

■ NATIONAL FOCUS

*NSW and ACT Division
focusing on spiritual renewal*

■ FEATURE

*Brisbane Streetlevel helps
turn bully Baz's life around*

■ ARMY ARCHIVES

*Gosford Salvationist finds
a letter from the Founder*

■ STILL OTHERS

*Historic event to
showcase national unity*

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

Come Alive

WHAT IS GOD
CALLING YOU TO?



AUGUST
2018

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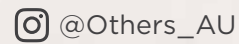
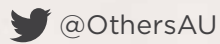
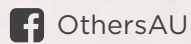


others

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The question is, are we a movement or a monument?

WORDS | LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LAURIE ROBERTSON

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, QUESTIONS have been a major part of my vocabulary. I love great questions – ones that open the doors to ongoing, growing healthy relationships or that challenge our actions, thinking and dreaming.

Two key articles in this issue of *Others* have caused a number of questions to come to my mind. The articles, “Do what makes you Come Alive” and “Strategy is vision in action”, tackle vital areas for The Salvation Army – officership, calling, pillars supporting ministry and strategic imperatives.

But just what is all this saying? Where is God in it – especially in this strategy stuff? What is happening to our Salvation Army? Is it helpful, hurtful or harmless? Why do we need to change? Is God calling less people into ministry within The Salvation Army? What do you mean officership might not be a lifelong calling? And these questions are just the tip of the questioning iceberg!

I am so glad that The Salvation Army is a movement and a mission composed of everyday, down-to-earth, caring, compassionate, passionate, action-oriented, Jesus-loving and questioning people. Our questions are important and need to be asked. Sometimes, though, we direct them to the wrong people. For instance, when questioning what is The Salvation Army doing we are usually aiming that at the headquarters people. However, people at headquarters only make up some of the Army. Those of us who have signed on as soldiers, adherents, recruits, staff, volunteers and regular worship meeting attendees are also integral participants. So firstly, perhaps our question should be addressed to ourself, “What am I doing?”

What am I doing to be friendly to everyone who comes to our meetings, groups, ministry areas? What am I doing with God’s call on my life to give everything to him? What am I doing to make sure that people can see that The Salvation Army is making a massive positive difference in my community? How am I allowing God to continually shape me more to be like him so I can be a person of impact?

There is no doubt that The Salvation Army has changed since I was born more than 60 years ago and I am so glad. On a practical level it has meant we have kept up with technology and travel – tools that greatly aid the transforming ministry God has for us.

We are a movement – not a monument. Movements change. They adapt, they need to be flexible, agile, nimble and relevant to their society. Certainly our spiritual foundations and primary purposes remain firm, but our methods have always changed.

I am totally committed to the four pillars in our strategy: We will transform, we will focus, we will pioneer and we will be accountable. I can imagine Catherine and William Booth writing these. I pray you are challenged and prodded into positive, full-on Salvation Army people and community-transforming action by the provocative and encouraging statements in our two main articles and all else that is written in this edition. ●

Lieutenant-Colonel
Laurie Robertson
Head of Editorial,
Publishing and Broadcasting,
Editor-in-Chief.





26

Andrew McMahon (left), better known as Baz, had just been released from jail and was “fed-up” with life when he called Andy Steele at The Salvation Army’s Streetlevel Mission in Brisbane. That phone call ended up changing Baz’s life. Photo: Bruce Redman



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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.

Contents

Cover story

16

Come Alive

What is God calling you to in
The Salvation Army?

Features

22

Strategy is vision in action

Captain Pete Brookshaw explains
why he is genuinely excited about
the vision and strategic direction of
The Salvation Army in Australia.

30

Pass the Salt adds flavour to ministry

These conversation-starter cards
have been a big hit since they
were launched last year.

Regulars

07

From the National Commander

08

National Focus

10

Viewpoint

14

Living Our Vision

32

Army Archives

34

The Big Picture

36

News

46

Salvation Story

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Stay informed with the latest news, information and updates about our national transformation journey. Our fortnightly update is packed full of interviews, videos, timeline updates and stories from Salvos across our movement as we journey together to become a united national Australia Territory.



Would you like to ask a question? You can email the Transition Support Team at australiaone@aus.salvationarmy.org or australiaone@aue.salvationarmy.org

Six good reasons to ‘Come Alive!’

Making the Australia One journey a personal one

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

AS WE ENTER INTO THESE LAST FEW MONTHS leading into the new national Australia territory launch with General Brian and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle at the “Still Others – Gathering as one Army” event, there is much on the go. The final steps are being taken to the implementation of a new model of delivering the mission across this vast nation, including Area Officers supporting local mission expressions, and redesigned territorial departments to match necessary functions to resource ministry in its diverse expressions.

I have been drawn back to the reasons we undertook this Australia One journey, articulated as we began and reviewed the process in recent editions of *Others*, and continuing with this current edition. But I’ve been reflecting on the six “Whys” (see page 14) with a personal perspective rather than the collective or organisational view. To be partners with God in the new things that he is and will continue to do through The Salvation Army in the coming years, we believe that a single national Australia Territory will provide for a Salvation Army with: an Aligned Vision, United Voice, Stronger Partnerships, Better Stewardship, Increased Innovation and Greater Impact. But who is this Salvation Army?

We have sat with Salvos across every state and territory in recent months and have come face to face with this Salvation Army. We have seen officers, soldiers, adherents, employees and volunteers of all ages, gender and ethnicity who are aligned with our national vision continue to live out the mission of Jesus in ways that truly reflect his sacrificial and unconditional love. We have seen Salvos united in a voice that echoes the message of God’s love for all and call for justice, for “Kingdom come” living.

We have watched as bridges are being strengthened within our diverse expressions of service and

ministry, and to the wider community, with a non-compromising confidence in the power of the message of Jesus and our developed skills that we bring to community partnerships. Sacrificial personal giving and careful stewardship is changing not only how we do what we do, but what we can do – that is better stewardship for the mission!

There are new expressions and fresh dreams arising that align with new things God is doing in and through individuals whom he is prompting, and who are daring to dream and be obedient to the vision whatever it might cost. A greater impact is happening, evidenced in story after story of individual lives and the web of connected relationships. We have listened to Salvos share the journey of coming to terms with the questions of “what is the greater impact” my life can make? A reawakening to greater purpose and avenues to better partner with God in what he is doing is happening in life after life.

There are reasons why The Salvation Army is repositioning itself as a single national territory – six good reasons. Those reasons are transforming not only the movement as a whole but, in fact, transforming one Salvo life at a time. There is a response to the call of the Spirit to “Come Alive”, that satisfies the longing of the soul. As we step into these last few months to the official launch of the Australia Territory, will you join me in asking, “Is there a repositioning of my life that prepares me to be a part of the new thing God is and will continue to do in and through you and I?” We are The Salvation Army! Come Alive! ●

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



New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory – A focus on spiritual renewal.

As part of the transition to a national territory, The Salvation Army in Australia now has six divisions. Through 2018, Others is profiling each of these divisions, this month highlighting the NSW and ACT Division

GOALS 2018

“This is a time of spiritual renewal across NSW and the ACT Division,” says Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, Divisional Commander.

“It’s about every corps and area leadership team throughout the division aligning with the mission, vision and values of Australia One, ensuring that we move forward together in a way that is relevant to the times we live in and to the communities we are building and connecting with.”

Lieut-Colonel Gluyas explains that, in 2017, the divisional leadership team, along with key leaders across NSW and the ACT, together sought God on the direction he wanted the division to take as the previous five divisions amalgamated to become one.

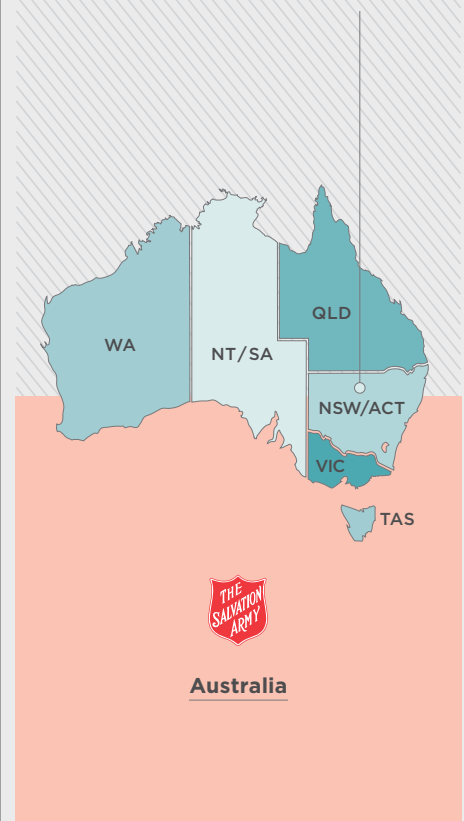
“We sought significant and different ways of doing corps and integrated mission – building community with Christians and non-Christians, sharing life, faith and Jesus,” she says. “In all of our areas, God is talking to us about meeting peoples’ needs and sharing Jesus with them, while creating ‘real community’. The most significant move forward is how God is impacting communities.

“The division is focusing on the National Strategy, and some of the key focus areas are: spiritual renewal, partnering up in our Area Leadership Teams, and living a Jesus culture. And then, how we might best do integrated mission, with three ways of doing corps – ‘Gathered Worshipping Communities’; a regular gathering that focuses on celebrating Jesus through corporate worship, and preaching/teaching of the Word. It has the primary focus of worship that refreshes and equips us to be ‘sent’ into the community; ‘Communities of Hope’ – a regular gathering, created in response to an ‘identified need’ in the community. They meet to intentionally walk alongside people and meet need in a holistic way; and ‘Community Tables’ – a regular meeting of two to 12 people who gather to have conversations about life, faith and ways to work together to serve others. They can meet in a home, at a coffee shop or anywhere.

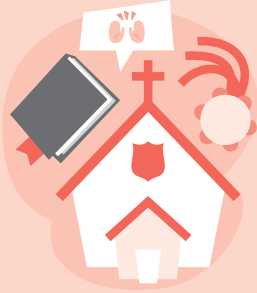
“This is a significant journey and is gaining momentum. God has given us the vision, which aligns with that of Australia One, and we believe we are on a real pathway towards growth. We are reimagining what God might want to do in our areas and are planning strategically for that. We want every single person

AT A GLANCE

7	Homelessness Services
4	Youth Services
1	Safe House
3	Recovery Services
1	Detox Service
3	AOD support services
1	Disability Service
106	Salvos Connect Sites
22	Doorways Case Management
67	Financial Counsellors
87	Chaplains



THREE WAYS OF DOING CORPS LIFE

**Gathered Worshipping Communities**

Celebrating Jesus through corporate worship, and preaching/teaching of the Word. It has the primary focus of worship that refreshes and equips us to be 'sent' into the community.

**Communities of Hope**

Created in response to an 'identified need' in the community. They meet to intentionally walk alongside people and meet need in a holistic way.

**Community Tables**

Two to 12 people who gather to have conversations about life, faith and ways to work together to serve others. They can meet in a home, at a coffee shop or anywhere.

in The Salvation Army in our division reimagining what the Army could look like. The National Commander reminded us that we are a 'saved and sent people.'

THEMES AND GOALS

Lieut-Colonel Gluyas emphasises that the division is on a continual journey of alignment with the National Strategy, as it implements its divisional plan. "We are also trying to work out how we strip back things that we've just been doing for a long time, that are no longer working, so the Army can advance and not retreat," she says. "We are looking at how this might look in these different times, but we're certainly not throwing the baby out with the bathwater!"

The division is also aiming to have everyone in The Salvation Army find their 'fit' and be part of the mission – helping people to find Jesus. "We are helping people to do this, training them, helping them find their passion and go out there," says Lieut-Colonel Gluyas. "We are focused on engaging with people in our world – our colleagues, our neighbours – to create real community in our world's epidemic of loneliness, and become a part of it."

The challenges are there – helping keep people focused, and filled with faith and

hope; giving people the best practice training in mission; and providing the right support. "Our prayer is that God will, through us, raise up a generation who believe in the mission of the Army and that the Holy Spirit will be there as we take some risks in this process. We want to set a platform for future generations to win."

BUILDING THE KINGDOM

Moree Corps: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry, youth and children, sports ministry.

Tenterfield: Helping the community through hardship and injustice.

Communities of Hope and Kingdom Tables. Transformation on the ground.

Singleton Corps: Flourishing youth and children's ministry in the community.

Eastern Beaches Corps: Reaching the homeless and connecting with the community.

Ryde Corps: Communities of Hope and Kingdom Table plants.

Merrylands Project: Social Enterprise, Kingdom Tables, reaching people from all nations.

Helensburgh: Organic church, discipling, and community events.

Raymond Terrace: Growing Community Hope Centre, doing life where people are at.

