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'Grey Army' on front line of mission on the NSW South Coast

■ OPINION

Soldier's Covenant the answer to 'Do I do, or do I don't?' question

■ SALVATION STORY

'I learned that God is doing for me what I could not do myself'

■ FEATURE

What does an authentic Gen-Z focused faith community look like?

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No age limit in God's workforce.

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON

MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, I INTERVIEWED a friend for a feature article I was writing for a magazine. This friend, an Australian, was working in a ministry that had seen her spend the best part of her adult years living on the other side of the world from her homeland.

I can't recall in detail too much of what she told me that day, but there was one part of our interview that I remember vividly, as though our conversation was just yesterday. I asked her when it came time to retire, would she remain in the country where she had spent decades in ministry, or would she take the opportunity to return to Australia.

Without hesitation, and accompanied by a look that carried the implication I had just asked a ridiculous question, my friend went on to explain that she had never read the word 'retire' in the Bible. "I've read many stories about people who died while still labouring for the Lord," she added, "but I've never read in the Bible of people who spent the latter years of their life in retirement."

It is a salient point that she makes; admittedly, the way our society is structured does allow for a time in our lives when we officially cease employment, but for many of us, and particularly Christians, it doesn't mean that we cease from our labours.

It's this principle that is the focus of one of our feature stories in this issue of *Others*. The Front Desk ministry at Wollongong Corps, on the NSW South Coast, is a strategic cog in Salvation Army ministry in the city. In many instances the people involved in this ministry are the first point of communication for the community members who access the Army's many

services in Wollongong. "This team of retirees," says our story, "provides the 'people power' to engage six hours a day, five days a week with needy community members who call at the corps for assistance."

The Bible, too, regularly affirms the value of older people. In the book of Job we read: "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?" (Job 12:12). Scripture also highlights our responsibility to continue in our labours regardless of our advancing years. "Now that I am old and my hair is grey, don't leave me, God," the psalmist writes. "I must tell the next generation about your power and greatness" (Psalm 71:18).

Jada Pryor, in an article at patheos.com, writes, "There is a common belief that we gradually become less useful as we grow older. That this world is made for the young. Perhaps that is so. But we are not of this world. When we live our lives for God, our journey here does not end until we take our final breath."

Pryor goes on to consider that the likes of Noah, Moses and Abraham – to name just a few great biblical examples – experienced some of their most remarkable adventures at a time when most people would be settling into retirement.

The lesson, she says, is that God can and will use you at any stage of your life. There is no age limit on those he calls to work with him. ●

Scott Simpson is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief.





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A group of runners from PNG, accompanied by their mentors, have competed in the Gold Coast Marathon as part of The Salvation Army Hope and a Future program. Photo: Kian Worthing



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

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


 Tracey Tidd

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

 Belinda Spicer



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

 Brian Peddle

“Brilliant! Love the good news from around Australia.”

 Peter Hobbs

Collaboration is the key.

Every Salvo has a part to play in achieving the mission

WORDS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

WE HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED IN THE past few weeks by the warmth of welcome and appreciate the many expressions of commitment to the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army here in Australia.

Like any large organisation, it is important that every individual plays his or her part and collaborates to achieve the mission. None of us can achieve the mission of The Salvation Army on our own. In fact, our collaboration and interdependence should be a testimony to God as our centre, leader and constant presence.

A Biblical metaphor is “the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). We are all uniquely shaped and gifted by God to contribute to the life of the ‘body’. Every person, with their spiritual gifts, skills, passion, personality and experience, joins with the contribution of others to make a healthy and productive ‘body’. All have a part to play, all are needed, and all are dependent on each other. If one part fails, then the others are affected. If one part is successful, the others rejoice.

As part of the global development of governance in The Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle has issued new and individualised descriptions of responsibilities to territorial leaders around the world. This is a significant development and redefines the responsibilities that are assigned to a territory’s leadership team. In Australia, this applies to the Territorial Commander (TC – Robert), Territorial President of Women’s Ministries (TPWM – Janine),

Chief Secretary (CS – Colonel Mark Campbell) and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries (TSWM – Colonel Julie Campbell).

