed to save from the home. “We were in complete disbelief,” remembers Colin. His wife Marcelina didn’t have any shoes on, and they realised at that point that she no longer owned any shoes.

“When the house was burning, I was praying, ‘Lord, you give and you take away, and I know you’re going to replace everything that we lost. I don’t know how, but I know you will,’” says Marcelina. She remembers the prayer vividly, because today, she and Colin, now senior soldiers of the Eastlakes Corps in Newcastle, are a testimony of God’s faithfulness through hardship.

When the Eastlakes Corps Officers, Auxiliary-Lieutenants Bernie and Terri Muendel, visited Colin and Marcelina in hospital later that afternoon, they found the traumatised couple had nothing but the clothes they were wearing, and Colin’s wallet. They prayed that Colin would be able to find Marcelina’s wallet and some precious jewellery. Colin went back the next day and miraculously found her wallet and the jewellery in a small corner of the home that had escaped the flames. Finding those items gave them a feeling of elation, but it didn’t last. “The feelings

were of despair,” says Colin. “[We were] in shock. I felt guilty for what I’d done ...”

A motorcycle enthusiast, Colin explained how the flames had been sparked while he was working on his bike. He admits now that he was attempting to do something well beyond his expertise and his bike caught fire in the carport, the flames quickly spreading to the home and threatening neighbouring homes in the Lake Macquarie residential caravan park in which they lived. “We only managed to save the car, ourselves and the bird,” he says.

The fire was a bitter blow for the Patricks after a season of hardship. It started with Marcelina suffering a second bout of breast cancer – this time spreading to her bones. Colin had tried to ‘soldier on’ in support of Marcelina, who was unable to work, but he eventually broke down emotionally and quit his job to recover. The couple sold their house and moved to the nearby caravan park but, even then, the financial strain was such that when the insurance on their new home came up, they decided to let it lapse as they simply couldn’t afford to pay it.

### ANSWER TO PRAYER

Just weeks before the fire, Colin had been praying for a sign that God loved him. It was a prayer that he had prayed for many years. In fact, he first prayed it at the age of 19 when he had been given a lift (while hitchhiking) by a Christian woman who said to



Colin and Marcelina Patrick in front of their new home. They say God brought “beauty from ashes” after their house fire in 2018.

“*Before the fire it was just Colin and Marcelina who came to Eastlakes, but now there are four households from the park who have joined our corps family.* – Auxiliary-Lieutenant Terri Muendel

Colin: “Do you know how much God loves you?” It was a turning point that led to Colin accepting Jesus as his saviour.

Fast forward 37 years and just weeks after uttering that prayer again, everything Colin owned had turned to ashes.

The Patricks had been attending Eastlakes Corps for some time and, after hearing of their plight, their church family rallied. The day after the fire, Aux-Lieutenants Bernie and Terri opened the prayer room at the corps and invited people to lift up the Patricks in prayer. The prayers flowed, but so did the generosity, with people donating clothing, toiletries, linen and food items. “The support from the people around us and the people at church was more than I ever expected,” says Colin. “We had a lot of help emotionally, financially ... just the prayers and just people coming around and having a chat to us.” ▶



Marcelina and Colin proudly wear their Salvation Army uniforms after their enrolment as soldiers at Eastlakes Corps.

For Marcelina, her Eastlakes Corps family had always been a special blessing ever since she moved to Australia from the Philippines to marry Colin. “When I moved here to Australia, I didn’t have any family,” she says. “But there was one time that Warren and Janelle [from Eastlakes Corps] invited us for dinner and Warren said to me, ‘You have family here’ and ‘Tell your mother that we will look after you’. I felt that love from other church members as well.”

Aux-Lieuts Bernie and Terri said in the weeks after the fire that, “one of the comments that Marcelina kept saying when they started to have clothes, furniture and belongings restored was that God was giving everything back, pressed down, shaken together and running over”.

#### GOD OF MIRACLES

The Patricks’ neighbours in the caravan park also gathered around them. They held a fundraiser and approached the local member of parliament who contacted their insurer about the lapsed home insurance. In the end, the Patricks received a partial payout. The caravan park management also told them about a fully furnished unit that had been abandoned when its owner moved back to his country of origin. It needed a bit of work, but they asked Colin and Marcelina if they wanted to keep all the

furniture in the unit. After seeing the unit they decided they would like to live there.

When the Eastlakes Corps conducted a special collection for Colin and Marcelina, they were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity. Colin’s family also pitched in and, with the partial insurance payout, the couple was able to buy the unit outright within six weeks of the fire.

“I know that God’s love is real,” says Marcelina. “He did replace [everything]. And much better!” For Colin, the answer to prayer was personal. When the Patricks moved into their new unit, they discovered that their neighbour was the very same Christian woman who had given Colin a lift all those years ago.

“It’s a miracle,” says Colin. “God has shown me that he loves me – and Marcelina. God has shown me that he does care for me. Everything was restored.”

Three months after the fire, Colin and Marcelina were enrolled as senior soldiers at Eastlakes Corps.

For Aux-Lieut Terri, the beauty of seeing the corps family love and support the Patricks has been a huge blessing. She says not only did God restore everything to Colin and Marcelina through the goodness of his people, but he has poured out even more blessing.

“Colin and Marcelina have started a weekly Bible study in the caravan park through the connections they made after the fire happened,” Aux-Lieut Terri says. “Before the fire it was just Colin and Marcelina who came to Eastlakes, but now there are four households from the park who have joined our corps family. God has just restored everything to them and, more than that, there has been so much benefit to the Kingdom from it.”

The Patricks are also rejoicing that Marcelina’s cancer has stabilised. And Colin has purchased another motorbike. “It’s just a small one, but it’s enough to keep me happy,” he says, adding that he and a mate from Eastlakes Corps have started a Christian motorcycle club called Salvation Angels.●

Lauren Martin is a staff writer for *Others*.

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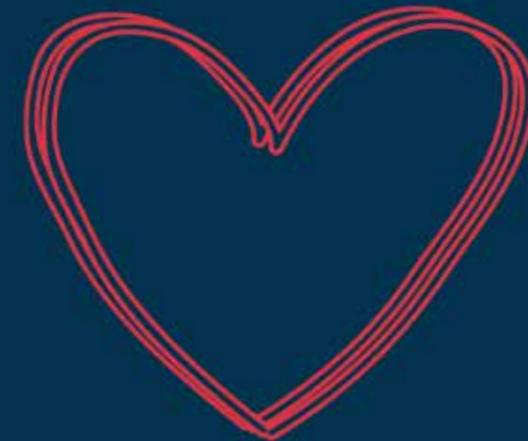
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## Minding your manners.

Reminders of our need for humility

WORDS MARK HADLEY

**B**y the end of this article, it's highly likely you'll be asking, "How *old* is this guy?"

To begin with, any article on 'manners' almost immediately conjures up images of an elderly gentleman in a cravat, using his carefully trimmed goose feather quill to rail against the depredations of 'youth today!' And being annoyed at the kids is hardly something new: "The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise!" – **Aristophanes, first century BC**. One can only wonder how loud the citharas were in ancient Greece the night he carved that complaint.