Cowra Corps: Kids in the Kitchen children's and community ministries. ●

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

The Salvation Army began in the colony of NSW on 2 December 1882, when Captains Adelaide and Tom Sutherland, Lieutenant Alex Canty and Sister Mary Ann Cox arrived. As in other places, though, the Army had been commenced earlier by Christian Mission converts or Salvationists arriving from Britain. After the reinforcements arrived, corps were soon opened at Newtown, Waterloo, and Newcastle.

The witness of Salvationists led to connections with: Sir Henry Parkes, Father of Australia's Federation; Henry Lawson, famous Australian poet; Elizabeth Jenkins, who gave the Army large portions of land; and Arthur Arnott, son of the famous biscuit manufacturer who would become a Salvation Army officer.

The Salvation Army in Sydney was later to house the Territorial Headquarters and Officer Training College for the territory.

- **Garth Hentzschel**

Viewpoint.

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WORDS

JEFF FOUNTAIN

Time's terrifying march.

DESCRIBED AS “TERRIFYING AND disturbing”, one of the world’s most unusual clocks never fails to draw perplexed visitors outside Corpus Christi College in Cambridge, England. A fearsome giant locust of apocalyptic proportions rides astride a 24-carat gold-plated disc about 1.5m wide. Its sharp-fanged mouth appears to eat up the seconds as its legs relentlessly pull the disc in an erratic clockwise motion, causing an eerie and intermittent metallic sound. Without hands or numerals, the clock displays the time via slits in the clock face lit by blue LEDs, in three concentric rings representing hours, minutes and seconds. On the hour, onlookers hear the clanking sound of a chain being lowered into a small wooden coffin behind the clock face.

The clue to understanding the designer’s intention is a Latin inscription below the golden disc: “mundus transit et concupiscentia eius.” Taken from the Vulgate translation of the Bible verse 1 John 2:17, it reads: “The world and its desires are passing away.” John Taylor, an alumnus of Corpus Christi College, conceived the idea of the clock as a work of art reminding passers-by that time, too, was inevitably passing by. He calls the locust the “chronophage”, literally the time-eater. Time, he believes, is not on our side. The “time-eater” will eat up every minute of our lives, salivating for the next moment as he devours the present.

Officially unveiled in 2008, it was listed as one of *TIME* magazine’s Best Inventions of the Year. It looks out across the King’s Parade, where a blue plaque on the building opposite announces the original site of the White Horse Inn, popularly known as “Little Germany”. Here, the plaque tells its readers, the English Reformation was born, as Cambridge scholars including Thomas Cranmer, William Tyndale, Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer discussed the latest writings of Martin Luther. It was Thomas Bilney, himself awakened to the gospel message after working through Erasmus’ Greek New Testament, who gathered these friends in the White Horse Inn.

A decade earlier, Erasmus had lived in Cambridge while working on his Greek and Latin parallel New Testament, which in turn was to inspire Luther’s German Bible and Tyndale’s English Bible. Had Erasmus been able to walk out of the White Horse and see this clock, and the inscription from John’s first letter, he too would have been appalled at the vision of life presented. From his work on revising the Vulgate Latin text, he would have known that the verse goes on to say: “... but he who does God’s will lives forever!”

What a different perspective the full verse gives! Instead of a view of life as slipping away from us all, minute by minute, making our existence meaningless and futile, we discover a God who promises to repay us for the years the locusts have eaten (Joel 2.25).

The clock can be seen as a sad commentary on Cambridge today, on much of the academic world and on Western society itself. Each having grown out of Christian roots, the university, academia and society have largely lost the transcendental dimension which gives meaning. The university coat of arms, for

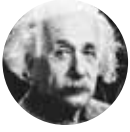


example, shows a Bible at the centre; its motto is “Hinc lucem et z sacra” – “From this place, light and sacred draughts”. But sadly, the Bible no longer is central to the life of the university.

For Cambridge has a rich but oft-forgotten Christian heritage. An excellent place to begin exploring this is at the historic Round Church, built around 1130, now an exhibition centre explaining the story of the university’s founders who wanted to explore both God’s book of works and God’s book of words.

In these days when we hesitate to watch the news for fear of yet another tragic mass killing, or of hearing one more political speech from a populist politician foreboding trouble ahead, we need to be reminded that in God’s plan the “time-eaters” don’t have the last word. ●

Jeff Fountain is director of the Schuman Centre for European Studies. He blogs at weeklyword.eu



WORTH
QUOTING.

“Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”
- Albert Einstein

WORDS
MAL DAVIES

Mind your language!

Just jargon or a barrier to newcomers?

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CULTURAL explosion of the 1960s and '70s, Salvation Army corps discovered that the old “franchise” idea of what a corps looks like had gone out the window. Institutions were breaking down; traditions were being challenged and initiative and innovation were made welcome. Suddenly there was room for some creative freedom, not only in style of worship but also in what activities were provided – if you didn’t want to have a Home League or timbrel brigade or hold kneedrill, you didn’t have to!

Corps began to experiment with things like different times for meetings (rather than the standard 11am and 7pm), different forms of leadership (corps council versus leadership team), different expressions of worship (café church and youth crushes) and, maybe most alarmingly for some, different terminology began to creep in.

Even today at your corps, for example, do you talk about the Sunday meeting or the Sunday service? Do you tell someone to meet you at the hall or meet you at church? Do you have a Sunday School or a Kids Church? Do you hold soldiership classes or membership sessions? Do you point out to visitors who the corps officer is or who the minister of the church is? Are you a corps, a church or a community centre?

A few years ago I recall seeing a corps advertising within The Salvation Army for a “youth pastor” and I thought: when did we start using “pastor”?

In my role as a corps officer I get to meet a lot of people and talk about the work of The Salvation Army. This includes talking to groups of school students, Rotary Clubs, community centres, business owners and social and welfare workers from non-Army agencies. I confess that at times I feel awkward saying: “Hello, I’m Captain Mal Davies, I’m the Corps Officer from the South Barwon Corps.” Generally, it comes out more like, “Hi, my name’s Mal Davies, I’m the officer, or minister, at the South Barwon Salvos church in Belmont.”

Rank doesn’t matter to non-Salvos, so no point saying “Captain”. “Corps officer” needs explaining, so I add “minister”. “Corps” means nothing to most people (apart from being the middle of an apple) so I say “church”. And South Barwon isn’t even a suburb, so I add that the church is in Belmont.

Sundays are another matter. If a visitor attends our meeting for the first time, should I say, “The CSM will bring the announcements”, or should I stick with my usual, “Ali is going to bring us a few announcements”? When speaking about the theme for the morning, should I refer to what we’ll be focusing on in the address, the message or the sermon? And what would that visitor conclude when I announce that dear old Mrs Smith has been “promoted to glory”?

We’re a strange lot, we Salvos. Does our language make us appeal to visitors and non-Salvos or is it an exclusivist vocabulary aimed at upholding Army traditions and functioning as a “secret” language that only we know? Does our language help people in or keep them out?

Some will say that any updating or loss of Army terminology or vernacular is another nail in the coffin of The Salvation Army. Lose our language and we lose our DNA, they say.

Well, I don’t think it’s that scary. The international Salvation Army isn’t about to collapse if we update some terminology. The key question is possibly: do we exist for the good of the unsaved or for the good of the soldiers? Former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple made the pertinent comment: “The Church is the only organisation that exists for the benefit of its non-members.”

The 2012 book *Jim & Casper Go To Church* told of how pastor Jim Henderson invited atheist Matt Casper to attend 12 different churches with him and offer honest feedback. They attended everything from a small-town church to a mega-church to a church for recovering addicts.

Among Casper’s astute observations was the question: “Where do you learn to talk like this?” When Jim asked him what he meant, Casper said that the language of most preachers he heard was not the sort of language real people use. Who uses words like epistles, redeemer, fellowship, missional, sanctification, evangelist and being “saved” in everyday use?

I could say the same about a number of Salvo expressions, from “corps” and “corps officer” to “junior soldier” and “corps cadet”. Apart from us and the military, who speaks like that?

So, again I ask: does our language help people in or keep them out? ●

.....
Captain Mal Davies is the Corps Officer (minister) at South Barwon Corps (church) in the Geelong suburb of Belmont.



WORTH
QUOTING.

“The popular gospel of this day, is the laughing-stock of Hell; it dare neither damn the sinner, nor sanctify the saint.”
– Catherine Booth

WORDS

AMANDA MERRETT

Hardcore hospitality.

FOR A LONG TIME, I THOUGHT hospitality was just about having people over for dinner, or bringing scones for the weekly morning tea at church. But hospitality is more than knowing how to host a dinner party. The following quote from the late Dutch writer and theologian Henri Nouwen sums it up for me: “Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.”

Hospitality provides a space for the Kingdom of God to reign. When we engage in hospitality, it creates an opportunity where we are able to recognise the injustices our neighbours face. Hospitality provides a space to develop friendships and walk alongside people.

When you invite people into your home, you open yourself up by sharing with them. When you sit with someone in your home and they share the struggles of their life, you don't just bid them farewell at the end of the conversation with a, “Great to chat, see you next time” as you close the front door. You are moved to action. In the middle of hospitality, we live, love and fight alongside others as they experience hardship, and ultimately participate in God's transforming work.

Justice is mentioned in both our National Vision Statement and our Mission

Values. Justice is integral to the Gospel, and therefore the work of The Salvation Army. Yet, in order to pursue justice, we need to recognise where injustice prevails. One way we can do this is by engaging in hospitality. When you commit to sharing life with others, you are moved when they experience hardship. As English theologian N.T Wright puts it, “Justice is what love looks like when it's facing the problem that its neighbour is dealing with”.

In order for justice to move beyond a buzzword within The Salvation Army, we must start engaging in the messy parts of our neighbourhoods where injustice is prevalent. Unless Salvationists are actively engaged in their neighbourhoods, “working for justice” is just another line in a corporate merger. Hospitality requires vulnerability; it requires stepping outside of our comfort zone. Are we prepared to do this?

In their book *Partnering with God*, Salvation Army officers Lyn Edge and Gregory Morgan state that we are a sent people. We are not sent to the four walls of our church buildings, but to the people in our neighbourhood. Salvationists are all called to engage in the mission of God, which is to join in God's work to usher in the Kingdom. We are called to love and serve our neighbours.

Hospitality is a practical way to live, love and fight alongside people as we all seek the Kingdom. However, it is a position of power to always sit in the place of host. What would hospitality look like in your life if you were to enter the space of your neighbours? Hospitality allows for mutual transformation; it provides opportunities for us to learn and teach, provide and receive, but requires that we place ourselves in the role of guest as well as host. It is during this process that the Kingdom of God is revealed and we are sharing our humanity.



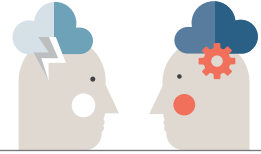
I moved into my neighbourhood five years ago with the intention to be present to the community and its needs. It has been a messy process of mistakes, learning and trialling new things. Here are a few things I have learnt along the way:

- Allocate one meal, or day, each week for intentional hospitality.
- Be open to God teaching you – I have been changed more than I have changed my community. I expected that I would be helping and teaching in the neighbourhood, but God has taken this time and used my neighbours and community to teach me.
- Hospitality still requires “rules” and does not mean you give up all your space. There is an expectation then when people enter our house they still respect the people and the things in it.

The command to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God is a theme embedded throughout the Bible. How is God asking you to seek justice? In what ways may God be prompting you to create spaces for hospitality? How can you be a representative of Jesus in the places most impacted by hardship and injustice? ●

Amanda Merrett is Assistant to the Social Justice Secretary, Australia Southern Territory.

Mailbox.



SOLDIERSHIP DILEMMA OVERSTATING THE CASE

Whilst appreciating the article entitled “The soldiership dilemma” (July edition of *Others*), by Captain Peter Hobbs, I feel the prompting to personally respond.

Like Captain Peter Hobbs, I welcome any move on the part of any Christian community to be more inclusive and welcoming of the gifts, talents and graces that all who profess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ bring to such a community. In my lifetime within The Salvation Army we have come a long way in this regard.

The following of Jesus brings with it the joy and fulfilment of ongoing openness to God through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in one’s life. When Jesus invited people to follow him, then that following suggested an ongoing obedience to whatever God required.

In speaking of our following, Jesus outlines in Matthew 16:24 those steps or dimensions needful as we walk his way. In this verse we are invited firstly to “follow in his (Jesus’) footsteps” – to dedicate ourselves to God’s purposes; then “to deny ourselves and take up our cross” – to live a disciplined life in our following; and then the injunction “follow Me” – for the thrill of dedication and discipline in our walk with Jesus is

found in a developing relationship and awareness of God in our lives.

For some that following leads to soldiership, for others adherence, and for still others active involvement without any “formal membership”. However, to suggest that soldiership or adherence “creates a two-tier exclusiveness” is, in my view, overstating the case.