In summary, the TC is the chair of the board and responsible for the good governance of the territory. The TC and TPWM are jointly responsible for the spiritual leadership of the territory. Janine is also a director on the board and the advocate for women. Mark is responsible for the operational management of the territory, while Julie assists Janine in advocacy for women with an emphasis on gender equity. And Julie and Mark, in their roles, assist us with the spiritual leadership of the territory.

While each of these responsibilities is individually defined, there is significant interdependence; therefore, a close working relationship will be critical. We and the Campbells are committed to the responsibilities that have been assigned and will work together under God’s grace to provide God-honouring leadership to the Australia Territory.

We also thank every Salvo for their dedicated contribution to the mission. As we do our part, work together and rely on God’s leadership and power, we will see the mission of The Salvation Army fulfilled. God bless you. ●

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



Aussie officers around the world – Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

In Global Focus this year, *Others* is profiling the work of some of the Australian officers and personnel serving around the world. This month, we look at the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory, where Colonels Rodney and Wendy Walters are the territorial leaders. Another Australian officer, Major Winsome Mason, also serves in the territory, as Secretary for Program. Colonel Rodney Walters, Territorial Commander, shares some reflections ...

Wendy and I have now been leaders of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory for more than 18 months. These have been incredible months of cultural exchange, multi-religious awareness and political tension on many fronts. We have seen the full extreme of wealth and higher education to poverty and no education, all found within the three countries in which we, with our fantastic officers, soldiers and employees, serve in the name of Jesus.

The complexity of ministry can be summed up in the following two stories from communities in Myanmar and Malaysia.

MATUPI, MYANMAR

In one community in Matupi, north-east Myanmar, the hunters go out every three or four days to bring back meat for the village. The Salvation Army operates a fish farm (pond) that allows an alternative food source, but also the capacity to barter and trade. Economics and cash flow are difficult to quantify, but

the ability to trade, to barter for services, or to hire a teacher for the school, all come from these activities – both in the local community and also when they go into the main town centre of Matupi to trade locally grown produce for cash or rice.

There is no electricity in the village. Most people have a small solar panel for power, which provides the charging of communication devices and small LED lights. Cooking is still done with wood and fire on an open fireplace.

They were so pleased to see me when I rode in on a borrowed Chinese motorbike – I was the first territorial leader to ever come to their village. The way I was treated and blessed, I wondered if I was the first white person some had seen up close.

Until I arrived in the village I hadn't realised that I had commissioned the corps officers 11 months earlier and appointed them to this village. Since arriving, they have welcomed a baby



AT A GLANCE

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 174 | Officers |
| 2 | Envoys |
| 2 | Auxiliary-Captains |
| 2 | Cadets |
| 765 | Employees |
| 2809 | Senior Soldiers |
| 57 | Corps (14 Outposts) |
| 350 | Adherents |
| 340 | Junior Soldiers |



girl and thank God for the privilege of serving him at this corps on behalf of The Salvation Army.

As an aside, for the birth of the baby, the officers travelled on their motorbike for almost two hours to get to the hospital. By the time I had done the return journey on my motorbike, on some of the roughest, narrowest tracks and roads, certain parts of my body were numb. Bones I hadn't acknowledged for a long time had also made themselves known to me. I felt incredibly humbled by the dedication of these officers who minister in the name of Jesus in this isolated community, that has the majority of people linked to their corps.

KOTA BELUD, MALAYSIA

In another corps plant at Kota Belud, East Malaysia, a lay leader is changing the community and meeting the ever-growing need of unemployment by finding meaningful projects to provide work and help in the sustainability of the corps and community. To this extent he has established a women's project growing lemongrass on a farm donated to The Salvation Army for five years, and an organic rice field for men and women on land that has also been given to The Salvation Army.

The lay leader meets with all the workers in the two different locations every week for prayer and Bible reading. Many have started coming to the corps and some have asked for a Bible study in their homes.

Five years ago this plant was a dream. Today there are 39 soldiers with many more recruits going through soldiership classes. We had the privilege of enrolling 10 from this outpost at the nearby Kota Kinabalu Corps on our recent visit.