However, gentle reader, the main purpose of this article is not to criticise the behaviour of any particular generation but to draw your attention to the attitude towards manners of our society in general. Neither am I interested in drawing your attention to a lack of common courtesy. I'm sure even in the day of the horse and buggy, there were drivers who cut in and failed to deliver the appropriate 'Sorry about that!' wave. No, the specific

focus here is manners – the cultivated habits that tell us something about who we are. So, let's begin by observing five polite practices that are fast falling out of our common culture:

### 1. CONTROLLING YOUR BODILY FUNCTIONS

So much about manners relates to self-control, and that part of ourselves we were supposed to have most firmly under our control was our digestive system. Once upon a time you were expected to offer an 'Excuse me' if it betrayed you. It took me years to work out why my dad always had to walk up the backyard to check something about a half-hour after dinner. He was literally as regular as clockwork. But now, too often people draw attention to their gurgles, belches and worse, as though they were something to be proud of. It seems 'It's natural!' for me, means it's normal for you to have to share it too.

### 2. THE RELIABLE RSVP

Your RSVP – Répondez S'il Vous Plaît – was your final word on the matter. If someone sent you an invitation to a party or a wedding and asked you to say if you were going, how you responded was something like giving your word. After all, your hosts



were not only investing in your attendance, they were saving a limited seat especially for you. But now people are so uncommitted to their response, that event software has had to create the 'maybe' category – the electronic equivalent of 'If I decide I want to enough'.

### 3. STANDING UP FOR YOUR BETTERS

I can't remember being taught this; lounging around when parents entered the room just seemed wrong. But I've since learned that standing 'in the presence of greatness' has been a time-honoured custom in countless cultures for millennia. You can still see its vestiges when audiences stand to applaud a performance, during national anthems or in the presence of high political offices. We stand for their effort and achievement, but also for what they represent. So, standing for older people who've made your life possible? Yes, that makes some sense. But apparently not today if you're occupying a particularly comfortable chair.

### 4. MINDING YOUR Ps AND Qs

The above was a catchphrase for more than just speaking clearly, but for being careful with what you said and when you said it. I remember being taught to wait my turn, to ask permission to enter a conversation and certainly not to interrupt – especially my elders. That might sound like a frustrating way to communicate, but it certainly encouraged listening. It also encouraged silence. One of the worst things you could say about someone back then was, "They no sooner had a thought in their head, than it was on the tip of their tongue." We learnt that it was very possible we weren't the smartest person in the room – and the quickest way to remove all doubt was to open your mouth.

### 5. PLEASE AND THANK YOU

When I was a child I was frequently mistaken for being British. I couldn't understand why – my accent was as Australian as the rest of my classmates. Then one day a teacher explained it: I was never short of a 'Please' or a 'Thank you'. Manners, even then, were unusual enough to be increasingly foreign. But asking permission and acknowledging a favour have a familiar link. They both begin with the understanding that there's much in this world we don't deserve. Yet the more rights we impress on our children, the more we teach them these words have no place in their mouths.

'Manners maketh the man' is a phrase that's recently returned to the popular consciousness via the spy ▶



film *Kingsman*. However, even there it was placed in the mouth of an elderly agent clearly out of his time.

These five polite practices are passing out of popular culture – or at least being relegated to the categories of ‘quaint’ and ‘amusing’ – because they run counter to the way we now see ourselves. We are for freedom, and they are the habits of a chained mind. What these five have in common, though, is their reminder of our need for humility.

Whether it be in the company of those older and wiser than us, or simply those who occupy the same space, manners remind us of our ‘place’ – something the egalitarian West is definitely not keen on. We live in a society that has run away with the idea of equality. Since ‘The Enlightenment’ we have steadily transformed ideas of political and social freedom into the equality of everything – habits, amusements, art, children’s football skills ... It’s no longer possible to suggest that anything is better than anything else, when ‘better’ is just a preference and equal status a ‘right’. We now live in a world where it is offensive to suggest that anyone should accept second place in

opinion or practice to anyone else. And if that’s the case, why teach children to wait their turn? Isn’t their turn now, just like everyone else?

Incidentally, this is the same reason many people reject the Bible. They see it as a compilation of outdated customs, an infringing list of ‘dos and don’ts’. Certainly, much of the book of Proverbs could be interpreted as manners: “A loud greeting early in the morning is the same as a curse” (Proverbs 27:14, *CEV*).

But, like the passing manners above, the Bible is intent on reminding us that there is a pecking order to the world around us, and we are not at its top. The Bible’s focus, though, is not the smooth operation of society, but our smooth transition to eternity. It’s not as though God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, needs published reminders to protect his status. He will continue to rule whether we acknowledge him or not (in much the same way dust on your car can never dictate your direction). But whether we respect him will determine our relationship. The Bible warns that we can’t hope to gain a higher status in the world to come if we don’t first acknowledge our lower status in this one.

When Jesus preached his famous Sermon on the Mount about what the Kingdom of Heaven would be like, and most importantly, who would be allowed into it, he didn’t begin with our value before God, but our need for him: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:3-5).

My manners might be quaint and unnecessary, but humility is timeless and essential. It reminds me that I live in a world where others deserve my respect because their age, experience and efforts have earned it for them. How much more so the eternal God, whose wisdom encompasses everything from dust particles to galaxies, but who died on a cross so I could be saved? Ignoring him doesn’t make him disappear, any more than ignoring manners makes self-centredness attractive.

Oh, and how old am I? The same age as you. Old enough to know better. ●

.....  
 Mark Hadley is the culture writer for *Others*.  
 .....

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# The Antarctic Salvo.

Mountain peaks named in officer's honour

WORDS GARTH R. HENTZSCHEL

The Salvation Army has links to a number of geographical locations in Australia – various parks, streets, hills and suburbs, for example. There is, however, one that few Australians will ever get to see. These are the Gowlett Peaks in Antarctica, named after a Salvationist diesel engineer who later became an officer of The Salvation Army.

Major Alan Gowlett was born in Toowoomba, Queensland, to a well-known family in the local corps. When World War Two broke out, he tried to enlist; however, being too young, Alan moved south to work at Newport Railway Workshop in Victoria, which had been converted into an aircraft factory. In April 1943, he joined the Australia Imperial Forces. Two years later, he saw his first action in the last major battles of the war, during the invasion of Borneo.

After the war, Alan became engaged to Elizabeth (Beth) Winifred Steinberg, whose mother was at one stage editor of the Melbourne edition of The Salvation Army children's publication *The Young Soldier*. Their marriage took place on 11 February 1950 at Hawthorn Corps in Melbourne.

In 1951, Alan joined the Government Scientific Observation Party, which was part of the new Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) that had been formed in August 1947. These were the formative years of Antarctic scientific research. Alan was appointed to Macquarie Island



(in the south-west Pacific Ocean below New Zealand) as the diesel and electrical engineer, and campfire officer. Alan returned home from Macquarie Island on the Antarctic ship *Tatton*.

In 1954, Alan was again chosen to join another expedition with ANARE, this time to Mawson Base on the mainland of Antarctica. He would arrive just one year after the foundation of the base. The voyage to Heard Island (in the southern Indian Ocean) took 16 days and the ship experienced heavy seas that caused some damage.

Upon the ship's arrival in Antarctica, Alan's first job was to erect an additional 10 huts, which went up in the first three weeks. Throughout the remainder of the year more buildings were constructed until there were 19 separate buildings including scientific huts, storage huts, sleeping huts and a new surgery.

In addition to the scientific work on the base, field journeys for scientific experimentation and exploration were conducted. In December 1955, news reached Australia of a mountain range that had been discovered. Some of these mountain peaks were named the Gowlett Peaks, in honour of Alan. The Gowlett Peaks are described as a small group of isolated peaks, consisting of tall, sharp twin peaks and two close outliers, in MacRobertson Land, Antarctica. Alan assisted with the exploration



parties, often leaving the base in dangerous polar conditions to maintain the equipment. For his work in Antarctica, Alan received the Polar Medal.