To accept that “the only requirement is Jesus and that he is enough” needs to be seen in the teaching contained in the gospels and the New Testament as a whole. In any army, Christian or not, Salvation Army or not, there are laid-down principles and requirements that we overlook at our peril.

Just as Captain Hobbs suggests that his topic “could be seen as controversial within The Salvation Army”, so I accept that my response may be viewed as “conservative”. But if this is the case then I can live with that!

Commissioner Brian Morgan



WORLDWIDE REACH OF *OTHERS*

A recent issue of *Others* (March issue and *Others Online* 18 January) featured a story about an Italian Salvationist, Gildas, who attends Florence Corps. The story talked about the ministry that Gildas conducts in nearby Pisa.

A few days ago, Gildas was working in a hotel in Pisa. Two Australian Salvationists, holidaying in Italy, spotted his Red Shield tie pin and started chatting to him. They recognised him from the photo that appeared with the *Others* story and spent some time talking to him about the article and the ministry he is doing in Pisa.

Gildas said it was a great experience and very encouraging. So thank you for the focus you give in *Others* to the work of The Salvation Army around the world.

**Major Estelle Blake,
Italy & Greece Command**



SPIRITUAL LINK TO REVIEWS HELPFUL

I have read your magazine for a number of years now, when it was called *Pipeline* and now *Others*. One of the things I am glad you have retained is the movie reviews. It’s often the first page I turn to.

I like the way your reporter (culture writer Mark Hadley) always brings it around to a Christian perspective at the end of his review. This has helped inform me of what to get out of a particular movie or show, and indeed I now watch many movies or TV shows and look for a spiritual theme or link in them.

D Williams

others

Your opinion counts.
We want to hear from you!



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

WORDS
CLAIRE HILL

We are stronger as one!

Commissioner Tidd reflects on reasons behind National Transformation

*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*

– National Vision Statement

It was 1 March, 2016. Salvos around the country had gathered in front of projector screens or sat with their computers to listen to a historic announcement, live-streamed from Canberra.

It was General-elect, Commissioner Brian Peddle (then Chief of the Staff) who delivered the news: “We will initiate a process to merge the Australia Southern Territory and Australia Eastern Territory, to form a united Australia Territory.”

A staff information pack, released on the same day, outlined six key reasons for the coming together. Soon the six became known as the Australia One Objectives. More recently, they have been referred to as six “Whys” of the National Transformation, the reasons for the new Australia Territory. (See graphic).

Over the past five months in this section of the magazine, we have been looking at each of these “whys” in turn. This month, to complete the series, I asked National Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, a few questions about “Stronger Partnerships” and “United Voice”.

STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Commissioner, does the “stronger partnerships” objective refer more to partnerships within The Salvation Army or outside of it?

It’s both. We have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen partnerships both internally and externally.

Could you share any examples of how this is already happening?

Certainly. Our new national approach to local mission involves local expressions of The Salvation



Commissioner Floyd Tidd says the merger of territories in Australia gives The Salvation Army an “unprecedented opportunity”.

Army working together like never before. Representatives from multiple expressions of The Salvation Army in the same geographical area meet together every four to six weeks in what we call “Area Leadership Team” meetings. We’re hearing some incredible stories come out of these gatherings. They’re committing to sharing resources and working together in new ways. Externally, we are seeing stronger partnerships too. For example, in one state we’ve been speaking with another church-based social services provider. Both parties have been very receptive to exploring ways that we could work together as partners serving a disadvantaged community.

UNITED VOICE

The last “why” we will look at is “United Voice”. In what ways have we missed the mark with this in the past?

In the past, we are fortunate that on many fronts we have been able to speak with a united voice. But this doesn’t mean it has always been easy. At times it has been a cumbersome process to coordinate an “in-house” conversation and agree upon a single and united message. This has sometimes impeded our ability to respond quickly to critical matters.

How does the national vision help us have a united voice?

With a national vision, as well as agreed national mission and values, the foundation is set for speaking with a united voice. We know why we exist, and where we are going as well as how we will do that journey, guided by our values.

Can you give any examples of where our national structure is already helping us speak with a united voice?

Yes, we have already noticed a difference when speaking to government and media. Two recent examples of this were when we commented on the Federal Budget and when we spoke up in support of asylum seekers. This magazine, *Others*, is another example of a united voice connecting Salvos in mission. God is at work in The Salvation Army in Australia. These are exciting days! ●

If you have any questions about the National Transformation, please email australiaone@aue.salvationarmy.org or australiaone@aus.salvationarmy.org

Claire Hill is Communications Coordinator for the Transition Support Team.

The Six ‘Whys’



Aligned Vision



Increased Innovation



United Voice



Stronger Partnerships



Better Stewardship



Greater Impact



WORDS

FAYE MICHELSON

Do what makes you Come Alive!

The Salvation Army is looking for ‘leaders of impact’

A new campaign is encouraging people to explore a path towards officership in The Salvation Army to help transform Australia one life at a time

William Booth, that forceful orator, was not one to mince words.

“Most Christians would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years,” he said. “I would like to send them to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for a lifetime of compassionate ministry.”

While that is one of the Founder’s well-known forthright and thought-provoking quotes, it was – and still is today – beyond any human being’s ability to send anyone to hell for any amount of time even for a fantastic purpose. And as far as going to Bible or training college, well, for today’s Salvationists they only have to travel as far as one of the campuses of Eva Burrows College.

From certificates to doctorates, courses include mission, theology, leadership, management, community services, financial counselling and chaplaincy. These courses equip people for many general areas of ministry, but Eva Burrows College also has a course other Bible colleges can’t offer.

The School of Office Training, located within the college, provides a specialist course designed for

those who are answering their call into Salvation Army officership.

In a society where there are so many options to serve, is a 21st century officer different to the officers Booth commissioned in the late 1800s, or to those who served throughout the following century?

The answer is “yes and no”, says Captain Matt Reeve, National Officer Recruitment Secretary.

“In so many ways officership has changed – yet in many ways it hasn’t,” Captain Reeve says.

“The constants of officership are: love God, love people, and faithfully serve your community. People are still homeless, lonely and hungry, and people still need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

“While these issues are not new, we have a renewed passion and resolve to see Australia transformed.”

CHANGING TIMES

It’s a new time in The Salvation Army, with a new Australia Territory and National Mission Statement: “Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform ▶



JUGGLING MOTHERHOOD AND MINISTRY

Captain Fiona Kean

Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada, Corps Officer.

Three children, aged 8, 6 and 4.

When God called me to be an officer, I strongly believed he was also calling my family and I knew he would provide for my children in that. One of the privileges of being a mum in ministry is that our children are part of our ministry.

As a young mum it is easy to connect with others mums in your community and corps – you're just another one of them. The way that can open doors into the community is huge. Being a corps officer is a bit like being self-employed – you're accountable to yourself and God how you use your time. You have to develop a "Teflon" coating regarding other people's thoughts and perceptions about what you do as ministry. Officership is not a job, it's a lifestyle.



IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

Captain Clare Reeve

Coordinator of First Five Years Program, School for Officer Training.

Three daughters, aged 8, 6 and 4.

Being an officer and a mum is busy and complex. It's really no different from a mum doing any role, whether as a full-time stay-at-home mum or a working mum. No one would say it's an easy season. Being an officer, however, presents unique challenges and opportunities.

I often fall into the trap of compartmentalising my life. I'll say to myself, "This is classed as ministry and this is classed at being home with the kids, and I'm not doing ministry when I'm with them." It's a pendulum swing – I'm not doing enough, it's ok, I am; I'm not doing enough; it's okay, I am.

I'm in this for the long haul; I want officership to be a marathon not a sprint. I don't want to get to the end of my journey and look back and think I sacrificed my kids on the altar of officership when they are young for such a short time. You only get that time once and I want to honour God the best way I can being a mum.



THE CALL TO SERVE OVERSEAS

Majors Robert and Vanessa Evans

District Officers – Solomon Islands.

Two adult children.

When Vanessa and I went to training college in 1995, we had a passion for youth work. We never imagined we would become passionate about cross-cultural mission. We've served in four corps in three states and loved the diversity. God started preparing us for serving overseas in our appointment at Palmerston Corps (Northern Territory), and we went on five short-term mission trips with our corps at Noarlunga (South Australia), including four in Indonesia.

We began to train in cross-cultural mission and started flagging the idea of considering overseas service when our twins finished school. Leadership asked us to serve in the Solomon Islands – they had finished school, just. They were 17. It was a big thing for us, asking ourselves and them, "Is it the right time for us to leave?" Our kids showed enormous emotional and spiritual maturity. Our daughter said to us adamantly, "God has been preparing you for this for a long time. Don't you dare let us be the excuse for not going."



STATE EVENTS

“We’ll host half-day or evening recruitment events in every state across Australia. This will provide the opportunity to hear from our officers and staff as you explore your calling. They will share from their experiences and what makes them ‘Come Alive’ in ministry. You’ll also hear from people who have come to ministry from various backgrounds and the different training mode that they took. The events are about hearing real stories from real people. Come along and learn more about the different ways you can serve God in the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army.”

Captain Matt Reeve

National Officer Recruitment Secretary.

For more information, go to:

salvos.org.au/comealive/register

Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.” And with this, says Captain Reeve, we need new leaders, new ideas and new approaches.

“The Salvation Army has always been a gospel-centred movement – the challenge in the 21st century is to find the best way to share that gospel in our world,” he says.

That’s the vision behind the “Come Alive” campaign – to help people to discern their call to “come alive” in ministry. Whether it’s through a vivid experience with God or an ache in your heart towards a certain cause, Captain Reeve says the aim is to raise awareness that The Salvation Army is looking for people who are called to become “leaders of impact”.

The “Come Alive” campaign asks question such as: Do you feel a longing to serve God and help others? Do you dream about helping more people know Jesus? Do you want to be a leader in a movement that is transforming lives?

Captain Reeve goes a step further. “We want to ask as many people as possible this question: “Do you want to enhance your ministry by becoming a Salvation Army officer?”” he says.

“We want to create an environment where people can explore whether God is calling them to step into officership. The Salvation Army is looking for more

leaders to lead God’s mission and our hope is that more people will engage in the ministry conversation.”

“Come Alive” starts that conversation on its website by featuring people who are already living their call to officership.

Captain Reeve is the voice of “Come Alive’s” podcasts. These are open discussions about officership, with him talking with a range of people, from diverse backgrounds, age groups and officer rank about how they took the step into officership and sharing some of their experiences. (salvos.org.au/comealive/ or salvostudios.com/more-about-officership)

Half-day and evening events will also be held around the country with officers, leaders and staff talking about the different ways God can be served through the mission and ministry of the Army.

OFFICERSHIP OPTIONS

It’s no secret that cadet numbers have declined over the decades. Captain Reeve believes there is a number of reasons to explain this.

“There are more options available to serve in ministry than ever before,” he says. “A lot of corps now have staff positions that didn’t exist in the past. But as a movement, we have to take some responsibility for not addressing the declining numbers earlier. ▶



“The method for equipping officers, for instance, has largely remained the same until recently. However, a new approach that recognises individual’s experience and capacity means people will feel more confident stepping into their calling.”

Officership training is approached holistically, and in two stages – the Foundations stage and Internship stage – marked by different approaches and outcomes.

“We also recognise that a lifetime of ministry in The Salvation Army may not be for everyone. Some people may serve for a season as an officer – leading a corps, mission, program or a centre – then transition out of officership to pursue other opportunities,” Captain Reeve says.

“The appointment system challenges some people; there is a trend towards entering college later in life, so that means deep roots already exist where they are. It may be family, schooling and social ties that make people wary of the possibility of moving around.

“Officership has always had its challenges. Every officer has faced – and will face – unique challenges whether it’s the location where they minister or the culture of the locations where they serve.”

One of the challenges the church as a whole faces is how society’s view of “the church” has changed in Australia over the past 20 years.

“It’s increasingly more difficult to minister in a fast-paced, ever-changing world,” Captain Reeve observes, adding that an exciting part of the changing world is exploring what officership in Australia looks like today.

Commissioner Floyd Tidd encourages people to explore officership to see if God is calling them to it as “an avenue for greater impact for their lives”.

“Greater impact happens when we find ourselves using our skills, gifts and experiences in partnership with God and what he is choosing to do around us,” Commissioner Tidd wrote in *Others* (June issue).

“Officership has provided an avenue for many Salvos through the years to make a greater impact. Officership is unashamedly an expression of ‘selfless’ living and leadership in the era of the ‘selfie’. I invite you to consider the path of greatest impact that your life can make.”

Captain Reeve echoes that. “We have a deep need in Australia for people of all backgrounds, ethnicity and experiences to step into the environment of officership. We have many, varied expressions of ministry and we require leaders across Australia.

“What excites me most about officership in the 21st century? The new opportunities, new pathways and more ways of living out your calling.” ●



COME *Alive*

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Be part of a global movement that is transforming society with the love of Jesus.