Wendy and I are constantly humbled and blessed by the endeavours of God's people in this region of the world, going above and beyond to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to minister to all without discrimination. ●



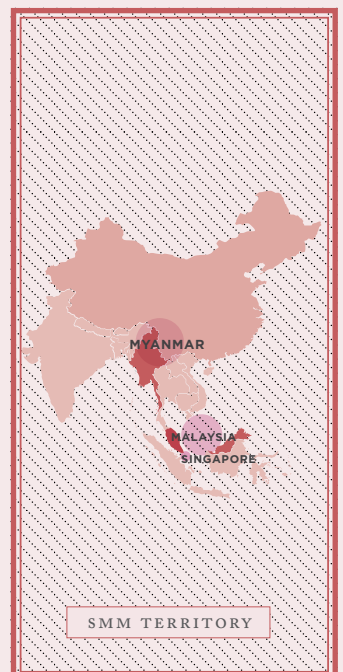
◆ **Top:** Colonel Wendy Walters with workers at The Salvation Army's lemongrass plantation in Malaysia. **Bottom:** Colonel Rodney Walters on the borrowed motorbike he used to reach a remote village in Myanmar.

HISTORY

Salvation Army work began in Singapore in May 1935. It spread to Malaysia (Penang) in 1938, expanding across that country to Melaka and Ipoh (1940), Kuching (1950), Kuala Lumpur (1966) and Kota Kinabalu (1996).

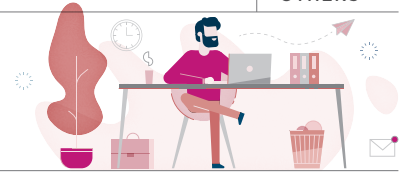
The history of The Salvation Army in Myanmar dates back even further. Adjutant Taran Das (Reuben Moss), who was attached to the Lahore headquarters in India, was appointed to open the work in Burma (now Myanmar) by Commissioner Frederick Booth-Tucker in January 1915.

In 1994, Myanmar was joined to the Singapore and Malaysia Command. On 1 March 2005, the command was redesignated the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.



Viewpoint.

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



An elaborate dance.

How faith, hope and love work together

WORDS DANIELLE STRICKLAND

I'VE GOT A LITTLE BEEF WITH A BEAUTIFUL song. It's an old favourite about love. The refrain is amazing: "Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me". I've sung it loud and proud and, even better than that, found the words to be true in my everyday life. Love never fails. My problem with the song emerges at the end of the verse with this line: "One thing remains". I like those words but they just aren't true. One thing does not remain. Three things do. At least according to the Good Book (1 Corinthians 13:13 if you want to look it up).

Now, it may seem I'm just being picky and getting lost in the details (and I should point out that Jeremy Riddle is an incredibly gifted songwriter and I'm grateful for him). But here's why it matters. The other two things that remain are faith and hope. I believe that faith, hope and love are inseparable from each other.

To separate them is to lose the essence of them. The power of them all is unlocked as they work together. Faith, hope and love are an eternal currency of change. I think they work much like the mysterious nature of the Trinity. The Eastern Orthodox Church has an image of the Trinity that may be helpful.

Theologians, beginning with John of Damascus, have depicted the Trinity as three persons engaged in a circle dance. If the very nature of God, the Trinity, is relationship, this image shows it to be an utterly joyous and interdependent relationship. As one theologian has written, "Father, Son and Spirit join hands and spin and spin and spin, all equal partners in the dance. Some have spoken of the very act of creation as the result of the love of this dance spilling over to make a world, or of the dancers spreading out to make room in their circle for more." Isn't this evidenced by the way faith gives us hope, and hope helps us love and love moves us to believe again? An elaborate dance of the eternal God at work in and through our lives.

I recently sat around a table with some friends in South Africa. All of them are working hard towards trying to realise the future they had envisioned 25 years ago. Nelson Mandela's South Africa was an invitation to transform the future for everyone. It was glorious to behold and called the entire world to dream of the possibilities. But it's hard work to make a dream real. The existing economic apartheid has hardly budged and land reparations have not come to the people who have suffered the most. Is reconciliation just a distant idea? Is it even possible to truly experience some justice and peace? I could feel the weariness of the journey in every person gathered. Then we were given an exercise. Everyone would share one hope they had.

Just one hope.

And everyone did. One hope they were working towards, one hope they believed, one hope they were living, one hope they had etched on the inside of their hearts to direct their efforts.