It was while he was in Antarctica that Alan experienced his call to Salvation Army officership. On his return to Australia he learned that Beth had also received the call to full-time service as an officer.

The Gowletts entered The Salvation Army Officer Training College from Hawthorn Corps on 13 March 1958, in the *Courageous* session. After their commissioning they served as officers in South Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria and Western Australia, in both corps and social work. The Gowletts also served in the Caribbean Central America Territory as managers of the Blind Institute in Kingston, Jamaica.

Alan and Beth entered retirement in 1987 and remained active in The Salvation Army. At Alan's thanksgiving service upon his promotion to glory in 1998, a tribute was given by Fred Elliot representing the Antarctic expeditions.

In the remotest places on earth, there are marks of Salvationists' service in varying ways. For Alan Gowlett's service to the exploration of Antarctica, there are peaks named in his honour, pointing heavenwards to his God.

*\*This is an edited version of Garth R. Hentzschel's article "Salvation on ice: An Antarctic landmark linked to an Australian Salvationist", The Australasian Journal of Salvation Army History, Vol 4, Issue 1, 2019, 40-58.*

Garth R. Hentzschel is a Salvation Army historian and Salvationist in Brisbane.



## Salvation Army post for Polar man

A MAN who has twice been to Antarctica with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition will receive a commission in the Salvation Army next Monday.

### New man for SEATO post

CANBERRA, Sun. — Acting Commander J. Ferguson, of the Royal Australian Navy, has been appointed Australian member of the SEATO military planning staff at Bangkok for two years from April. He will relieve Wing Commander S. J. Brasier, who has completed his term.

He is Cadet Alan Gowlett, one of 37 young Salvation Army trainee-officers who will receive their appointments. The appointments will be made by Commissioner G. W. Sandelis, at Melbourne Town Hall. Cadet Gowlett was with the Macquarie Island expedition in 1951-52 and the Mawson expedition in 1955-56. He was awarded the Polar Medal for his work.

(Top left) Major Alan Gowlett with the boots he wore in Antarctica; (left) Alan gracing the front cover of The Salvation Army publication *The Victory* in 1951; (above) Alan's notoriety even extended to warranting a report in the *Sun* newspaper about his commissioning as an officer; (Bottom left) Alan and his colleagues raise the Australian flag at Mawson Base in 1954.



Words Mark Hadley

OI.

TOLKIEN

Rating: M  
Release date: 13 June



AUTHOR JOHN RONALD REUEL TOLKIEN achieved something few writers might dare to hope for. He not only wrote two of the most legendary novels of all time, he birthed an entire genre. *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* effectively defined ‘science fantasy’.

But despite rising to legendary status in the literary world, John never believed

he’d grown something out of nothing. “After all,” he wrote to a publisher, “I believe that legends and myths are largely made of truth.” That truth, which sustained him through his darkest hours, now serves as the unseen backbone for a new biopic named *Tolkien*.

*Tolkien* picks up its story in John’s childhood and focuses on his relationship with three school chums. John’s bookish nature earns him a fair amount of mockery, yet Robert, Geoffrey and Christopher come to respect his obsession of ancient myths, and together they form the T.C.B.S. – the Tea Club and Barrovian Society. What emerges from their lofty ideals and daydreams is a friendship that embraces difference, conquers class and eventually provides the model for *The Lord of the Rings*’ closest companions. And this friendship needs every strength it can muster when the fellowship of the T.C.B.S is tested by the horrors of World War One.

The film’s most obvious shortcoming, though, has to be its almost total neglect of Tolkien’s spiritual side. Tolkien was openly inspired by the sacrifice of Jesus and motivated to make him known. But *Tolkien*’s director Dome Karukoski says he made a conscious decision to leave out

direct references to John’s faith because they did not play well with modern audiences. However, while it is possible to eliminate direct references, the director hasn’t cut out the Christian themes that made *The Lord of the Rings* so appealing – especially, brotherly love.

The English language seeks to crowd a lot of meaning into the single word ‘love’. However, the writers who used ancient Greek to pen the majority of the New Testament had at least four words at their disposal. There’s *storge*, which captures the empathy between parents and children; *eros*, for passionate sexual love; and *agape*, describing the self-sacrificing love God feels for his children. But their fourth ‘love’ is almost totally forgotten today.

The Greek word *philia* describes the intense admiration and loyalty that can exist between friends. In the 21st century, all forms of intense same-sex love have tended to be appropriated by the gay community. Yet *Tolkien* manages to resurrect this ‘brotherly love’ through the members of John’s T.C.B.S. So successfully, in fact, that audiences may find themselves longing for a lost century, rather than a fantasy realm.

The love John bears for his friends, and they for him, inspires the most herculean efforts, and the most heartfelt comforts. No doubt many will exit the cinema wishing they could have such a relationship, but suspecting it’s the privilege of a very few or, worse, just a fiction to drive plots. But the writers of the New Testament regularly used the word *philia* because they believed that thanks to the Gospel, this supportive, ennobling, do-or-die friendship is within everyone’s reach.

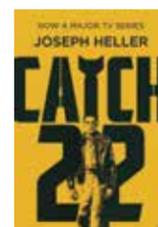
It is the same friendship Jesus still freely offers to any who come to him: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command” (John 15:12-14). ●



O2.

CATCH 22

Channel: Stan  
Rating: MA 15+



CATCH 22 CENTRES ON JOHN YOSSARIAN, a bombardier in an American squadron based in Italy during World War Two. Yossarian spends his life in equal parts of terror and indolence. His missions take him through deadly clouds of German anti-aircraft fire, and his time off sees him relaxing by a Mediterranean beach or sating his lusts in Rome. However, as the series progresses, and Yossarian sees more of his friends die, he can’t shake the feeling his time is running out.

The series, based on the benchmark book by Joseph Heller, is the brainchild of

actor/director George Clooney, who also stars as one of its most crazed characters. The result is likely to earn a swag of awards, though viewers should prepare for the language, violence and promiscuity of men who believe they’re living their last days.

*Catch 22*’s hero is an atheist, and this pared back life shows how unattractive an option it is. He doesn’t believe in God or the afterlife. Consequently, Yossarian doesn’t believe in any ideal higher than keeping himself alive – and his greatest enemy is death. Yossarian attempts to drive it away with debauched living. Once life is gone, it’s gone for good, and that conclusion justifies almost any behaviour. He shows flashes of decency, but ultimately he won’t lay down his life for anything or anyone, because his god is self-preservation.

It’s an accurate representation of atheism in war. It’s also hard to hide how cowardly, self-centred and hopeless Yossarian is. What comes off as brave and reasonable when polished by Heller’s wit, is barely sympathetic on the small screen. As a viewer, I ended up feeling mostly pity because Yossarian ultimately had no answer to the infamous ‘Catch 22’. The catch that give the series its name is the

assertion that there are just some battles you can’t win.

Yossarian might be a legendary dodger when it comes to avoiding risks and responsibilities, but it eventually becomes clear he will be unable to avoid the greatest ‘Catch 22’ of all. Death wields ultimate power over him because he can’t stop it taking his life. So, every time it raises its ugly head, he runs to the hospital for shelter. He will lie; he will cheat; he will let his friends bear the risks in his place. But the saddest thing is Yossarian is the author of his own terror.

*Catch 22*’s hero is trapped by the fear of death because he believes there is ultimately nothing but death awaiting him. No life after the grave; no loving God to take him there. His definition of the world precludes his own salvation. The Christian worldview, though, acknowledges the power of death, but also its limitations. The Bible affirms that we are trapped in death by our sins, but also that the sinless one who rose from the dead has the power to set us free: “But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised” (1 Corinthians 15:20, *GNT*).