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- Become a leader in The Salvation Army and help transform Australia, one life at a time.

Visit www.salvos.org.au/ComeAlive for more information



Illustration: Captain Jo Brookshaw.

WORDS

CAPTAIN PETE BROOKSHAW

Strategy is vision in action!

I am honestly full of excitement and hope for the vision and direction of The Salvation Army in Australia. Let me take you on a journey of how the new National Strategy (with its four pillars and 12 strategic imperatives) informs what I do, as a Salvation Army officer in the outer northern parts of Melbourne, in a bustling, growing suburb called Craigieburn

WE WILL TRANSFORM

We were getting our food van ready to serve soup. A lady in her mid-30s saw The Salvation Army T-shirt and approached us. With a sunken look on her face she described how she'd been couch surfing for weeks, and that she needed to find sustainable housing. She had fled an abusive relationship and had not been able to get back on her feet.

This lady wants a holistic response from The Salvation Army. She doesn't care if we label ourselves as "corps", or "social". She just wants help from us. That's why our new National Strategy includes an imperative to deliver holistic mission.

Consider dealing then with the affordable housing crisis. Strengthening the Army's voice on national issues will make a real difference. That's one united voice to peak bodies of influence, state and federal governments and other stakeholders.

When considering this lady's plight, I wonder how we can learn to be a follower of Jesus in that context. We are intent on making disciples (also part of the strategy) within the ministry of The Salvation Army and those conversations can provide opportunities to integrate our faith in Christ with every day interactions.

WE WILL FOCUS

Let me give you another story. I went to the optometrist once and had a test. I was excited when I received my new glasses. As I wore them I wandered around the shops, but found myself rubbing my right eye continuously. I travelled back to the optometrist and questioned why my glasses were out of focus. The man behind the counter looked at me and said, unequivocally, "Sorry, we put the wrong lenses in!"

God has given The Salvation Army a new set of glasses! We can see with clarity, for instance, that we must foster Christian spirituality in our movement. Take, for example, one of my local thrift shop volunteers named Andrew. Andrew is in his 40s, and while he's looking for full-time employment he's been helping regularly in our shop. How do I nurture Andrew in his faith in Christ? Is there something I can do to help his faith flourish?

Furthermore, how do I focus our efforts in our thrift shop and utilise our resources for greatest impact? Andrew has helped us recently in a working bee at our shop. While I ate the homemade biscuits in the tea-room (I was trying to empower the volunteer that made them), Andrew was tirelessly focused on improving the quality of the thrift shop. ▶

4 pillars

We will transform

Deliver holistic mission

Strengthen the Army's voice on national issues

Make disciples

We will focus

Foster Christian spirituality

Focus our efforts

Build leadership capability

We will pioneer

Encourage innovation

Grow partnerships

Create sustainable leadership

We will be accountable

Renew culture

Enhance measurement

Improve stewardship & sustainability

12 strategic imperatives

It's volunteers like Andrew that we celebrate across Australia, who possess a deeply compassionate heart and a genuine passion for making a difference. One question we are asking in Craigieburn is, how can we build leadership capability in the Andrews of the world? What if we emulated the very ministry of Jesus and invested in a small number of potential leaders? What would that look like?

WE WILL PIONEER

We are in essence a pioneering movement, founded by leaders who were willing to try new ways of doing things. When William Booth was troubled by "fellows ... sleeping out at night on the bridges" in London in 1888, he challenged his son, "Do something, Bramwell, do something!"

We need to encourage innovation. We need to stop saying 'No' to new ideas and start saying, "Tell me more."

Towards the end of 2017, the Craigieburn Corps was gifted with a new food van. This has enabled us to sell 400 burgers at the local Craigieburn Festival, bake 1200 ANZAC biscuits and serve more than 500 cups of soup to our local community.

We want to pioneer and grow partnerships with other organisations, businesses and groups. In recent months the local Woolworths store has donated fresh food for our community lunches. Bunnings have three staff members that volunteer with us monthly. A local accounting firm is giving 18 of their staff a couple of days of service to the community. Best and Less gives us free underwear, Big W clothing, Coles bread and Muffin Break provides muffins. I'm working on the coffee shops!

Our strategic intent is to work alongside others and create sustainable leadership in the process. We can establish a new food van ministry, a vibrant thrift shop and a plethora of donations, but if we are not pioneering new ways to engage rapidly changing generations, then we have missed the mark. That's why it is one of the four pillars in our new national strategy.

WE WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE

The Salvation Army is not a building or a bureaucracy and there are not some who do the mission and some who do not. We must renew culture so that when we look at The Salvation Army

we see a movement of people who are committed to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus. Everyone is responsible for the mission.

Not only that, but everyone is therefore responsible for improving stewardship and sustainability. We're all in that together: Finding ways to increase the revenue streams and keeping the expenditure under control. That's all part of being accountable to each other. Like, for instance, if I spend more on coffee, my wife and I need to spend less on groceries.

The further challenge is how do you measure the effectiveness of that mission, or rather, how do you enhance measurement? We must measure what matters and spend less time worrying about the things that don't. We're saying locally, "Don't just tell me how many came to your program, tell me what purpose it achieved. Did people grow in their faith? Was there some social benefit?"

We're on that journey locally. Mary is the support worker of a disability group that partners with The Salvation Army. Now Mary describes herself as a swearer. She holds her tongue most days, but there has been the occasional word slip while cutting the onions. I stood next to Mary the other day as she dropped something on the floor. She then opened her mouth and said... "Ahh, sugar!"

Without flinching, she looked at me and exclaimed, "Pete! I didn't swear!" I said to her, "Mary, that's because God's doing a work in you."

Now, I don't know how you measure that, but God is clearly at work. The National Strategy is vision in action! We will transform and focus. We will pioneer and be accountable.

Let me encourage you then on that journey with these words from *The Message* version of the Bible (Romans 12:2), "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God ... Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it." ●

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



Brisbane Streetlevel worker Andy Steele (left) with "Baz", who has found new life in The Salvation Army. Photo: Bruce Redman

WORDS
BILL SIMPSON

From bully to believer.

Brisbane Streetlevel helps Baz turn his life around

As a kid, his school teachers and mates nicknamed him Baz after an Aussie Rules player of the day who was a bit rough. He well and truly represented the reputation as he moved into adult life, spending three separate terms totalling 10 years in jail, losing half a dozen jobs, and forfeiting a marriage after only a few months – all because he embraced drug-taking and trafficking.

But today, at 55, Baz – real name Andrew McMahon – is working with The Salvation Army in Brisbane, helping people whose lives are off-track like his used to be, to get back on track.

Baz's direction in life was deliberate. He was raised by a single mum, who tried hard to give him and his younger sister and brother a good life. They lived in a social housing suburb of Perth. Church was important to Baz's mother. She and her children were regular attenders. Baz and his mum were in the church choir. While he liked church, Baz wanted to fit in with his friends, who were not church-goers. He did things – like bullying other kids – to prevent him getting a reputation as “a churchie”. It was his bullying that earned him the nickname Baz.

As he moved into his teens, he was developing a template for a life that he knew was out of control and not how his mother had raised him. He began drinking alcohol at 12 and graduated to drugs at 14.

He knew he was associating with “the wrong people,” but he wanted to be wanted. After school, he successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in welfare and sociology, while holding down a number of nightclub security jobs. Those jobs introduced him to stronger drugs and drug trafficking to make extra money. He spent three years in the Perth police service until his life caught up with him and he was forced to leave.

In 1993, then 30, he moved from Perth to Brisbane to, hopefully, escape the drug scene. He had been engaged, but his drug-taking ended the relationship. His plan to turn around his life did not succeed and soon after arriving in Brisbane, drug-taking resumed. He worked for the Aboriginal Legal Service, but lost the job because of his drug involvement.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

He moved to the Sunshine Coast. By now, he was addicted to heroin and amphetamines. Methadone treatment got him off heroin. But he was still addicted to other drugs. On the Sunshine Coast, he got a job in the fishing industry. There were plenty of opportunities there for selling drugs. It gave him lots of extra cash.

He tried to “go straight” and was doing well for a while. In May, 2003, he married in the Caloundra Baptist Church. But by June he was in jail, and by ►



September his marriage was over. The law had caught up with his drug involvement. For the first time, he was in jail for drug offences, sentenced to two years imprisonment, with a further three-year suspended sentence. When he was released, he returned to the drug scene “to keep up appearances”.

In 2007, he was back in jail – this time for four years. In 2012, he was sentenced to four more years – again for drug matters. He turned 50 while serving his last sentence and came to the realisation that something had to change. In November 2015, just before his release from prison, he was given the telephone number of Andy Steele, a prison worker with The Salvation Army’s Streetlevel Mission in Brisbane. He called Andy, who told Baz to call him again when he was out of jail.

When Baz was released, he was booked into a boarding house in “appalling” condition. He left his bags at the boarding house and went to the pub. He wasn’t supposed to drink alcohol as part of his release conditions. But he did. And he got back on drugs.

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

Feeling fed-up, Baz phoned Andy, who collected him and took him to Streetlevel, where he was surprised to see mates from his last stay in prison. Andy also invited Baz to The Salvation Army’s God’s Sports Arena church in Brisbane. Baz reconnected with God and he started volunteering at Streetlevel. With others, he developed a program teaching life skills to the homeless, those trying to escape addictions and anybody who needed assistance. He became a prayer team member at God’s Sports Arena.

In December 2017, Baz was employed at Streetlevel as a Community Engagement worker. The template taking him to an early death was being dismantled.

“As I began to work with Streetlevel and attend God’s Sports Arena, I realised that my life was changing. I realised that The Salvation Army was going to be my life from now on,” he said. “I could see that I had a future; something to look forward to. I felt good about myself, for a change.”

“
*I could see that I had a future;
 something to look forward to. I felt
 good about myself, for a change.*
 ”

Baz became a Salvation Army adherent to show his commitment. “I feel so valued now,” he says. “I am accepted. I am not judged. I am loved. I am just so content in my life. I am not looking over my shoulder anymore. I can say hello to the police without fearing that I might be arrested.

“I am earning enough money to pay my rent, eat well and live well in my one-bedroom flat. I have money in the bank for the first time in my life. I even have money left over to buy a cup of coffee or a meal for a homeless person. Can you imagine how good that feels!” ●

▲ **Left:** Baz connected with the Army’s Andy Steele and has never looked back. **Above:** Baz now connects with others as a Community Engagement worker at Streetlevel; Baz loves being able to assist the homeless and those doing it tough.

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*.

Historic event to showcase national unity.

The “Still Others – Gathering as One Army” event in Melbourne will be one of the most significant occasions in the history of The Salvation Army in Australia. It will mark the official launch of the new Australia Territory, celebrating what The Salvation Army is and showcase its diversity as a movement which significantly impacts the lives of people right across our nation.

“I see this as an educational opportunity for our people as much as it is a celebratory and motivational opportunity,” Still Others coordinator Captain Lance Jeffrey said. “It has been noted that many people within our own organisation, let

alone those who have some awareness of who we are, have a very limited view or understanding of the rich diversity and breadth of the ministry The Salvation Army currently provides. I believe we have the opportunity to better equip, educate and motivate our people for greater impact in the communities in which they live and serve.”

Numerous events will be held from 27 November-3 December. This will include various national conferences, and inspirational mid-week gatherings on the Wednesday and Thursday nights with renowned speakers, panellists and artists. Workshops will be held on the Friday around The Salvation Army’s mission intentions of Caring for people, Creating faith pathways, Building healthy communities and Working for justice, which will educate, motivate and equip.

General Brian Peddle will officially launch the new Australia Territory on

Friday night, 30 November.

Throughout the next day, there will be a number of activities and events, including a family fun fair with children’s activities, a morning with the General, an expo, a retired officers luncheon with the General, Youth Block Party and the Principal’s Dinner. The day is planned to cater for all people across all generations, building the events around the two Christmas Gift Concerts held during the day and evening.

On the Sunday morning, people will be encouraged to gather for a prayer meeting prior to Commissioning, which will be held from 10.30am. A separate children’s program will be held. A Sending Out meeting and finale will be held at 2.30pm. This meeting will include all generations worshipping together, with children being catered for in the meeting.

Still Others will conclude on Monday 3 December with Officers’ Councils from 10am-noon.

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Still Others

Gathering as One Army


Presenting the General of The Salvation Army to launch the new Salvation Army in Australia

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Pass the Salt adds flavour to ministry.

Pass the Salt conversation-starter cards, created by The Salvation Army's Sydney-based Mission Support Team, have been a big hit since their launch mid-last year. **Lauren Martin** (above) shares how Pass the Salt has become an integral part of her ministry

I have to be honest – I'm always dubious about ministry tools. I'm a Christian who spends most of her time in secular company, so anything that seeks to artificially create opportunities for evangelism usually makes me feel slightly nauseous. When I was posted a pack of Pass the Salt cards, it was with caution that I opened them.