One hope.



And as everyone shared, something began to happen. Hope expanded. Hope filled. Hope lifted. And the only way I can describe what hope did as it broke open that night was that it filled my heart with faith. I started to believe it was possible again. Right in the midst of the weariness of the struggle, faith lifted me. And then it struck me that the only reason we were all gathered around that table, from all different backgrounds and histories and stories, was because of love. Relationship. Connection. Love united us. Hope compelled us. And faith lifted us. It was like an infusion of eternal possibilities as hope, faith and love worked in and through us.

So what does this mean? It means I'm going to nurture faith, hope and love in real time. I'm not even sure exactly how. But I'm taking a hint from God as Trinity and an amazing dinner with friends on the other side of the world. I'm going to start sharing my hope more. Connecting with people I love. And let faith lift me. In other words, I'm going to learn to dance. ●

Danielle Strickland is a Salvationist who blogs at www.daniellestrickland.com



Worth Quoting.

“You don’t go to God because he’s useful, you go because he’s beautiful. And nothing is more useful than finding God beautiful.” – **Tim Keller**

Do I do, or do I don’t?

Soldier’s Covenant has the answer

WORDS LAURIE ROBERTSON

AROUND 30 YEARS AGO MY APPROACH to Christian living was dramatically influenced by a statement that went something like this: “People often talk about the don’ts of Christianity but there are a lot more dos than don’ts and if you spend your time doing the dos you won’t have time to do the don’ts.”

Is it true? Well, I’ve never taken the time to try to count up all the dos and don’ts in the Bible. I have, however, out of my ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ, tried to major on the dos. And, actually, it’s not easy to keep focused because Christianity is frequently described by the don’ts.

Even when Salvationists speak about being a soldier, often we say: “Well, it means we don’t drink alcohol, don’t smoke, don’t swear, don’t have sex outside of marriage, don’t take illegal drugs, don’t look at pornography and don’t gamble.” This regularly brings a, “Wow, you don’t have any fun” response.

However, the response can be different when we speak about all we can do. The Salvation Army Soldier’s Covenant – the Articles of War – takes this approach. Instead of ‘I don’ts’, the Articles of

War has many ‘I wills’ – dos.

“I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.” I will! We are choosing to be proactive for our own good. I will abstain ... so that I am free to be all God made me to be. Now, if I am abstaining from all of that – what will I do instead? My ‘I will’ promises as a soldier of The Salvation Army give me plenty to do.

‘People often talk about the don’ts of Christianity but there are a lot more dos than don’ts and if you spend your time doing the dos you won’t have time to do the don’ts.’

In summary, they are:

- I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life.
- I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships.
- I will make the values of the Kingdom of God the standard for my life.
- I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit’s work and will obey the Holy Spirit.
- I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and family life.
- I will use my time, gifts, money, possessions, body, mind and spirit wisely knowing I am accountable to God.
- I will share the Good News of Jesus so that others will come to love him.
- I will care for the needy and disadvantaged.
- I will be fully actively involved in the

life, work, worship and witness of the corps – supporting its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army with who I am and what I have to give.

- I will be true to the principles and practices of the Army.
- I will be loyal to the leaders.
- I will show the spirit of Salvationism no matter whether we are popular or being persecuted.

The adventure of unpacking the ‘I wills’ provides an abundance of things to do. And a massive amount of this doing involves my attitude and how I choose to live because being who God wants me to be has to be at the heart of my doing. This means the ‘I wills’ raise many stretching questions such as: How does Christian integrity change how I live life? If I bring Christian ideals into my relationships including work, what difference will that make? Do I even know what God’s values are? Who or what is this Holy Spirit and how does this spirit communicate with me?

What is the sanctity of family life? How can I know what is the best use of time, money, possessions, spiritual and natural gifts, skills, mind and my body? Do I fit my corps involvement around the rest of life or does everything else fit around loving and serving God through the corps? How can my Christian living impact my family and work?

Of course, I am not perfect in doing the ‘I wills’. That’s why the most important ‘I will’ is: “I will give my life to Jesus, confess my sin, seek his forgiveness, love and direction as I grow to be more like him.” ●

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



**Worth
Quoting.**

“When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't.” - **William Temple**

Pastoring our cities together.