The power of death has been swallowed up for all who commit themselves to Jesus. Consequently, they’re set free to live for the higher values that Yossarian can’t aspire to and find joy in the prospect of a certain future.

*Catch 22* is a brilliant series for observing the limits of human wisdom, but it ends up delivering a black eye to atheism. Those who live in a godless universe have no encouragement to do anything but serve themselves because they have no solution to the problem of death. Thankfully, though, that’s not the universe we live in. ●

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

## Read

## 1.

DAVID RAWLINGS

## THE BAGGAGE HANDLER

Review: Jessica Morris



We've all picked up our luggage from an airport terminal but few of us have paused to ponder what our 'baggage' really looks like. In this

introspective debut from David Rawlings, born into a Salvation Army family, we are presented with the stories and baggage of three distinct people.

From the outset, it seems that weary mother Gillian, workaholic father David, and star athlete Michel have little in common except for the black suitcases they mistake as their own, but after meeting the illusive 'Baggage Handler' we see they are all bound by something much weightier and toxic than first appears.

By characterising three commonly held inner-beliefs in his characters, the author asks us to consider the role they play in our own lives; whether that be the toll that betrayal and unforgiveness has on our marriage and health, the way comparison robs us of joy, or the manner in which unsolicited beliefs or pressure from our family line keep us from chasing our true purpose.

The process of recognising, identifying and taking ownership of our 'baggage' is complicated, but by explaining this allegorically we see practical consequences that are very real-to-life depending on how we overcome them in ourselves.

This novel isn't an obviously religious book, but once you realise that the 'Baggage Handler's' physical attributes,

words and spirit closely resemble Christ, it has the potential to become an inheritably spiritual experience that is accessible to the masses. This is a brave and honest debut through Harper Collins Christian Publishing.

Available at Angus and Robertson, Apple and at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Read

## 2.

EDITED BY KINGSLEY SAMPSON

## UNDER TWO FLAGS

Review: Lindsay Cox



The contribution by The Salvation Army to the Australian and New Zealand war effort in 1914-1918 is generally acknowledged by people living on both sides of

'The Ditch'. Yet, if anything is known by the wider populace of the Army's participation during World War One, it is usually as an organisation collectively as Anzacs with only a few exemplary individuals gaining recognition.

*Under Two Flags: The New Zealand Salvation Army's Response to the First World War*, is an intelligent and insightful history of The Salvation Army at war, which has waited 100 years to be published. It recognises that hundreds of Salvationists fought in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli, and then in the Middle East and on the Western Front.

I lament the fact that New Zealand has left Australia well behind with the publishing of *Under Two Flags*, mostly written and compiled by retired Salvation Army officers Harold Hill, Garry Mellsop and Kingsley Sampson. I congratulate the authors for giving us a well-researched and well-written chronicle of The Salvation Army in New Zealand's response to World War One

and, importantly, the stories of some of the Salvationists who served.

*Under Two Flags* is available from [shop.sarmy.net.nz](http://shop.sarmy.net.nz)

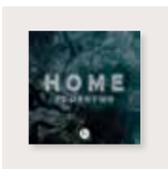
## Listen

## 3.

FOURHYMN

## HOME

Review: Jessica Morris



FourHymn, a Christian vocal group from Regent Hall Salvation Army in London, have wowed audiences since their

debut in 2015. Their second album, *Home*, is a collection of songs that will draw you back to the Saviour.

Originals like 'That the World May Believe' and 'To Now The Artist' establish the power of their classically trained voices, and show the ability for a younger generation to embrace the traditional sound of The Salvation Army. A surprising arrangement of 'How Great Thou Art' will get your toes tapping as you hum along to a soulful melody and brass section, while their cover of the recent hit 'Chainbreaker', made famous by Zach Williams, shows their affinity with contemporary Christian music.

The band's passion for worship and ushering people into God's presence is apparent in the last track, Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher's 'Crown Him'. The beauty of *Home* is that every song is rooted in scripture. By mixing styles and genres, from worship tunes to classical elements and contemporary Christian to classic '70s worship tones, they make this accessible to Salvationists of all ages. *Home* is available from Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) or [thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au), and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or [commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](http://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au)

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## Tidds honoured at farewell service

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND Tracey Tidd were praised for their passion for Christ, mentoring and practical love during their farewell from the Australia Territory last month.

Around 250 people gathered at Melbourne Project 614 to thank the territorial leaders for their service, and bid them farewell as they prepared to return to their native Canada.

Chief Secretary Colonel Mark Campbell acknowledged “the absolute privilege” it had been for him and his wife, Colonel Julie Campbell, to work with the Tidds.

“We have learnt a lot from them, and we thank God for the changes that will continue to take place,” he said.

Commissioner Tracey spoke warmly of their time in Australia, noting that their six-year term, including the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the



Commissioners Tracey and Floyd Tidd stand in front of the Australia Territory flag during their farewell service in Melbourne.

Australia One journey, while difficult, was “bathed in prayer ... we have undergone a deep, deep journey together.

“The past six years have had a huge impact on me; my faith has been tested, but through it all God has been faithful,” she said.

Victoria Division leaders,

Lieut-Colonels Bruce and Debra Stevens, spoke on behalf of the territory, lauding the Tidds’ “passion for Christ, their mentoring and practical love”.

Commissioner Floyd responded by highlighting that their desire as a couple here has always been obedience to God.

– Barry Gittins

## More fuel for Drive for Life

THE SALVATION ARMY DRIVE for Life program in western Sydney has received a significant boost with a \$70,000 partnership with Transurban.

Drive for Life – a driver training and mentoring program that equips people who are experiencing adversity to obtain their licence – operates out of Auburn Salvation Army in Sydney’s west.

The funding from Transurban, a toll-road network company, is a timely boost for the Auburn program, which recently expanded to also cover Fairfield and Liverpool.

“There are a high number of refugees and new arrivals in the area our program is targeted to, and this group faces unique and multiple barriers to secure an Australian driver’s licence. Our program sensitively addresses many of these barriers,” coordinator James Redwood said.

## Garden of Salvation memorial honours the ‘forgotten’

WHAT HAPPENS TO HOMELESS people after they die? The Salvation Army Aged Care, in conjunction with a Sydney cemetery and national supplier of memorial monuments, has created a ‘Garden of Salvation’ to remember people who have died who don’t have any loved ones to arrange a funeral.

The Garden of Salvation is located at Northern Cemeteries in North Ryde. It’s hoped that similar memorial gardens will be set up across Australia.

Salvation Army Aged Care

National Director, Richard de Haast, said the Salvos already care for elderly people who have experienced homelessness, at specialist centres in Sydney and Melbourne, so the Garden of Salvation is a way that they can be honoured after their death.

“When it comes to caring for older people who come from a homeless background, or the financially disadvantaged, The Salvation Army is a specialist in this field,” Richard said. “Our Salvos Funerals service already provides low-cost,

compassionate care in this area and the Garden of Salvation is a natural extension of our care.”

When people die with no family or loved ones to remember them, their bodies lay unclaimed in a morgue until a government-funded burial or cremation is arranged. Their remains are often left unmarked. The Garden of Salvation will allow for a memorial service to be conducted and a remembrance plaque erected to honour their life.

– Lauren Martin



Acting Mission, Pastoral and Personnel Director, Major Cheryl Kinder, speaks at the opening of the memorial.