Would they be too obviously skewed towards Christian themes (awkward); or would they be those ice-breaker questions that everyone laughs at, but nobody really participates in (embarrassing)?

To my surprise and absolute pleasure, the Pass the Salt cards were neither. When I introduced them to my newly created Community Table – a small emerging faith community of women who have recently made decisions to follow or reconnect with Jesus – they were a huge hit.

In fact, in the first few weeks, God really used the cards to speak directly to the women who received them, as if the questions had been designed just for them, at that very moment, to speak into what they were struggling with. During one of our weekly meetings we did nothing but discuss one particular Pass the Salt card quote, its context in the Bible and its ramifications for us as women in a fallen world, trying to live out the love of Jesus.

A few months after we started using the cards, some members of our group were part of a bigger group for a women's weekend away. At the last minute, I threw the pack of Pass the Salt cards into my handbag. They were an absolute hit! I couldn't think of a better way to spend five hours in the car with Christian and non-Christian women, all being encouraged and challenged as we worked through the questions and issues posed.

Earlier this year, on Mother's Day, my primary school-aged children took me out to lunch. I again popped a handful of Pass the Salt cards into my handbag and got them out as we waited for our meal. I wondered if the content might be "too deep" for such young minds, but their responses blew me away. I found out that my daughter's favourite sound was the "sound of laughter", that my son believed he had "no annoying traits" (ha!) and that they both felt that a benefit of having faith was knowing that God is always with them and they are never alone.

I would recommend the Pass the Salt cards to everyone! We have a few on our counter at our Salvos Stores coffee ministry mornings each week, and a woman from our Community Table recently got some to start a new small group at her work. The only downside is that they've been so good, we've probably gone through all the cards! ●



pass the salt

Pass The Salt is a card game designed to start conversations that help people explore life, faith and Jesus, in an informal setting.

Each box contains 125 question cards, divided into five categories: Justice; Environment; Relationships; Self; and Ideas. The pack also includes 25 ice-breaker questions and a dice.

To find out more or to order the game, go to:
salvos.org.au/passthesalt

“Simple and direct.”

“I love it, it’s great. We had it at the kitchen table and I used it with my daughter, and I also used the Christmas edition with friends who dropped over during the festive season. I like how simple and direct it is; it doesn’t require overthinking. I bought a bunch of boxes when in Brisbane and the social centre leader wanted a list of questions. It’s great just having it around.”

– **Captain Steven Smith,**
National Head of Mission Resources

“Good conversation.”

“Getting good feedback: positive, engaging, leads to good conversation.”

– **Major Steven O’Neill,**
Pastoral and Personnel Director Aged Care Plus Support Services

“Everyone loves it.”

“We have a weekly ladies group that meets in a local café and we got them for that. Everyone loves it. It makes sure everyone has a chance to talk, gives a bit of depth to conversations, and the stories people tell often spark other conversations.”

– **Lieutenant Katrina Hindle,** Team Member – Orana, Wellington Corps

“Excellent ice-breaker.”

“I used it with the new area leadership team; an excellent ice-breaker.”

– **Lieut-Colonel David Godkin,**
Divisional Commander, Queensland

“Bringing people together.”

“We have used Pass the Salt in Western Australia, with eight corps ordering the cards. I introduced the officers to the cards at Christmas-time and they loved the simplicity of bringing people together to explore faith.”

– **Lieut-Colonel Chris Reid,** Divisional Commander, Western Australia

“Helpful and relevant.”

“We have found the Pass the Salt resource an extremely helpful and relevant mission tool to use. Whether it be in a corps or centre space or even at home with the family, the resource is a really effective way to get people connected and talking about real-life issues. Definitely one of the best resources that the Mission Department has ever produced, and that’s coming from someone who led the Mission Support Team for six years!”

– **Major Neil Clanfield,** Area Officer, Brisbane City, North and Sunshine Coast



WORDS
WENDY EVANS

A letter from the Founder ... to my grandmother!

When Gosford Salvationist Wendy Evans was sorting through her deceased aunt's belongings, she found a letter written by The Salvation Army's Founder, General William Booth, to her grandmother

MY GRANDMOTHER, ALICE SOPHIA Napper, was born in Robertson, NSW, in 1879. She was the eldest of eight children. The family attended Bowral Corps, where she gave her heart to the Lord at an early age and from where she entered The Salvation Army Officer Training College in Melbourne.

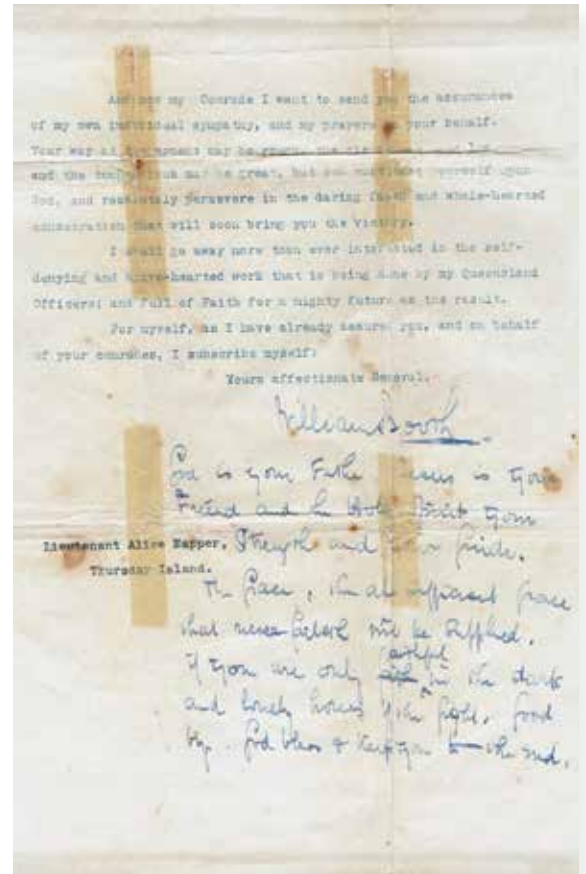
I vaguely remember someone talking about Nanna being on Thursday Island, but I can't say I heard much about it while she was alive. My youngest aunt died suddenly. She had all these papers in her keeping and I came across a letter William Booth had written to my grandmother. I was amazed because I had never heard about this letter before; my mother had never mentioned it to me.

Finding the letter prompted me to research more about my grandmother's officership. During May 1905, a congress was held in Brisbane, conducted by General William Booth. Because my grandmother, a lieutenant, was stationed



Above: After resigning from officership due to ill health, Alice Napper married Herbert Johnson.

Right: The second page of the letter (with a handwritten note) that General William Booth sent to Alice Napper when she was serving as a Salvation Army officer on Thursday Island off Queensland.



on Thursday Island, the distance to Brisbane made it impossible for her to attend. General Booth very graciously wrote to her, personally encouraging her to keep up the good fight and telling her of the wonderful public meetings where the power of God was evident and many people were convicted in their hearts, making their way to the mercy seat.

It is amazing that he was so concerned that she couldn't come to congress that he took that time to write. It was a fairly generic letter initially, that he would have written to all those who couldn't come, but then he'd handwritten a personal message at the bottom.

It read: "God is your Father, Jesus is your Friend and the Holy Spirit your Strength and Guide. The Grace, the all sufficient Grace that never faileth will be supplied, if you are only faithful in the dark and lonely hours of the fight. Good bye. God bless and keep you to the end."

Unfortunately, during her time on Thursday Island, my grandmother seemed to have been troubled with attacks of dengue fever. The last attack caused her to go home to NSW on sick leave, and in July 1907 she resigned her officership because of ill health.

I'm very proud. It's just astounding to think that she must have been such a strong purposeful woman to do what she did. Firstly to leave her home in Robertson and go to Melbourne [to training college], and then to travel up to Queensland for her first appointment and then on to Thursday Island. That's quite a remarkable thing to do at a young age and I feel very honoured to have her as my Nanna. I just wished I'd asked her more about it when she was alive. ●

As told to Lauren Martin, with excerpts taken from The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Historical Society newsletter, Under the Tricolour (June).

O1.

JONATHAN S. RAYMOND

SOCIAL HOLINESS:
THE COMPANY WE KEEP*Review: Fay Foster*

THROUGH PERSONAL experience, story, Wesleyan theology, and Scripture, Jonathan Raymond shares with his readers what social holiness is all about. We live out our lives of holiness

together. We need to press on, together, to love God and love others.

Throughout our lives, people come alongside. We need them. Mentors, both close up and from afar (perhaps through books, podcasts and other means) family, educators, co-workers and exemplars – real people, real encounters. The company we keep is the key to the kind of life we live: proximity, a desire to know and love God more, accountability, Bible study, prayer, support, doing life and mission together, having a real love for others.

And there will be distractions along the way. “The world is stuck in sin and the church is stuck in ‘stuff.’” How might we hunger and thirst for time with God in holiness and righteousness? How might we have a dynamic interactive relationship with Jesus, knowing him more? “The Holy Spirit breaks us with conviction and holy discontent, moves us to surrender and submission, shapes the clay of our lives to be functional and beautiful, and fills us to the brim with himself”. With the infilling of the Holy Spirit comes the power to love as God loves.

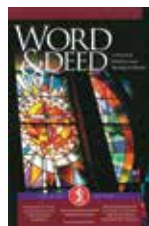
Raymond shares that social holiness is the dynamic, interpersonal expression of Christian community, the biblical holiness of God’s family. We need to let

our light shine so that others see our good work and glorify God the Father.

God’s Salvation Army is a means of grace compelled by the Trinidadian love of God. It continues to reach out to vulnerable others, in solidarity with other communities of faith around the world, animated in social holiness to the praise of God’s glory. Raymond shares the personal and social reality of the Spirit-filled life. We live like Jesus and for Jesus, in the company of others, participating in the loving mission of Jesus.

Social Holiness: The Company We Keep is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018), Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).

O2.

WORD & DEED:
A JOURNAL OF SALVATION ARMY
THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY*Review: Associate Professor Glen O'Brien*

WORD & DEED HAS BEEN IN publication for the past 20 years and the editors, Roger J. Green and Jonathan S. Raymond, are to be commended for their commitment to the journal.

This issue, *Vol. XX No. 2 (May 2018)*, has the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as its focus with three articles on that broad theme. Young Sun Kim provides an overview of Martin Luther’s doctrine of the “Priesthood of All Believers”, one of the distinctive and best-known features of Luther’s theology. Though he makes clear Luther’s grounding of priesthood in the baptismal identity of believers, he does not address the implications of this for the non-baptising Salvation Army’s appropriation of the Lutheran doctrine.

The sacramental theme is picked up, however, in Andy Miller III’s article, “Refreshing Salvation Army Ecclesiology”, in which he argues for a reinstatement of the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist in Salvation Army practice. He does this through a “thought experiment” that imagines what The Salvation Army would look like in 2027 if the sacraments were to be reinstated on Reformation Day, 31 October 2018.

Non-practice is not co-extensive with the life of the Army and was not adopted until 18 years into the movement’s life. William Booth left the question of the reinstatement of the sacraments an open one. Miller makes the ecumenical challenges for the existing stance clear and believes the Army would lose nothing of its unique identity, but only enhance its mission, by the adoption of the sacraments. The proposal is an intriguing one but I am left with some uncertainty about the Army’s readiness seriously to tackle the question at this stage in its history. Maybe one day.

In the third and final article, “Reformation 500: Here We Stand and the Matter of Culture”, Amy Reardon considers the Protestant Reformation as a “cultural revolution” that provided a place for the kind of individualism and autonomy in personal religion that ultimately gave rise to The Salvation Army.

These three articles are bookended by an interview with USA National Commander, Commissioner David Hudson, and a sermon on “The Incarnation of Mercy” by National Ambassador for Holiness, and *Word & Deed* editorial board member, Diane Ury. The articles in this slim volume are by no means specialist studies at the forefront of Reformation studies. They are, however, thoughtful pieces that are well worth reading as a set of helpful Salvationist perspectives on the Reformation Anniversary.

Word & Deed is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018), Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).



Words Mark Hadley

OI.

COUNTERPART

Channel: SBS On Demand

Time-slot: Streaming

Rating: M

COUNTERPART IS A 10-PART SERIES THAT has achieved a “100% Fresh” rating on the Rotten Tomatoes review aggregation site. In short, critics can’t find enough space for the good things they want to say. Set in a world much like our own, Academy Award-winner JK Simmons (above) plays Howard Silk, a low-level bureaucrat working for a United Nations agency in Berlin. Silk’s career has hit a dead-end. Despite 30 years of faithful service, he can’t get himself promoted beyond tedious office work. His personal life is also in a holding pattern. Six weeks earlier, his wife Emma was struck by a car and is now in a coma. The best life can afford him, it seems, is nightly vigils by her bed. That is, until the revelation of a lifetime occurs.