Influencing our culture for the Kingdom

WORDS GREIG WHITTAKER

GOD IS ALWAYS DOING A NEW THING. HIS Kingdom is always gloriously advancing into new ways of being, expressing and reaching out. Are we open to God's changes? Do we want to be involved?

Amazing things are happening all over the world through citywide gospel movements of unity. God is working beyond our wildest dreams through ordinary people. It's a change from flock-focused ministry to serving a city. What is clear is that no one person has the skills, the resources or the vision to see and engage with all that God is doing. We cannot live in isolation, with 'go it alone' thinking. We must look to become one body functioning together, expressing our gifting, resources and capacity. What is critical is relational unity of trust, love and prayer.

The strategic implementation of a citywide movement happens at the speed of trust that exists between the leaders. It is a critical focus for church pastors (officers) to take responsibility for being unified relationally in genuine care and trust. This is not a 'fit in if I can'. It must be a clear and committed intention that is desired, scheduled and honoured.

In this move the pastors are no longer only responsible for the *doing*. It's not up to them to carry the weight of citywide transformation. They are responsible to lay the unity foundation of trust. Pastors are responsible to release, resource, keep



accountable to outcomes and encourage outreach from their churches into various spheres of community life.

Unity, trust and prayer are the foundation stones. First is the release of a citywide prayer movement. Then those who are passionate in streams of engagement – business, youth, social justice, arts – need to be released. It is through the release of the body of Christ into these streams of engagement that the city begins to be influenced by Kingdom people living out and expressing their faith. Only through a unified effort will the Church be able to influence the culture. Alone there is no possibility to be the shaping influence of God's design.

This is no sprint. This move of God requires a generational approach. It is not a fad for today; it is a restructuring of how we engage in ministry. It's actually what The Salvation Army is all about. Maybe watch and share this video, which I think captures a big part of the story (vimeo.com/303250409).

A few of the key learnings that may help you include:

1. God would prefer that we do it together and in humility. It's bigger (the issues) than *me*; we need to be a *we*. The challenges can unify us, but a vision of

unity is the first step. Don't unite to deal with the issues; have a vision of unity and then deal with the issues.

2. Unity is not a professional conversation; it's a personal conversation. You can only proceed at the speed of trust. Complex problems are sometimes solved by simple answers – relationships and space of being together. There is nothing more important than being together, often, regularly.

3. Ownership is critical. It is owned by all – it's nobody's thing, it's everybody's thing. What people design together they own together.

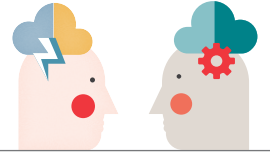
4. It's not only shared activities but shared outcomes. How can we see increased faith, hope and love in our city? We must measure what we do.

5. What is the condition of the city? Understanding your city becomes key when unity has been established. It must be a critical conversation, not a felt story.

It starts with you. Don't leave this for someone else. Make a start today by beginning the conversation in your corps, your town, your city. ●

.....
Greig Whittaker is a Team Leader at Ryde Corps in Sydney.

Mailbox.



THE SALVOS CHARITY?

After much prayer, thought, and deeply felt concern over the past 12-18 months, I just cannot bring myself to accept without protest the new Vision, Mission and other statements handed down by Territorial Headquarters as part of Australia One [Vision statement is at the top of Page 5 in this issue].

Where is the passion in all this? Who would venture to die for cardboard words like these? Yes, we all need to take part in meeting human needs in his name. But if our vision and mission is designed for little more than recruiting volunteers for our social services, how much different are we than other charities?

To my mind we've fallen in love with our own advertising - and changed our vision and mission to match the ads. Didn't Jesus say, "Go into the world and make disciples (followers)"? If "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17), what are works without faith?

Thank God the Australia One words are not the whole of the reality in Australia. In many, many quiet (and not so quiet) places, Army saints of all descriptions continue to minister the whole Gospel - despite whatever changes are decreed from those in higher places.

Yes, some of us - including myself - have too often seen our role as 'belonging' to

this great Army. Our role was supporting by being faithful, and we sometimes needed all the help we could get from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Just belonging has never been enough. There is no corporate salvation. Some of us have been more educated about Salvation Army/Christian music, than the need to live Salvation Army/Christian values and practices.