## Getting innovative about territorial funding grants

*Innovation Funding is being rolled out across the Australia Territory with corps and centres putting the grants to a variety of uses, all in the name of Salvation Army mission. Three examples are highlighted below.*

### BRISBANE

Salvos Recycle Bikes, a new social enterprise in Brisbane, is all about empowering people and giving them a hand-up as they learn a new skill, make friends and contribute to the community in the process.

An Innovation Funding grant, in addition to a start-up grant from Brisbane City Council and local donations, has made possible the establishment of the venture, which is based at two donated shipping containers on the Salvos Stores grounds at Red Hill.

Salvationist Andy Steele, who has been a volunteer at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission for many years, operates the venture. He says the goal is that trained volunteers, and eventually paid staff from all walks of life – including graduates from Moonyah (Brisbane Recovery Services) – will give all bikes coming through Salvos Stores (between 80 and 90 a month) a ‘health check’ and do any servicing to make them road-worthy and safe.

Salvos Recycle Bike will also be offering a Certificate 3 in Bike Mechanics, giving those interested an opportunity for both education and future employment at bike workshops and stores.



Top: Andy Steele with some of the bikes from the new Salvos Recycle Bike enterprise in Brisbane. Photo: Kian Worthing; Above left: Some of the activities at Brimbank Messy Church; Above right: Major Karen Elkington (centre), who manages Brunswick Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service centre.

### BRIMBANK

Brimbank Salvation Army in Melbourne’s north-west used its grant to bolster its Messy Church ministry. While the main worship hall seats about 300 people, a secondary space for its smaller Messy Church gatherings, seating approximately 80, will make for a more family-friendly environment.

“Receiving the grant was a great opportunity for us to set up this more intimate and connecting space, used not only for Messy Church but

some of the other community gatherings such as Companion Club,” said Corps Officer Major Simon Damen.

### BRUNSWICK

The Innovation Funding grant couldn’t have come at a better time for Brunswick Salvation Army Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service centre in Melbourne’s north.

Brunswick Salvos’ social services, in partnership with Dandenong Corps, will fund a pilot program, E-Plus Local,

enabling people seeking asylum on bridging visas to upskill and find employment.

“[The program will teach them] how to write resumes, how to do your own online profile, how to write a job application, role plays for interviewing – all those type of nuts and bolts skills,” said Major Karen Elkington, the service centre manager.

The centre supports 500 clients directly each year, with an additional 2000 people benefiting from their services.

## Salvos Stores brings mission to life in Top End

A GROWING COLLABORATION between social programs and local corps at the Northern Territory's newest, and biggest, Salvos Stores complex, is helping change the way mission is done in the Top End.

The Coolalinga Salvos Store, 30km south-east of Darwin, is linked to the nearby Palmerston Corps. It focuses on a local mission delivery model to integrate the enterprise itself, corps, volunteers, customers, clients, social programs, the area leadership team and the surrounding community.

"This model of working together feels like we're part of something bigger," said Major Sue May, Top End Social Network chaplain, who is also a chaplain to Salvos Stores and Employment Plus.

"We're all on the same page to do mission together and support each other and the people we come into contact



Members of The Salvation Army Area Leadership Team at the opening of Coolalinga Salvos Stores in the Northern Territory on 10 May.

with in the best way we can. It's not each individual doing their own thing."

Amanda Maansson, Area Manager of Salvos Stores in Darwin and Katherine (300km south of Darwin) explained that to "get more mission and exposure into the store", a couple of steps had been taken.

"To start with, in conjunction with Palmerston Corps, we will

trial running Doorways from the store each month, as well as setting up information tables explaining who we are and the help that is available through our services.

"There are seven stores in the Top End and the goal is to bring mission into all of them. Here at Coolalinga, the enterprise space is bigger so there are initially more options for us."

Major May said there was a growing number of referrals from staff to help support other staff, volunteers and customers in the store.

"We link them with our other centres to get them appropriate assistance and help," said Major May. "It could be for accommodation through Catherine Booth House (domestic violence crisis accommodation for women), the Sunrise Centre (addiction or homelessness), TIPTE – Towards Independence Program Top End (families at risk of homelessness), or the Red Shield Hostel, Doorways (food and financial assistance) or just someone for people to talk to."

The Coolalinga store is conveniently located in the area's Central Shopping Centre, next to a Red Cross store and close to a Vinnies [St Vincent de Paul] outlet.

– **Simone Worthing**

## Luke on a roll to save the planet with toilet paper project

LUKE RAND IS ON A MISSION to save the world, one toilet roll at a time. The Tasmanian student recently launched his business, Ramp Up, in partnership with The Salvation Army, delivering eco-friendly toilet paper statewide.

The 16-year-old flushed out the idea as part of a school project in 2018, and his passion for the environment spurred him to create a philanthropic maths project about – what else, the toilet.

Luke opened the lid on the project with the help of



Luke Rand's toilet roll business has reached \$13,000 in sales.

teacher's aide Wendy Meek and community worker Bridget van de Kamp, who was working with Bayview Secondary

College, on Hobart's eastern shore, while on leave from The Salvation Army.

"Luke couldn't do work experience due to experiencing the rare medical condition 'alternating hemiplegia of childhood' [a neurological condition characterised by recurrent episodes of temporary paralysis, often affecting one side of the body]. The school wanted to do something exciting for him for the maths project. So Wendy thought they'd do a survey about toilets with all the staff and students," Bridget said.

Working with sustainable toilet paper company Who Gives A Crap to source and sell their products, Luke developed a project model where all profits raised would go towards charity. Early sales helped fund a wheelchair ramp at his school.

"I am doing things that I normally wouldn't get to do. I love helping people," Luke said.

Luke works with the Salvos twice a week, cleaning the warehouse, restocking and delivering products to his loyal customers.

– **Jessica Morris**

## Moreland City choir making soulful connections

WHEN JASON SIMMONDS BEGAN attending Moreland City Corps three years ago he never dreamed it would become the hub for an exciting new gospel choir.

Jason created the Melbourne Contemporary Choir (known as MCCHOIR) in 2015 and, as creative director, it allows him to pursue his passion for music while working with global biotechnology firm CSL Ltd.

The choir has grown from 15 members to more than 100 people of all ages being involved in a number of choirs that have performed at many different events at some of Melbourne's premiere venues.

MCGOSPEL choir, the latest edition, calls Moreland City Corps its home base and has been warmly embraced by the corps community.



Jason Simmonds (front) and his MCCHOIR, which has been embraced by Moreland City Corps in Melbourne. Photo: Gerard Assi

"I have always sung in choirs growing up in The Salvation Army, through the singing company and songster brigades. I really missed the sense of community and belonging I felt in those groups," Jason said.

"I felt a need to start a community-based choir where everyday people could access performance opportunities as part of a singing family. Many of our members have been touched by cancer, lost loved ones, are struggling with crippling back pain, disabilities and life trauma and find solace

in singing together and respite from the rigours of a busy modern life."

Twelve auditioned members rehearse at the corps weekly, and are joined by the other members on various occasions.

The choir performed recently with the Moreland City Corps band at a breast cancer fundraiser, and have seen a lot of "cross-pollination", according to Jason, with members attending services, volunteering for the Red Shield Appeal and baking cupcakes for outreach ministry.

The MCGOSPEL repertoire

ranges from hits by Kirk Franklin [American gospel musician] to tunes from movie *Sister Act*, making them accessible for secular and church events.

"There are many stories of members of the wider choir family who have found a sense of identity belonging to the group. [We've had many] members who have faced some pretty tough life situations and the choir has rallied around to support fellow members in their time of need," Jason said.