One day Howard is called into his supervisor’s office and introduced to ... himself. It seems that back in 1987 East German scientists were working on an experiment in the basement of his building that created a copy of Howard’s world. The histories of his world – Earth Alpha – and this new world – Earth Prime – have been steadily diverging. One has suffered a worldwide plague; the other invented the iPhone. The Howard Prime sitting across the table from Howard Alpha is no flunky, but an espionage officer with the highest clearance, who requires his counterpart’s help. Howard’s agency actually manages the border between these alternate realities. But Howard Alpha reports that his government is riven with factions, assassins are crossing the border in secret, and a mission is afoot that will change the future of both worlds.

Howard from our world is a mild and caring individual; “Other” Howard is a driven and dangerous man. Up until 1987 they were identical. Now, they are strangers to each other because of the choices they have made. Both began with a loving relationship, but Howard Alpha decided to marry Emma and make her the point of his life. Howard Prime chose to put

his career first, and eventually abandoned the same woman. One softened; the other hardened. One lost control for the sake of another; the other is in control, but out of relationship. As *Counterpart* progresses, we come to see what its creators, and the Bible, see as our most defining characteristic: the choices we make.

From supermarkets to sexuality, we live in a world where choice is king. Yet paradoxically society likes to maintain that choice can be separated from consequence. Jesus, on the other hand, suggests those decisions end up defining us: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come – sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery ... All these evils come from inside and defile a person” (Mark 7:20-23).

Those in favour of same-sex relationships regularly point to our biological makeup and insist that here, at least, there is no choice to be made. The Bible agrees that we are born with various predilections but, again, where we follow them is our responsibility. C.S. Lewis, writing as the tempter Screwtape, suggested that the Devil’s great task is always to find God’s “good” and wrestle it into inappropriate channels: “He made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden.” (C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, Letter IX, p.25).

It’s as though we start with the same raw materials as the “Howards” but choose to employ them differently. A love of children, employed in God’s way, can make great parents. Yet outside of his boundaries, it creates paedophiles. Service, applied to marriage, produces one sort of Howard. Service, devoted to self, produces the other. The engine of choice drives every moment of drama *Counterpart* produces. It will also determine the direction of our own lives, in this world and the next. ●



Words Mark Hadley

O2.

THE DARKEST MINDS

Rating: M (TBC)

Release date: 16 August

Hollywood is no stranger to dystopian films where teenage heroes are the only hope for humanity. *The Hunger Games*, *Insurgent* and *The Maze Runner* have all had their share of the box-office dollar. There have also been a fair number that suggest there are very few people teens can trust in taking hold of that hope – *Tomorrowland*, *The Giver* and *The Host* spring to mind. However, *The Darkest Minds*, the latest film to join this genre, might be the first to make adults the outright enemy.

The Darkest Minds is based on the best-selling teen fiction series by Alexandra Bracken. In a not-so-distant future a plague has killed 98 per cent of America's children. Rather than cherish the

remainder, though, the adults of the world have been taught to fear them: "The government wasn't afraid of what happened to the ones that didn't make it. They were afraid of us, because the ones that survived, changed."

Inexplicably, America's remaining children begin demonstrating supernatural powers. Just as hard to believe, the government decides to gather those who are left into concentration camps where they can be studied, controlled and, in some cases, carefully disposed of. The heroine of *The Darkest Minds* is Ruby Daly, played by Amandla Stenberg. Her parents are so scared by her transformation that they voluntarily surrender her. Ruby is driven to an isolation facility where she meets similarly apprehended children. Together they plan an escape, in order to seek out a place where they can finally be who they were meant to be.

The Darkest Minds' storyline considers teenage alienation and resisting an oppressive government, but its breathy love affair between Ruby and fellow runaway Liam (Harris Dickinson) is what really drives the plot. Yet *The Darkest Minds* is hardly breaking new ground in teenage romance when *Twilight* has already presented us

with a tortured love triangle between a girl, a werewolf and a vampire. What it does dial up, though, is a young adult's distrust of elders.

We live in an age where "Freedom!" is rapidly becoming the only mantra that matters. It's important to realise, though, that believing in a child's right to decide their own identity or direction is a relatively new thing, both in society and children's fiction. In the borderless 1960s, Maurice Sendak's classic *Where the Wild Things Are* still portrayed Max as a boy who realised his mother's boundaries were part of her love. In the 1950s, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* demonstrated the danger of giving children power without the prudence to wield it. Even Peter Pan's *Island of Lost Boys* was actually considered by author J.M Barrie to be an ultimately sad place, because it lacked the affection and guidance parents provide.

Each in their own way reflects the Bible's assertion that young minds need wisdom more than they need choice. Famously, it records the real-life disaster young king Rehoboam unleashed on Israel when he dispensed with the need for seasoned advice and relied on "... the young men who had grown up with him" instead. (1 Kings 12:8). In fact, the Bible goes one step further, describing the inappropriate empowerment of young minds as part of the punishment God will mete out on Judah, the nation that has rejected his wisdom: "I will make mere youths their officials; children will rule over them" (Isaiah 3:4).

This is not to say that young people can't exercise choice wisely; the Bible includes the names of more than can be easily listed here. But wisdom isn't acquired through being free to define our identity or our direction. Rather, it begins by submitting our heart's desires to those who know better, beginning with the elders God has placed over us, and ultimately our Father in Heaven. *The Darkest Minds* has set up merciless straw men that are hard to defend. Yet it would be a dark mind indeed that believed the teenager had nothing to learn. ●

Self Denial Appeal 2018 raises vital funds

SALVATION ARMY congregations around Australia have given more than \$3.2 million to the 2018 Self Denial Appeal, making possible physical and spiritual transformation around the world.

The Self Denial Appeal is The Salvation Army's largest contributor to both international community development and mission support. Sacrificial giving to the appeal over the years has made it possible for The Salvation Army to meet human need without discrimination and to preach the gospel.

Funds raised are used in community development projects through The Salvation Army International Development office. About 50 per cent of the funds will support The Salvation Army's evangelical mission.

"I want to thank everyone who has joined us in our desire to bring hope and transformation to all people everywhere through the sacrifice of the Self Denial Appeal in 2018," said Commissioner Floyd Tidd, National Commander.

"Around the world there are people who experience violence and fear, limited shelter and little food. Our dedication to sharing the love of Jesus by caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities, and working for justice is not limited by our Australian borders."

The theme of the 2018 campaign was "We Rise as One", based on the verses from 1 Corinthians 12:12, 26. Each week during the campaign, a personal video story from



^ Georgi's story from the Republic of Georgia was featured in one of the videos promoting the 2018 Self Denial Appeal.

a different country, and with a different emphasis, was presented at Salvation Army corps and centres around the nation. These stories included: Rise Up for Equality (Haiti), Rise Up for Youth (Republic of Georgia), Rise Up for Families (Indonesia), and Rise Up for Justice (Tanzania).

The focus of these powerful videos and accompanying printed stories was on financial

sacrifice – the sacrifice that can save a life, educate a child, transform a community and save a soul. Most importantly, donations to the Self Denial Appeal has enabled the Army to preach the good news of Jesus Christ in 130 countries and in 175 languages.

Donations are now being accepted for the 2019 Self Denial Appeal at selfdenial.info/donate.

PNG leaders of the future conquer Gold Coast marathon

EIGHT YOUNG PARTICIPANTS from Papua New Guinea successfully completed the Gold Coast marathon on 1 July as part of The Salvation Army's Hope and a Future program.

The participants – Eileen Pou, Tricina Furia, Laurel Darebo, Kimberly Mark, Joeken Kuriki, Garry Godfrey, Joe Iamo and Aika Raga – all completed the 42.2km course in under six hours.

Now in its fifth year, Hope and a Future gives young nationals from Papua New Guinea, identified as future leaders in their country, the opportunity to be mentored in leadership skills.

The program is modelled around four key pillars – faith, fitness, education and leadership.

The aim of the program is to help develop these young people into leaders in their church, community and future workplaces.

"Running a marathon has been a life-changing experience. It's taught me spiritually, mentally and physically to never give up," said one runner, Joe.

Those who have completed the program in previous years are active in their corps, with some leading youth ministries, worship groups, young adult activities and mentoring.

Some are studying various subjects, or completing secondary schooling so they can go on to tertiary studies. Others are showing those in their workplaces and communities, a

different way to live.

Aged Care Plus, Salvos Legal, the NSW and ACT Division and God's Sports Arena are the major sponsors for this program.

– **Simone Worthing**



^ Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd joined the runners, their mentors and other Salvo Striders team members, after the marathon.

Officers' kids enjoy their first-ever national camp

CHILDREN OF SALVATION ARMY officers from all over Australia recently took part in the first-ever national Officers' Kids Camp at The Collaroy Centre in Sydney.

The weekend, especially designed for officers' kids, or "OKs" as they are often referred to, featured plenty of games and activities in addition to various Bible-based talks on the theme "Uncensored – free to be me".

There was initially some nervousness from the campers, with the Eastern and Southern

territories of The Salvation Army coming together for the first time, but friendships blossomed throughout the weekend.

"The comment I heard more than any other, though, was that the officers' kids valued being with a bunch of other people who just 'get it,'" said Miranda Corps Officer, Captain Rebecca Gott, who was one of the leaders.

"We saw encounters with Jesus, decisions to walk away from stuff, breakthroughs, healing, and the love of God



^ Captain Rebecca Gott (left), who was one of the leaders, with two campers at the recent national OK Camp held at Collaroy in Sydney.

experienced and outpouring of the Spirit refreshed in lives – praise Jesus!"

A highlight was a question and answer session with a panel including Officers' Kids Camp

staff and the national leaders, Commissioners Tracey and Floyd Tidd, which used mobile technology, texts and paper to ask and respond to questions.

– Lauren Martin

Victorian women's gathering with a difference

THE MAGNIFICENT DANDENONG Ranges in Victoria provided the perfect backdrop for the 2018 Social Women's Camp, which gave a number of women a rejuvenating break from their "hurting and broken" lives.

The camp involved participants from a combination of the Brunswick, Reservoir, and Sunshine Corps and the Bridgehaven Recovery Services Centre in Melbourne, together with some women from Recovery Church in Hobart.

"It was such a privilege to treat some of our city's most marginalised, vulnerable and dispossessed ladies to a fantastic, fun-filled few days away, set in beautiful surrounds," said Captain Meg Dale, Associate Corps Officer, Brunswick Corps and Community Programs.

Simply by "showing kindness in the name of Jesus", the leadership team comprising Envoy Margaret Coombridge,

Lieutenant Erin Mains, Captain Kate Baudinette, Auxiliary-Lieutenant Alison Templar, Lieutenant Phuong Reynolds, Envoy Keitha Marsh and Captain Dale, managed to spontaneously create and nurture a loving, kind, compassionate, inclusive community throughout the weekend.

"Many of the women openly commented on the fact that they felt absolutely comfortable being themselves – and many for the first time ever!" said Captain Dale.

Participants took part in activities such as archery, bush-walking and candle making, were treated to a professional makeover, toasted marshmallows over a late-night campfire, had picnic lunches and took part in daily devotions. A closing worship session, led by Captain Jo Brookshaw, was a meaningful time.

– Lauren Martin



^ The 2018 Social Women's Camp involved participants from a combination of the Brunswick, Reservoir, and Sunshine Corps in Melbourne, together with Recovery Church and Bridgehaven Recovery Services Centre.

Tiny house to make a big impact in Maroubra

▼ THE DONATION OF A “TINY house” has allowed Eastern Beaches Corps to offer some respite to people struggling with homelessness in the Maroubra area of Sydney.

Eastern Beaches Corps Officer, Lieutenant Matthew Gluyas, said the tiny house will give locals who are experiencing homelessness a safe, warm space for a night or two while volunteers and Salvation Army workers journey with them towards their accommodation and life goals.

Grant Emans, from Designer Eco Tiny Homes in Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast, donated the tiny house after meeting with Lieut Gluyas.

“For years my wife and my kids, especially when winter



^ Lieutenant Matthew Gluyas from Eastern Beaches Salvos (left) with Grant Emans from Designer Eco Tiny Homes outside a tiny home like the one the company donated to The Salvation Army.

approached, we would be praying at dinner, ‘thank you for the meal and thanks for our house’, and we would think of those on the streets doing it tough,” Grant said. “Then we felt God say to us, ‘You make tiny houses Grant, you should give one away. So we have!’”

The tiny house is no bigger than a few metres long and a couple of metres wide. Yet it contains all the essentials – a

full bathroom with a shower, toilet and sink, a bed, a washer and dryer, and a small bench. There is no kitchen because Eastern Beaches Salvos provides community meals most days of the week.

“We don’t want people to eat alone; the whole idea is to bring people into community,” said Lieut Gluyas.