Where is any emphasis on the Holy Spirit? In Galatians 3:3, Paul asks, "After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" Is this the story of The Salvation Army? Are we now The Salvos Charity; out to do good, not to save the world?

- Les Wilks



PRIDE IN OTHERS

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Morris and Teddy Mukasa recently and found myself uplifted by both their positive attitudes and their gratitude at being here in Australia. They showed me with great pride your magazine with their photo on the cover (*Others* magazine June issue).

As I work in the commercial printing business I was very impressed with the magazine, and upon doing a little research discovered that it won a prestigious award from the Australian

Religious Press Association (2018 Publication of the Year).

Congratulations, it is great to see printed publications of high quality with a great message.

- Kieran Mannix



ANTARCTIC STORY WARMS HEART

It was a lovely surprise to open a copy of the July issue of *Others* and see an article about my father, Alan Gowlett, written by Garth Hentzschel. I'd read the larger article of his and learnt things I didn't really know, particularly about his war history. The Antarctic stories were more familiar.

However, it has caused me to bring out his handwritten diary from his time at Mawson in 1955 and be reminded again of how raw life was and the very challenging, difficult and isolated terrain he and the team journeyed to on their expedition.

Thank you again for sharing Dad's story through *Others*. My prayer is that for someone, reading it may bring encouragement, and that there is nowhere one can go where God isn't already there (Psalm 139).

- Major Jenni Frost

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@salvationarmy.org.au

Housing ends homelessness.

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

WORDS PAUL KNIGHT

Livia Carusi, The Salvation Army National General Manager of Homelessness, really needs some strategic career advice. Ask her what the Army's policy on homelessness is and she replies without hesitation: "It shouldn't exist! We have the resources, knowledge and skills in Australia to end rough sleeping. It is unacceptable!" Talk about planning your own obsolescence!

"Rough sleeping is the pointy end of homelessness, and it is well within our capacity as a nation to end it," says Livia. "We require acceptance that it shouldn't exist, recognition that a solution is possible, and leadership. Our political leaders need a bipartisan approach to bring about sustainable structural changes to end rough sleeping by 2024.

"Visiting the [Army's] state programs, I've been impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of management and staff. Everyone I have met wants to be a part of an organisation that can end rough sleeping. No one has said it is impossible. I have also appreciated the privilege of meeting our clients and hearing straight talk about what needs to be done to end homelessness and improve services."

Livia points out that few could have predicted how dramatically society's attitude to smoking would change over just a few decades. The economic and social cost of homelessness is no less devastating, so why not aim for a similar paradigm shift in our attitudes to homelessness?

For The Salvation Army to play its part in the process there needs to be a balance of direct assistance, partnership and advocacy. The Army's homelessness team is well advanced on the national agenda process and has already identified some key potential areas of focus:

1. First response. Research shows that treating people with dignity and respect at the moment of their first contact is critical to continue to connect with them, and have the opportunity to stay in contact, shaping and influencing their experience.

Conversely, a negative first contact makes it likely that they will be lost to the organisation.

2. Rough sleeping. Livia envisages a future of need-based, rather than time-based, transitional support and accommodation. "If we can divert homeless people away from the service-based cycle, where they return over and over to a series of three-week programs, towards long-term housing with support attached, we take away so much cognitive overload of uncertainty," says Livia. "A pattern of resorting to rough sleeping is replaced with a stable environment where people can thrive. If it were your family, what would you prefer?"

3. Case management. By looking at the entire cycle of connection with clients, from first knock on the door to being settled, and involving partnerships with other organisations, homelessness can be ended.

Homelessness Week will be held from 4–11 August this year, with the theme of Housing Ends Homelessness. Anyone can be involved and contribute to uniting around our homelessness policy and supporting the team.

"The good thing about Homelessness Week is that it raises awareness, draws attention to the problem and makes it seem solvable," says Livia. "But let's face it, the other 358 days of the year you need organisations like The Salvation Army, soldiering on alongside others, including the government. Get yourself engaged. Be the best informed advocate, from the dinner party to when you front up to church on Sunday."

To get more active, consider volunteering, connect your corps with a Salvos accommodation service in your area, or get involved in the advocacy space.