– **Jessica Morris**

## Positive Lifestyle Program changing lives of prisoners

JUST OVER THREE YEARS AGO, The Salvation Army Positive Lifestyle Program (PLP) was not an option for inmates in South Australian prisons, as it is in other parts of Australia.

Soon after Captain Laurel Cummins (pictured) took up the appointment as a prison chaplain, though, the situation changed and now the program

is available in the three prisons she visits, both for individuals and groups. It's changing



people's lives and relationships, both inside and outside the prison, and a growing number of participants are signing up for the course.

"Through THQ, we have modified the eight-week program to suit the participants, and continue to tweak it to make sure it's relevant," said Captain Cummins. "This includes making the module on anger, which was just in the individual course, available in the group program, too."

At the end of the course,

participants receive a certificate and a reference that they can present at court, or for parole.

The Salvation Army trains all the PLP facilitators, who come from a range of different churches. Twenty-two men are doing the group program, and 10 women are working on the individual course.

– **Simone Worthing**

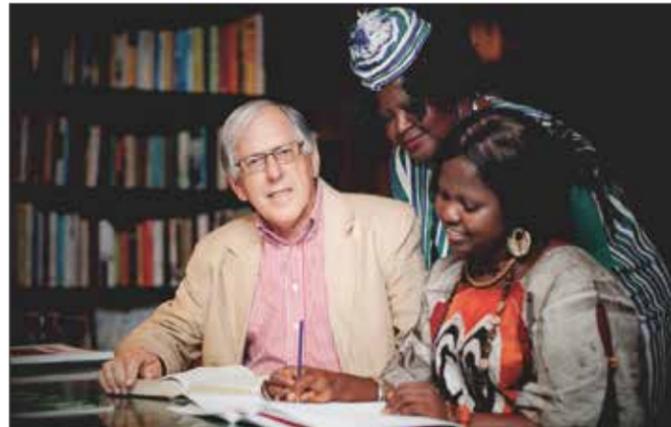
## Salvationists awarded Queen's Birthday OAMs

SALVATIONIST DR RON SMART, retired officer Major Heather Merrick and late Salvationist Audrey Light were among those awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The awards, in the General Division, were announced by Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of Australia.

Before listing some of Dr Smart's many services to music, his OAM citation stated that "Dr Smart has had a long and distinguished international music career as an educator, conductor and administrator, including serving in an honorary capacity in The Salvation Army's brass band and choral movement for over 50 years."

It also mentioned his services to Sierra Leone as chairman of the Australia-2-Africa organisation, based from Auburn



◆ Dr Ron Smart's recently-awarded OAM was in part the result of his work with the international community of Sierra Leone, in partnership with the multicultural Auburn Corps.

Corps, which raised funds and built and refurbished Jui Infants and Primary Schools in the capital Freetown.

"I see this OAM award as an acknowledgement, not necessarily of my accomplishments in my professional career, but an acknowledgement of the number of ways I have been able to serve in an honorary capacity,

both as a music educator and as an active Salvationist," he said.

Major Merrick's award citation read "for service to the community through The Salvation Army".

Commissioned as an officer in January 1958, Major Merrick served all over the former Australia Eastern Territory in a range of appointments. Her

last appointments – manager of Samaritan House (women's crisis accommodation) from 1983-1989, and Courts and Prisons chaplain from 1989-1995 – were the ones she particularly loved and those for which she received her OAM.

"I think of all those who helped me in this appointment and this award should go to them. It really was a shock for me to receive the OAM and I took a while to accept the nomination. There are so many others who deserve it more than me," Major Merrick said.

"I'm an ordinary person and it's just been a privilege for me to serve the Lord. I just wanted to introduce the people I've worked with, to Jesus."

Audrey was announced as a posthumous recipient of the OAM for service to the community through social welfare organisations.

– Simone Worthing

## Pilgrimage for reconciliation makes an impact for future

IF WE KNEW THE PAST, could we change the future of Australia? Three young people from Frankston Salvos recently took steps to find out by taking part in a pilgrimage to Central Australia.

Jake Clancy, 19, Madi Bilham, 17, and Kiara Tennakoon, 14, joined more than 20 Victorian teenagers for the two-week pilgrimage that took in a tour of regional Victoria and South Australia before travelling to Uluru in the Northern Territory.

The trip, aimed at fostering the reconciliation process



◆ Four girls who went on the pilgrimage – (from left) Madi, Kiara, Olivia and Hope.

between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians, was run by Fusion, a Christian youth and community organisation whose main aim is to teach youth how to facilitate change

in their communities.

Amanda Merrett, The Salvation Army Policy and Social Justice Advisor, was a leader on the Victorian leg.

"We know that The Salvation Army in Australia has made a significant commitment to diversity and listening to our First Nations peoples. The Uluru pilgrimage gave these young Salvos an opportunity to learn from and seek the wisdom, patience and guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," she said.

The Victorian group set up camp and learned from

numerous Aboriginal communities on the journey to and from Uluru. This included meeting with the Budja Budja people near Halls Gap (Vic.), learning from the Dusty Feet Mob at Port Augusta (SA) and exploring the mines in Coober Pedy (SA).

The trip culminated in three days with the Anangu people in Yulara, where the pilgrims joined nearly 100 other youth from all over Australia, also on Fusion pilgrimages, to learn about the culture of Australia's First Nations peoples.

– Jessica Morris

## Board game highlights refugee issues

AN AUSTRALIAN SALVATION Army officer has developed a family board game that highlights the issues around refugees and asylum seekers.

Captain Sandra Pawar, a Salvation Army multicultural plant officer with West Connect Salvos in western Sydney, spent the past two years writing her thesis on the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors in Greece.

The thesis, titled 'More Than Just a Refugee: A Humanitarian and Missional Response to the Needs of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece', was published last month and details not only the issue but also a missional response. She said the concept for a 'snakes-and-ladders' style board game came from her passion to communicate her knowledge to others in a simple, relatable way.

"I just wanted to have something that people could use as a takeaway, something that they could sit down with their family or their friends and play and also understand the situation and understand some of the solutions – without having to read an 80-page thesis!"

In the board game, called 'Hope and Hazards', each player is a refugee making their way 'home'. By rolling the dice and moving their pieces, players learn about the dangers and complexities involved in a refugee's journey, and some of the solutions.

To download the board game (\$5), contact [sandra.pawar@ae.salvationarmy.org](mailto:sandra.pawar@ae.salvationarmy.org)

## Revitalised cafe builds community connections at Forest Lake Corps



◆ Captain Vanessa Hunt and Lieutenant Anthony Hunt (behind counter) interact with customers at the newly-opened Milk and Honey Cafe at Forest Lake Corps, west of Brisbane. Photo: Kian Worthing.

THE MILK AND HONEY CAFE AT Forest Lake Corps is bringing "a vitality to the building, a sense of the abundant life God has for us and is definitely a place of grace", according to Corps Officer Lieutenant Anthony Hunt.

The cafe, which opened at the corps in Brisbane's western suburbs on 18 March, is open three days a week and is so far attracting up to 40 people through the doors each day.

"When we first arrived here two years ago with two children under five, we did a lot of research to find child-friendly cafes where we could get out and about in the community, and could only find a fast food restaurant," said Captain Vanessa Hunt, Corps Officer.

"It was crazy that there weren't more options, especially given that Forest Lake is

Brisbane's biggest suburb, with nearly 30,000 residents and a majority of young families."

The Hunts and their team looked at the pre-existing available space in the corps where a cafe had operated in the past, and decided to renovate the area and create a child-friendly community cafe.