“This is going to give many people dignity. A place that is

safe and warm, and they are going to find community and a place to belong as well. It’s going to be a blessing to many.”

The Salvation Army’s base in Maroubra connects with many from the Eastern Suburbs homeless community, along with other marginalised and socially isolated people at its regular breakfast and lunch services and weekly Hope Chapel.

– Lauren Martin

Salvation Army marks modern slavery milestone

▼ THE SALVATION ARMY IS gearing up to support the journey of modern slavery legislation through Federal Parliament.

The Federal Government introduced the legislation last month after almost a decade of work by The Salvation Army and partners in the Freedom Network.

“We have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone,” said

Heather Moore, The Salvation Army Freedom Partnership’s National Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, who is based in Canberra.

“We are proud to have played a leading role in the fight against modern slavery and in the development of this crucial legislation.”

The bill includes a modern slavery reporting requirement, which will require

approximately 3000 large businesses and other entities to publish annual statements on their actions to address modern slavery in their supply chains and operations.

The reporting requirement includes several elements The Salvation Army and its coalition partners recommended throughout last year’s Modern Slavery Act Inquiry, including: a publicly accessible,

government-funded repository for statements; mandatory reporting criteria with effectiveness measures; and extensive guidance and support for reporting bodies.

“Together, these components will begin to facilitate greater transparency, accountability, and a common understanding of what defines success,” Ms Moore said.

– Simone Worthing

Tradition and technology a joyful mix @4pm

MELBOURNESALVOS@4PM, a new Sunday afternoon church service held at Waverley Temple Corps, started as a way to connect with older Salvationists who miss the traditional style of worship.

The service is held on the first Sunday of the month, from February to November, offering



^ Livestreaming has become the new “norm” for the popular MelbourneSALVOS@4pm.

a traditional style of worship supported by a band, songster brigade or vocalist, with songs from the songbook, a chorus and testimony time, clapping, timbrels and even occasional flag waving.

More than 100 people now attend the monthly meeting. However, no one expected it to have an international reach, with more than 1400 people around the world often joining them in worship – the result of combining tradition with technology and livestreaming their meetings on their recently launched MelbourneSALVOS@4PM Facebook page.

“Our viewers now include

those separated by distance, illness or disability, who say they are being impacted and drawn closer to God,” said bandmaster Brian Davies.

“What a privilege to have such a ministry, far greater than we could have ever imagined. Glory to God!”

Lieut-Colonel Frank Daniels says the first MelbourneSALVOS@4pm meeting, which he describes as “both devotional and missional”, was held just over one year ago.

“The Army caters for youth by having meetings with music they relate to – and rightly so. However, some of our older Salvationists discussed

how they missed the form of worship they’d grown up with, particularly the theology and devotional nature of our older songs and music,” he explained.

“They had this sense that the spiritual heritage, through the words and music of the Army, has been lost for them.

“It’s important to acknowledge that while we are living in an ever-changing society, our community is made up of people of all ages. We also need to be relevant to our older members, who need to have their faith nurtured as well.”

The Facebook livestream begins at 3.45pm (AEST) on the first Sunday of each month. – Faye Michelson

Restoring dignity and hope to Katherine’s homeless

THE TOWN OF KATHERINE IN the Northern Territory has one of the highest rates of homelessness in Australia. So it is no surprise that a new Salvation Army centre, the Katherine Doorways Hub, has become one of the town’s busiest places in the first months of operation.

The Hub, which opened in October 2017, provides a safe and inclusive space, with access to showers, washing machines, toilets, cold water and food.

“The Hub is also a one-stop-shop where a person can access a whole range of local Katherine services, including social supports, legal, financial counselling, alcohol and other drug rehabilitation and more,”

said Harley Dannatt, Katherine Doorways Hub Coordinator.

“After we opened, daily numbers just kept going up. We now see between 70 and 100 people come through each day.

“Some people come every day for breakfast or a shower. We also have new people dropping in all the time, which is great because it means word is spreading that the Hub is a place where you can get help if you are doing it tough.

“There are lots of people in Katherine sleeping in bush camps; we have severe housing shortages and overcrowding in houses. Most people accessing the Hub are doing it rough in some way.”



^ Katherine Doorways Hub staff and volunteers serve soup, hot drinks and breakfast to those doing it tough in the town, and beyond.

In November 2017 the Hub started serving soup five days a week. The catering department at Katherine District Hospital makes and donates the soup each day. The soup is served with bread donated by Brumby’s Bakery and collected by volunteers.

The Hub is a pilot program funded through the Homelessness Innovation Fund, which is a project of the Northern Territory Government Department of Housing and Community Development.

– Simone Worthing

Mobile Mission makes headlines in rural NSW

THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE read: “Salvation Army band brings joy to Gilgandra hymnfest”, which summed up the Mobile Mission’s recent tour of NSW’s Central West.

The generous media coverage continued when a television camera captured the Mobile Mission’s program at Dubbo’s main-street rotunda.

The 10-day tour continued an 18-year tradition of Salvo musicians taking the Gospel in word, music and song to many parts of rural Australia.

At Gilgandra, 300 people turned out for the mission-led Sunday morning praise and worship service. This number was boosted when the local churches opted to forgo their own meetings for a combined gathering in the shire hall.

This was an answer to prayer

shared by one local identity who had prayed for many months that the Holy Spirit would bring about unity among Gilgandra’s churches.

Many instances of blessings given and received were shared as the result of visits to rest homes, street and indoor performances and Sunday afternoon hymnfests.

With the state’s Central West in the grip of drought, prayer was offered during the visit and action was also taken when the mission handed a sizeable donation to The Salvation Army’s Dubbo-based rural chaplains, Majors Rusty and Di Lawson, to be spent on drought relief.

Struggling farming families in town paused to listen and watch band and timbrel recitals, some voicing their appreciation for the opportunity to take their



▲ The Salvation Army Mobile Mission band during one of its street performances during the NSW Central West visit.

minds off home issues.

Local artists joined with mission groups at some of the performances, including Gilgandra’s Coo-ee Choir, named in recognition of the town’s coo-ee call when locals marched on a recruitment drive to Sydney for World War One.

While gathered around a caravan park campfire at the start of the campaign, the Mobile Mission leadership

urged the team members to follow the example of Jesus by offering encouragement to the locals who are experiencing much personal hardship brought on by many months of no rain.

Feedback during and after the campaign indicated a successful sowing of seed for the Lord to water in his time. There was a unanimous feeling that God had blessed the mission.

– Kevin Elsley

Moneycare counsellor picks up prestigious award



▲ Susan Cook, who received the prestigious Jan Pentland prize.

THE SALVATION ARMY’S SUSAN Cook, Financial Counsellor with Moneycare Queensland in Cairns, was recently awarded the prestigious Jan Pentland prize at the National Financial Counselling Australia conference in Hobart.

Susan, who has served as the Problem Gambling Financial Counsellor for The Salvation Army since September 2013, was awarded the prize in recognition of her outstanding work in financial counselling, community development and financial community education.

“Susan was Australia’s first Indigenous financial counsellor and has been working in the financial counselling industry since 1996,” said Tony Devlin, Australia Eastern Territorial Manager, Moneycare.

“She is now a great mentor and role model, not only for other Indigenous financial counsellors, but for all financial counsellors. She has faced her own health issues over the years and has fought on and achieved much, despite the challenges.

Susan says she loves the work she does and feels blessed to

have been nominated for, and received, the prize.

“I see a wide range of people of all ages from different cultures and backgrounds,” Susan said. “Some are working, some are unemployed. Some have accommodation, others are homeless. I also see people referred to us from hospital, from housing agencies ... gambling clients, and a wide range of people with addictions.

“We support them all in their time of crisis, and we give them hope.”

– Simone Worthing

Enrolments

DANDENONG CORPS VIC



CAPTAIN CLAIRE EMERTON, CORPS OFFICER, enrolled Albuafaz Rastineh Tanha, Marrou Kutey and Nyamel Kutey as junior soldiers on 24 June. Pictured from left are Lieutenant Elizabeth Kang, Big Bud Masoud Mortazavi, Albuafaz Rastineh Tanha, Big Bud Jim Cooper, Marrou Kutey, Big Bud Elizabeth Luk, Nyamel Kutey and Captain Claire Emerton.

ALICE SPRINGS CORPS NT



CAPTAIN STUART MCGIFFORD, CORPS officer, enrolled seven junior soldiers on 17 June. Pictured from left are Malinda, Ruby, Aaliyah, Lachlan, Liam (behind), and Telayla. Sarah is not pictured. Youth and Children's Pastor Thea Morgan is on the right. Tom is the flagbearer.

DELACOMBE CORPS SA



CORPS OFFICER, CAPTAIN CRAIG WOOD, enrolled Jamie and Tanya Stephens as senior soldiers on Sunday 24 June. Pictured above, front row left to right, are Captain Bronwyn Wood, Tanya Stephens, Jamie Stephens, Recruiting Sergeant Barbara Tippett. Back row left to right: Captain Craig Wood, flagbearer Brenton Barry, and Barry Tippett.

GUNNEDAH CORPS NSW



MAJOR NORM BECKETT, AREA OFFICER, enrolled Melissa Knox as a senior soldier on Sunday 1 July. He also accepted six adherents: Christine Shelley, David Draper, Benjamin Southwell, Lorraine Hemi, Peter Anderson and Janette Trindall. Captain Nathan Hodges, Divisional Youth Secretary, enrolled Chloe Day as a junior soldier on 20 May.

NAMBOUR CORPS QLD



ENVOY DANIEL WAYMAN ENROLLED FOUR junior soldiers on 17 June. Pictured above, from left, are the new junior soldiers – Caruso, Tanisha, Evangeline and Jordan. Standing behind them are the junior soldier teachers – Rosemary, Jenny, and Coreena. Bob Smyth is the flagbearer.

PARRAMATTA CORPS NSW



MAJOR SHARON SANDERCOCK-BROWN, Corps Officer, enrolled Ella Ainsworth, Jemma Battersby and Zachary Rudd (pictured above with their Big Buds) as junior soldiers on Sunday 17 June. Congratulations to these young people for making their promises to Jesus and claimed him as their friend and Saviour.

Netherlands king opens Salvation Army facility in Amsterdam

▼ KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER opened De Noordkaap [The North Cape], a ground-breaking Salvation Army facility in the capital, last month.

The King officially opened this unique expression of Salvation Army ministry, then moved around the site talking to clients, volunteers, employees and neighbours.

The 13-storey former office building has been refurbished into what is now the largest Salvation Army centre in the Netherlands.

De Noordkaap features a



^ King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands opened De Noordkaap [The North Cape], last month.

combination of multiple forms of professional healthcare and social work. It offers assisted living to former clients from homeless shelters and also families in crisis situations, so they can gain independence.

A ground-floor community

centre and a second-hand clothing store ensure that the facility is also a resource for the local community.

A scouting group and children's choir are among numerous activities already launched.

Russian camp scores goal for women

▼ AS PART OF A PROGRAM LINKED to the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia last month, a Salvation Army camp brought together more than 50 men from across the country just prior to this international event.

The weekend in Moscow took the theme "Mission Possible" and provided opportunity to learn and discuss what it is to be Christian men in the 21st century.

Major Mike Stannett, The Salvation Army's European Affairs Officer and Regional Leader, France and Belgium Territory, was guest speaker for the event. The main focus was on attitudes towards women.

Playing on the *Mission Impossible* film title, the question was asked: Is it possible to get men and boys to change their



^ Men at the camp, held in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup in Russia, show their support for proactively promoting women's rights.

behaviour towards women? Topics covered included: men paying for sex, pornography, domestic violence and rape.

Major Stannett led the discussions and also took the

men through the "Barbershop" toolbox of resource materials designed to encourage men and boys to examine their attitudes as part of a strategy to reduce abuse of women and girls.

Army's work to be officially recognised in Burkina Faso

▼ OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF The Salvation Army's work in the West African country of Burkina Faso has been approved by then-General André Cox, making it the 130th country in which the Army has a legally and officially recognised ministry.

This approval follows consultation with The Salvation Army's International Management Council, and a long period of preparation and exploratory work.

The official opening, under the leadership of Commissioners Benjamin and Grace Mnyampi (International Secretary for Africa, and Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministries), took place in the country's capital, Ouagadougou last month.

Included in the weekend's program were men's and women's rallies, a youth concert and an officers' meeting.

Captains André and Fatouma Togo, officers from Mali, are leading the work in Burkina Faso, including a corps in Ouagadougou.

The captains were trained in the Democratic Republic of Congo Territory, and have served there and in Zimbabwe prior to being appointed to Burkina Faso.

In a country whose motto is "Unity – Progress – Justice", The Salvation Army prays that its ministry will contribute to those aims in the years of service ahead.