Last year, Salvos mission expressions in Geelong united behind a Homelessness Week event called Walking Home. Corps, chaplaincy, social mission staff and 90 volunteers were involved. South Barwon ▶



⬆️
The Salvation Army is a visible presence on the streets of towns and cities all over Australia, like this one in Perth, meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness and hardship.

Corps ran a trivia night and there was even a pop-up Salvos Store. This year, mission expressions are collaborating to host an awareness-raising display at Frankston on the Mornington Peninsula, an area where issues of homelessness are acute.

The idea of ‘home’ – whether rental, social housing or ownership – is a value all humans understand and share. Livia concludes that Christians have Christ’s example as ‘the best advocate’. This Homelessness Week, let us commit to serve, demand a better deal, and reflect the infinite value and dignity of all people made in God’s image. ●

Mission in brief

- Collaboration across Area Leadership Teams is occurring and people are served in holistic ways. In Darwin, two attendees from a social mission expression were able to attend a corps meeting after carpooling was organised. At Tweed Heads, a lady at our accommodation service found a home, Salvos Stores helped furnish it and she is now involved at the local corps.
- The Social Mission Department research team has completed the qualitative analysis for an evaluation of the National Drought Initiative. The results have provided insight into the impact of assistance on recipient emotional wellbeing and physical circumstances, and the report will help Salvos involved with the Strategic Disaster Management Team in dispensing disaster relief assistance.
- The Positive Lifestyle Program has recently been adapted for young people and is being delivered by the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Trangie and Gilgandra high schools in NSW. The first round of participants are due to complete the program shortly and the research team will analyse the outcomes.
- The Social Mission Department is undertaking The National Practice Snapshot with a view to establishing nationally consistent frameworks for each service. If you are interested in the project and would like further information, please contact the department on **03 8878 4708**

RIVERVALE 'BOOT CAMP' READY TO RECRUIT.

God breathing new life into old corps building

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

➤ Newly appointed Auxiliary-Lieutenants Marena and Steve Freind are on a mission to breathe new life into Salvation Army soldiership and are planning to turn the abandoned Rivervale Corps in Western Australia into a 'boot camp' to do so. Photo: Joel Gibson



A breath of fresh air is flowing through an ‘abandoned’ Salvation Army corps building in Perth, after a young couple answered God’s call to establish a new mission.

The Rivervale Salvation Army Corps was closed several years ago and the building became a sad-looking place, sheltering squatters and drug users. A bleak homage, one could say, to its Salvation Army heritage. The arrival of Auxiliary-Lieutenants Marena and Steve Freind has now brought new life, with their appointment to oversee ‘The Rivervale Project’.

The Freinds have been told not to re-establish Rivervale as a corps, but to run a ‘boot camp’, essentially to equip, encourage, mentor and support Salvationists on mission. The official brief is to establish “an organic mission designed to train missional practitioners in what it means to be a 21st century Salvation Army soldier”.

Using the old Rivervale Corps building as their base, Marena and Steve plan to be mobile in their support and training of Salvos on mission. They firmly believe in former territorial leaders Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd’s prophetic word, spoken over The Salvation Army Australia at the beginning of the reunification process, that “one plus one equals new”. They are hoping that The Rivervale Project will birth new expressions of The Salvation Army that are culturally relevant, yet centred on Salvation Army founder William Booth’s original vision for his Army of God’s soldiers. ▶

The Rivervale Project is the start of a revolution,” says Steve. “We want to be pioneering, ‘What does a 21st century Salvationist look like?’ One of the scripture verses that we have been looking at comes from John 4:13, where Jesus talks to the woman at the well and says: ‘Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again, but anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst, not ever. The water I give will be an artisan’s spring with gushing fountains of endless love.’

“That verse keeps coming back to us. We don’t want to be a thirsty [Salvation] Army. We want to see an Army that’s gushing with the everlasting fountain of God’s Spirit. So, one of the things that we’re going to be looking at is: ‘What does it mean to be vibrant as a Salvationist? Or as a Salvo?’ And: ‘How does that look in local mission?’”