A mission development funding grant through The Salvation Army Queensland Division paid for an outdoor playground, with additional grants enabling cafe renovations, basic furniture and indoor activities.

"This is a space where families can come with their kids to enjoy time together, where the kids can be normal kids without judgement or embarrassment, and where people can connect with each other, the community and, our great hope, with

the Kingdom of God," said Anthony. "We connect with people as we serve coffee and food, building relationships and letting people know that we are here for them."

Anthony mainly makes the coffee, while Vanessa prepares the food and interacts with customers.

Volunteers assist and, in time, the Hunts plan to train additional volunteers to run the cafe so they can be freed up to interact with the community and build relationships.

"This is church, a place where we are cultivating a culture of grace, and we don't know where it will lead. We are really examining what a faith community might look like in this space and are considering Messy Church here too, in time," Vanessa said.

– Simone Worthing

## Enrolments

### HURSTVILLE CORPS NSW



CAPTAIN SEAN LI, TEAM LEADER AT Hurstville Corps, accepted six adherents from the local Chinese community who came to the corps through their English classes. (From left) Jiali Zhang, Shaolin Gu, Yongru Chen, Shaolin Gu, Jincai Deng, Qianling Li and Rong Wei.

### INVERELL CORPS NSW



CORPS OFFICERS MAJORS KAYE AND PETER Townsend recently enrolled Barbara Bradshaw and Jackie Hall as senior soldiers.

### CANBERRA CITY CORPS ACT



CAPTAIN DANIEL ROSS, CANBERRA RECOVERY Services manager, supported by Corps Officers Lieutenants Mitchell and Sally Stevens, accepted Luke and Shannon as adherents on 5 May.

### GEELONG CORPS VIC



AUX-LIEUTENANT JOHN COLLINSON ACCEPTED Liz Fiu as an adherent on 19 May.

### RIVERLAND CORPS SA



CORPS LEADER HELEN ADAMCZYK ACCEPTED Adrian Passmore as an adherent on 26 May.

## Send us your enrolment stories.

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

## Mentoring program inspires fitness

AN AUSTRALIA TERRITORY-funded project in Papua New Guinea is having a big impact on many lives through a new fitness initiative in Port Moresby.

The Salvation Army Hope and a Future project is a mentoring, leadership and holistic health program that has been running for six years.

Every year, a number of emerging Salvation Army leaders from Papua New Guinea are chosen to participate in the program, during which they run the Gold Coast Marathon and are given grants to pursue further education.

Former participant Greg Vali, who attends Hohola Corps in Port Moresby, was so inspired by the program that he has now launched a new ministry (with his wife Teggy and another former participant John Eric),



Participants of the new fortnightly fitness ministry that is run out of Hohola Corps in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

offering free fitness training. The fitness club focuses on a healthy mind, body and soul.

For Greg, the ministry is all about Jesus, who desires wholeness and health for his people in all aspects of life: "If you are a Christian you have to be fit ... in the spiritual and you have to

be fit in physical fitness as well. You have to balance that life.

"After running we warm down and do stretches and share the word of God and encourage each other. Some of the participants' friends are starting to come along too."

– Lauren Martin

## Police honour SAES in the Solomon Islands

THE SALVATION ARMY IN THE Solomon Islands has been recognised for its service to the police force during the nation's general elections in April.

Solomon Islands Police Commissioner Matthew Varley awarded The Salvation Army Emergency Services district team the Commissioner's Group Commendation for Outstanding Service.

This service included the timely serving of high-quality lunches and dinners to between 200-250 personnel during the week of the election, and ensuring a chaplain was on duty each day to connect with Royal



Police Commissioner Matthew Varley presents the award to Major Robert Evans.

Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) personnel lining up for meals.

It was the first time that volunteers from churches in the Solomon Islands had served the RSIPF.

The Salvation Army was also asked to provide pastoral counselling for RSIPF officers who had been on the front lines of the riots that broke out in the capital, Honiara, after the election of Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

"Such an award was a great encouragement for the SAES team, recognising the success of their first deployment," said Australian officer, Major Robert Evans, Officer-in-Charge in the Solomon Islands.

## Prayer to restore broken dignity

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS designated Sunday 22 September as its international Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking. This is an annual day of worship, prayer and action surrounding the problem of human trafficking.

Resources to support this year's Day of Prayer have been devised by the USA Southern Territory in conjunction with the International Social Justice Commission. Assets include suggested prayers, Bible readings, sermon starters, biblical reflections and songs to underscore the theme.

Resources can be downloaded from [sar.my/aht](http://sar.my/aht)

## ITC publishes new biblical resource

A NEW RESOURCE TO ASSIST Salvationists to understand the basics of biblical interpretation has been produced by The Salvation Army International Theological Council (ITC).

The three-page document, *Tools for Interpreting the Bible*, takes the reader through a five-step program – beginning with prayer and concluding with 'Recommendations to Self'.

The resource, which was put together by council members, was launched at the most recent meeting of the ITC, held at Sunbury Court near London.

The ITC is made up of officers and lay personnel from 13 territories and commands across The Salvation Army world.

Download the new resource at [tinyurl.com/y3hs8yyf](http://tinyurl.com/y3hs8yyf)

WALTER SMART



MAJOR WALTER SMART was promoted to glory on Thursday 16 May from his home at Camberwell Gardens in Melbourne, aged 92. Walter Keith Henry Smart was born on 18 December 1926. He was raised in Melbourne by his mother and accepted the Lord as his Saviour at age 10.

Walter entered The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne from Prahran Corps in 1947, as part of the *Warriors* session. His first appointments were to Seaforth Boys Home and Nedlands Boys Home in Perth, followed by Eden Park Children's Home in Mount Barker (SA), and Box Hill Boys Home in Melbourne. In 1953, Walter and his new wife, Lieutenant Annie Jean Dowson, were appointed as Corps Officers of Creswick Corps in Central Victoria. In December 1954, they welcomed a girl into their family, Dorothy Anne.

Walter and Jean then held corps appointments at Ararat, Point McLeay and Reservoir, before sailing for South America in January 1959 where Walter held numerous appointments in children's and sailors homes in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. In September 1964, the Smarts returned to Melbourne and a short appointment at the Gill Counselling Centre, before returning to South America in June 1966. Their second stint in South America lasted for 12 years with appointments in children's homes, men's social work, aged care homes and at Territorial Headquarters (THQ) in Buenos Aires.

In January 1978, Walter took up an appointment as assistant superintendent of Inala Village (Vic.). He was then appointed as social secretary of Tasmania, followed by a pro-tem appointment at THQ Melbourne in preparation for heading back to South America.

During the next eight years, Walter held appointments including Acting Divisional Commander of Latin America North Territory, Mexico Public Relations and Property Secretary, and as Divisional

Commander of Panama. He returned once again to the Australia Southern Territory as a court welfare officer in Melbourne Correctional Services from January 1989.

He retired on 1 January 1992, but took on an appointment as chaplain to the Victorian State Emergency Services, a role he held for the next 20 years. Walter and Jean as a couple received an Order of Australia Medal for services to the community and became members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to the South American community.

GLORIA McCLINTOCK



MAJOR GLORIA McCLINTOCK was promoted to glory from Mulgrave, Victoria, on Monday 15 April, aged 93. Her funeral service was

conducted by Major Alan Laurens at Dandenong Salvation Army on 23 April.

Gloria Sylvie Smith was born on 25 February 1926, the first child of Robert and Sylvie Smith. She grew up in Melbourne and attended The Salvation Army, accepting the Lord as her Saviour as a teenager. She trained as a triple certificate nurse and practised for 14 years.