World leaders celebrate 110 years with Koreans

THEN-GENERAL ANDRÉ COX and Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women's Ministries, recently led celebrations for the 110th anniversary of The Salvation Army in Korea.

As well as spending time in Korea leading meetings and visiting Salvation Army programs, the international leaders also travelled to the nations of Mongolia and Cambodia, which are also part of the Korea Territory.

During their time in Korea, the world leaders spent time at the training college, led the Sunday holiness meeting at Kwachun Corps, spoke at divisional rallies and visited the Army's Doori Home for Single Mothers and the Seoul Southview Children's Home.

The General also enrolled 113 junior soldiers and led officers' councils for 800 officers.

North Korea was mentioned at a press conference where General Cox shared his

experiences of visiting the country twice through his involvement with a yogurt factory set up by The Salvation Army.

The General emphasised the importance of humanitarian aid for children and the elderly and told reporters he believed that "in our generation, North Korea will be opened up" and that, when this happens, "the international Salvation Army will mobilise to support North Korea".

At a meal with church leaders, the General introduced and shared international Army ministries and spoke of the importance of ecumenical cooperation.

In Mongolia, the international leaders met the Chairman of the National Assembly, Mr Nyamaagiin Enkhbold, who expressed his sincere appreciation for The Salvation Army's work in Mongolia, particularly with children.



△ General André Cox holds a baby during his visit to the Army's home for single mothers and children in Korea.

An opportunity to share the message even further was realised when the General, Commissioner Cox and Territorial Commander

Commissioner Kim, Pil-soo were invited to the local UBS TV station for an interview, which was recorded and broadcast on Sunday TV.

International Secretary addresses EU Parliament

COMMISSIONER BIRGITTE Brekke-Clifton, The Salvation Army's International Secretary for Programme Resources, spoke at the European Union (EU) Parliament to discuss the EU's Pillar of Social Rights and the Role of Churches and Religions.

Commissioner Brekke-Clifton said that The Salvation Army welcomes the refocus of the EU to initiate a new social



△ International Secretary, Commissioner Birgitte Brekke-Clifton (right), spoke recently at the EU Parliament.

vision for Europe to address poverty and social injustice.

However, she outlined some of the new social pillar's shortcomings, especially in the lack of provision for undocumented

migrants/asylum seekers and the lack of accountability for member states in tackling child poverty and homelessness.

Finally, addressing the parliament and its legislative role, she

mentioned the ongoing decisions on the EU budget, and the importance that it will have in financing projects promoting social inclusion.

Commissioner Brekke-Clifton concluded her presentation by linking the Social Pillar to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, to help implementation of the pillar and the measurement of its effectiveness.

The Army's EU Affairs Office believes that The Salvation Army in Europe, both at corps and social services levels, must address these issues, meeting the challenges and opportunities by being able to adapt to the social needs of 21st-century Europe.

LORRAINNE O'BRIEN



LORRAINNE JOY O'BRIEN was promoted to glory in Port Macquarie, NSW, on 14 March, aged 72

years. Major Heather Unicomb led a thanksgiving service at Port Macquarie Corps, with corps tributes by her sister, Glenda, husband Les O'Brien, corps representative Graeme Lucas and other family members.

Lorraine was the second daughter of Herb and Doris Begbie. She attended the Thornbury Corps in Melbourne's north with her family and actively participated in the various corps sections. Following her graduation from the Northcote Business College, Lorraine worked as a shorthand typist at various companies and, in her quiet way, Lorraine's influence and witness resulted in some of her work colleagues coming to faith.

Lorraine married Leslie O'Brien in April 1967 and transferred to the Briar Hill (now Greensborough) Corps in Melbourne. In 1971, Les and Lorraine commenced a term as lay workers for The Salvation Army in Papua New Guinea, serving in Port Moresby, Sogeri and Lae.

Following their return to Australia, sons Raymond and David were born. Lorraine and Les transferred to the Macleod Corps in Melbourne and it was here that Lorraine was encouraged to teach religious instruction in the local school, a ministry that she came to enjoy over a number of years.

After spending some time in the mid-north NSW town of Port Macquarie on holidays, they moved there permanently and became active members of the corps. Lorraine's role on the pastoral care team was perhaps her most influential ministry as she quietly came alongside folk showing the love of Jesus in her very demeanour, not to mention the cakes, biscuits and scones that accompanied her visits.

Her caring was not confined to the older members of the corps but she took a great interest in the youth and children and kept in touch with them in various ways. Her joy and love of the Lord and her faith was never more evident than in recent years when she battled with motor neurone disease. She chose to make the most of the time she had left with and looked forward to meeting the Lord she loved and served.

LILIAN MEABY



MAJOR LILIAN MEABY WAS promoted to glory on 5 July, aged 85. The funeral service for Major Meaby, conducted

by Lieutenant Sarah Innes, was held on 9 July at Mount Barker Corps, South Australia.

Lilian was born in Royton, England on 8 October, 1932, to John and Emily Wilson. She was one of six children and the eldest girl.

Lilian married Frank on 9 October, 1954. As they loved adventure, Lilian and Frank migrated to Australia in 1959 as "10 pound Poms" seeking a new life. They settled in Elizabeth, South Australia, and after a short time felt called by God into The Salvation Army. Lilian resigned from her job as a secretary for Elders Rural in Adelaide and she and Frank responded to the call to officership. They entered the Officer Training College in Melbourne in March 1962 from the Elizabeth Corp in Adelaide as part of the *Servants of Christ* session.

While at training college they were blessed with their first child, daughter Carol. After being commissioned in January 1964, they commenced 31 years of active service including corps appointments in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. Their son Peter was born in 1965, completing their family of four. From 1977, Lilian and Frank were appointed in management

roles in social service centres in Mount Barker, Darwin, Barrington/Ashfield and Devonport, Tasmania, and Eden Park, South Australia.

Lilian and Frank retired on 1 June, 1994. Throughout their officership, Lilian and Frank were known for their caring and attentive ministry to all those with whom they came in contact. Complementing each other's gifts and abilities, they were a great team. In retirement they were officers/soldiers at Mount Barker Corps, as well as taking an appointment to Alice Springs for a few months in the early years of their retirement. They enjoyed many years of travel together.

As Frank's health declined in the later years, Lilian devotedly nursed him until his promotion to glory in 2012.

Lilian continued to enjoy spending time with the Wundalea Community Group where she and Frank had shared many special times together. She also enjoyed her social club on a Thursday with her friends at Riverbank Village. She loved to knit, making many toys to give away, doing craft work, tending her garden and was a faithful soldier of the Mount Barker Corps.

Most of all, Lilian enjoyed precious moments with her family. She was a proud mother, grandmother and, more recently, great-grandmother. She is survived by Carol and Andrew, Peter, grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Tribute reports.

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

The editorial team at *Others* will make every effort, but cannot guarantee, to print the report in the next available issue of the magazine.

About people

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 1 July

Major Lance **Sharp** – Chaplain, SalvoCare Eastern Gateways, State Social Command, Victoria. Major Vicky **McMahon** – Chaplain, Out of Home Care, Victoria, State Social Command, Victoria.

Effective 9 July

Major Angela **Eyles**, Mission Resources department – THQ Redfern (pro-tem).

Effective 16 July

Captain Amanda **Ross** – Manager, Canberra Recovery Services Centre, Territorial Social Program Department, AUE (change of title); Captain Daniel **Ross** – Manager, Canberra Recovery Services Centre, Territorial Social Program Department, AUE (change of title).

Effective 25 July

Major Alan **Meredith** – Executive Officer, Office of the National Chief Secretary (concurrent appointment moving to fulltime).

Effective 29 July

Auxiliary-Lieutenant David **Delany** – Assistant Corps Officer, Fairfield City Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 30 July

Captain Lynn **Boughton** – Chaplain, Karratha Refuge (Women and Children), Western Australia Division (second appointment – rescinding appointment as assistant manager); Major Colin **Young** – Emergency Services Coordinator, NSW/ACT Strategic Disaster Management, Social Program Dept (AUE).

Effective 1 September

Major Jeanette **Stoltenberg** – Mission director, The Collaroy Centre, Office of the Secretary for Business, additional appointment (pro-tem); Major Lauriee **Arthur** – RSDS Senior Representative Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane; Major Paul **Arthur** – Chaplain, South East Queensland, Employment

Plus; Major Garry **Johnson** – RSDS Senior Representative, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville; Captain Joanne **Williams** – Corps Officer, Eastern Beaches Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Lieutenant Jacqueline **Gluyas** – Mission leader, Oran Park to Badgery's Creek Integrated Faith Expression, NSW/ACT Division; Lieutenant Matthew **Gluyas** – Mission leader, Oran Park to Badgery's Creek Integrated Faith Expression, NSW/ACT Division.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Athol **Jackson**, of his mother, Ethel Mills, on 6 June; Major Trevor **Wilson** (Ret) of his father on 17 June; Captain Kevin **Lumb**, of his mother, Winifred Lumb, on 19 June; Major Brenda **Stace**, of her father, Mervyn Lambert, on 20 June; Major Jennifer Corkery of her father; Major Kaylene **Fyfe** (IHQ) and Lieutenant Belinda **Saunders** of their father on 29 June.

Engagement calendar

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD (NATIONAL LEADERS)

Canberra – Commissioning of Envoy Roz Edwards.
Geelong Tues 7 August – Brengle 2018 Opening Session, Geelong.
Tasmania Sat 11 August-Sun 12 August MSS weekend, Burnie Corps.
Zambia Wed 22 August-Tues 28 August – Territorial Congress with MSB.

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

Adelaide Mon 30 July-Thurs 2 August – South Australia/Northern Territory Officers' Fellowship.
Geelong Tues 7 August – Brengle 2018 Opening Session, Geelong.
Victoria Fri 17- Sun 19 August (Mark only) – 2018 Victoria Men's Retreat, Phillip Island, Vic.
Furlough Mon 27 August-Fri 7 September (excluding 28-29 Aug).
28-29 August – Host visit of International Secretary for South Pacific and East Asia, Sydney.
29 August – Red Shield Appeal event "Into the Night", Sydney.

WORDS
MELISSA BERRY

An Army fights with me.

MY NAME IS MELISSA AND I AM NOT MY past. I had a wonderful childhood and was a bubbly, outgoing, friendly child who got good grades in school.

Then I began being bullied, developed depression and started to self-harm. I started high school and made a lot of new friends. The bullying decreased, but the depression continued. In Year 10, I started going to parties, drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes. I was soon introduced to marijuana. At 15, I was at a party, drunk and stoned. I was raped. I did not tell my parents or press charges, as I blamed myself.

My depression grew worse, as did self-harming, binge drinking and taking drugs. I used these as coping mechanisms to mask the pain I was feeling. I dropped out of school, and every weekend was filled with parties, alcohol and drugs. I started my first serious relationship, where I was introduced to drugs like ecstasy and speed.

At 18 I fell pregnant and in 2008 my son was born. He was 11 months old when I left his father and became a single mum. By the age of 23, I was using the drug ice. I ended up in a relationship with a guy and soon we were selling drugs and had the police raiding our home. My son went to live with my parents permanently.



Above: Melissa told an audience at the Red Shield Appeal launch in Brisbane that The Salvation Army “loved her back to life”.

It was then that I started using ice every day to cope with the pain. My partner and I ended up homeless, and he started to become verbally, emotionally, mentally and physically abusive. I just used more drugs to cope. We were arrested for trafficking drugs. The abuse got worse, my drug habit got worse and we were sent to prison on a parole violation.

Within 24 hours of release, I was back using ice and selling drugs. I ended up in another drug-fuelled, abusive relationship and ended up back in jail. Once released, I started driving while disqualified and got caught. I was arrested again and was going to jail. This was my rock bottom, and I tried to take my own life while in the watch-house. Thankfully, I was found and taken to hospital.

I was granted a place at Moonyah (The Salvation Army’s Recovery Services centre) and arrived there on 5 December 2016, completely broken.

The Salvation Army began to love me back to life. Every Sunday, I attended church at God’s Sports Arena, looking for some hope. It was then that I found a connection with my loving God. Embracing faith filled the void that had ruled my existence. All that brokenness began to heal, and I began to pray every day. I also started to build a wonderful

support network inside The Salvation Army – people who believed in me and supported me. I started to rebuild relationships with my family and friends. I was a different woman, however, I knew that I would still be going to prison. All I could do was pray.

I attended court, charged with drug offences. My parents and Salvation Army supporters were there with me, with prison the expected outcome. The judge, however, agreed that, with all the hard work I had put into turning my life around and with the support I had from my family and The Salvation Army, I posed no threat to society. I was sentenced to three years with immediate parole. I had been given a second chance.

I graduated from the Moonyah Bridge Program in August 2017. Many battles have been fought and won, but the war still rages. I no longer do life alone, though, an Army fights with me.

My son now lives with me, he has started a new school and we have begun a new life. He has his mum back. The Salvation Army saved my life. ●



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