Gloria entered The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne from Northcote Corps in 1956 as a member of the *Swordbearers* session. Her first appointment was to Hillcrest Maternity Hospital before a pro-tem appointment at Weeroona Eventide Home. She was then appointed to Haven Maternity Hospital and then Brightside Eventide Home.

In January 1962, Captain Gloria Smith married Lieutenant Thomas McClintock and their first appointment together was at Carlton Corps in Melbourne. Over the following years, the McClintocks were appointed to various corps around Victoria, including Ballarat North, Kaniva (where their daughter Janice was born), Alamein, Kew (where their son Nevin was born), St Arnaud, Healesville, Warragul, Dandenong, Clayton and Footscray/Yarraville. They also spent three years

at Kadina/Moonta/Wallaroo in South Australia.

Gloria's final appointment was as Court Welfare Officer, South Eastern Region Courts, Victoria, until her retirement in January 1992.

DORIS SWIFT



CAPTAIN DORIS SWIFT WAS promoted to glory from Adelaide on 17 May, aged 89. A thanksgiving service was conducted by Major

Peter Anderson on Friday 24 May.

Doris Norma Lange was born on 16 November 1929 and accepted her Lord as Saviour at the age of 11. She married Frank Swift in March 1950. In 1955, they left Kilkenny Corps with their three-year-old son Christopher to join the *Soukwinners* session.

Following commissioning, Doris and Frank served in Tasmania, at Scottsdale and New Norfolk, before being appointed to Newport in Melbourne where their second son, David, was born. They were then appointed to Nedlands Boys Home in Perth, where Ruth and Stephen joined the family. In 1962, the family moved back to Victoria to take up an appointment at Box Hill Boys Home, followed by an appointment at Bayswater Boys Home.

Doris and Frank resigned from officership and spent 15 years living in Adelaide. In 1981, they returned to ministry having multiple appointments in South Australia – Salisbury Corps, the Homeless Persons Hostel in Port Augusta, the Sunset Lodge Senior Citizens Residence, Adelaide Family Welfare Centre and William Booth Rehabilitation Program.

Doris and Frank retired from active service in 1989. Doris was a regular attender at Linsell Lodge chapel service, Arndale Companion Club and Oakden Companion Club. While residing at Linsell Lodge she attended worship at Oakden Corps. She also had a long association with Campbelltown Corps where she had soldiered for some years.

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

*Effective 1 June*

Major Hwan-ki **Kim**, Ryde Korean Corps Planter, NSW/ACT Division; Major Eun Ryo **Kim**, Ryde Korean Corps Planter, NSW/ACT Division; Aux-Lieut Edward **Conteh**, Assistant Officer, Auburn Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

*Effective 17 June*

Major Vicki **McMahon**, Chaplain Youth Services, Victoria Community Engagement: Chaplaincy: Victoria.

*Effective 1 July*

Lieut Dee **Churchill**, Mission Events Coordinator (pro tem), Divisional Headquarters, Queensland Division; Lieut Zak **Churchill**, Divisional Support Officer (pro tem), Divisional Headquarters, Queensland Division; Captain Richard **Hardaker**, Corps Officer, Southern Downs Corps (formerly Warwick Corps), Queensland Division; Lieut Leanne **Hardaker**, Corps Officer, Southern Downs Corps (formerly Warwick Corps), Queensland Division; Aux-Lieut Debbie **Bartlett**, Team Member, Blue Mountains – Upper Blue Mountains, NSW/ACT Division; Aux-Lieut Bryan **Bartlett**, Team Member, Blue Mountains – Upper Blue Mountains, NSW/ACT Division.

*Effective 18 July*

Lieut Donna **Sutcliffe**, Corps Officer, Lismore Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Lieut Phillip **Sutcliffe**, Corps Officer, Lismore Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Paula **Glover**, Corps Officer, Forster/Tuncurry Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Captain Doris **Swift**, on 17 May; Envoy Alvyn **Staines**, on 22 May; Major Eva **Morton**, on 30 May; Major Fred **Limpus**, on 1 June; Major Jean **Buerckner**, on 11 June.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON (TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

Sydney Thurs 11 July – THQ Chapel, Redfern.  
Melbourne Sun 14 July – Welcome and Installation for Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson, Monash University.  
Lorne Tues 23 July – Victoria Officers Fellowship.  
Melbourne Thurs 25 July – THQ Chapel, Glen Waverley  
Sat 27-Sun 28 July – Tasmania Division visit.  
Tamar Valley Mon 29 July – Tasmania Officer's Fellowship.

COLONELS JULIE (TSWM/GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE) AND MARK CAMPBELL (CHIEF SECRETARY)

Melbourne 3 July – Moonee Valley Recovery Church, Victoria.  
Melbourne 14 July – Welcome and Installation of Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson, Monash University.  
Adelaide 19-21 July – Ingle Farm Corps, South Australia.

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## Let go and let God.

*The best decision I've ever made.*

WORDS MITCH STAMPER

I WAS FIVE WHEN MY FATHER WAS diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. It took his life within seven months. It was one of the hardest things watching my strong father lose the ability to walk and talk and be confined to bed or a wheelchair. I was confused about the whole thing and being told that my father was not coming back.

School was difficult. I was not academic, was always in trouble and got into fights. I was introverted and dealing with a great sadness that nobody could understand. I felt abandoned by God and believed he was the one who caused this. At high school I felt different from my friends who hadn't experienced the same pain I had. I found my outlet in sports and recreational activities and had completely closed off from the church and the spiritual side of who I was.

One Friday night I smoked some cannabis with my friends and I remember feeling free, like somehow all my troubles had been taken from me. My drug and alcohol use continued throughout high school and affected my social life and schoolwork. I dropped out of high school in Year 11.

I eventually got a job I enjoyed and worked my way up to being a team leader. I was managing my drug habit well enough and felt no one knew of what I was doing in my down time, including before work. I was also stealing from work to pay for my increasing drug use. Eventually I quit my job and started running large amounts of drugs from the Gold Coast to Brisbane.



• Mitch Stamper says contacting The Salvation Army is the best decision he has ever made.

I was drug trafficking for five years before my first near miss with the law, which I saw as my get-out-of-jail-free card. But I continued to run drugs until a random police search during a night of partying landed me in the watch-house and I was charged with drug possession of meth and ecstasy.

I knew it was only a matter of time until they got me again. But even an overdose and ending up in hospital didn't stop me using – with a habit that exceeded \$350 a day.

Spending a \$50,000 inheritance from my grandmother within three months, and with nothing to show for it, was rock-bottom for me. I contemplated suicide but was scared that it would devastate my family. A friend suggested The Salvation Army Gold Coast Recovery Services, so I called and got assessed. Without hesitation I took the next available bed for the detox unit at Fairhaven. It was the best decision I have ever made.

During my first couple of days there I felt a willingness to open up to God and ask for his help and guidance. I felt a connection with the God who loves me unconditionally. The feeling of running on my own had brought me to my knees and left me emotionally and spiritually bankrupt. So I decided to let go and let God in, and he was there for me. I was able to work on my self-esteem and deal with the grief from the loss of my father.

I finished the Bridge Program (a residential alcohol and drug recovery course), graduated and went into the extended care program. I started the graduate volunteer program and, in April 2017, I started a new job at Fairhaven as a support worker, completing a Certificate 3 in Community Services.

My life is amazing right now. I have friends that respect me for the work I've done. Most importantly, my family has their son, brother and uncle back in their lives. •



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ROBERT AND JANINE  
DONALDSON**

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