Steve and Marenda both come from a long family line of missionaries. Steve’s mother [Major Lyn Freind] is an active officer in Western Australia. His father [Major Geoff Freind], tragically, was killed while serving in Africa, attacked while walking

down a street in Malawi during a preaching tour. His aunt and uncle [Commissioners Jennifer and Peter Walker] have just concluded their service as territorial leaders in Indonesia. Marenda, meantime, has a Baptist background, with members of her family being missionaries who have served in places such as Mozambique and Colombia.

The couple both grew up with an unwavering knowledge of God’s intense love for them and for all of humanity, so it was a natural step for them to move into ministries and workplaces where they could share God’s love with others. Marenda studied social work and has forged her career in the foster care system. Steve studied youth work and has held several jobs with The Salvation Army in Perth, starting at Genesis Drop-In Centre (now The Beacon), and Crossroads West transitional support service before becoming the youth pastor at Morley Salvation Army.

“We always kind of dreamed that maybe one day we would do some work or some sort of mission together,” says Marenda. “But we didn’t know when, or how it would look.” The couple met when their two high schools united for a Year 12 leavers camp, serving as carers for young people with disabilities. Within the first few months of dating, Steve invited Marenda to Morley Salvation Army to witness his enrolment as a senior soldier. “I walked into the hall and there were all these people in crisp white shirts ... it felt quite foreign to me,” she remembers. “But I respected Steve and I respected the commitment that he made.”

It was a commitment, however, that she felt no calling to undertake, despite going through soldier-ship classes and being aligned with the mission and the values of The Salvation Army. “It didn’t feel like something that was for me ... I didn’t feel like I needed to sign a contract with the church. I could serve without doing that, so why did I need to?”

God had other plans, nudging both Marenda and Steve towards a united ministry. Steve was asked to sit on a Salvation Army committee looking at the strategic plan for Western Australia and how to engage young adults. The Rivervale Project was mentioned, but Steve had no idea at the time that God had already chosen Marenda and him and their young family for the ministry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Reid, Western Australia Divisional Leader, knew that Marenda and Steve



◊ Auxiliary-Lieutenant Steve Freind says The Rivervale Project is all about breathing new life into soldiery and making it relevant to the next generation. Photo: Joel Gibson



“
*The Rivervale Project is the start
of a revolution. We want to be
pioneering, ‘What does a 21st
century Salvationist look like?’*
”

would be a perfect fit for The Rivervale Project. He asked them to consider it. “We left it with God,” says Steve. “We basically said, ‘God, is this you?’ because we need you to show up!”

God did show up in a pretty spectacular way. Five days after they were asked to consider taking on Rivervale, a guest speaker at a divisional youth event at Morley Salvation Army prophesied over Steve and Marena’s future and where God wanted to plant them. “He explained it as though he was sitting at the table having lunch with Stuart and I five days earlier,” says Steve. “But he knew nothing about the conversation Stuart and I were having!”

In early May, then-Australia Territory leaders Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd appointed Marena and Steve as auxiliary-lieutenants and mission leaders of The Rivervale Project. They started in June.

Stuart says the ministry wasn’t designed exclusively for young adults, but will have a focus on that age bracket. “We know that the national vision requires ▶



Top: The Freind family – Steve and Marena and their children, Judah, 2, and Ava, 5. Photo: Denise Teo Photography



◊ Commissioner Floyd Tidd commissions Marena and Steve Freind as auxiliary-lieutenants and appoints them to The Rivervale Project.

us to mobilise a passionate mission force and we need to pioneer some fresh thinking to the way we attract and equip people for this task,” he says. “We also believe that the new approaches that will be developed will give fresh energy to soldiership.”

For Marena, moving into soldiership, and from there into being an auxiliary-lieutenant, was something she had never expected, but with God’s confirmation she willingly stepped up to the calling.

“Recently, we’ve seen a shift in opportunities within The Salvation Army to serve and to minister as an officer,” says Marena. “This auxiliary-lieutenancy is a new pathway ... and for us, it makes sense. We both come with relevant experience in the social work field, in the youth work field, in youth ministry, and we have an opportunity to serve within our own local community with the supports that we already have around us, plus some additional supports and opportunity to do more study.

“When [William and Catherine] Booth started up the Army it was so culturally relevant and vibrant and it caught people’s attention and it was attractive ... but times have seriously changed since then, so how can we maintain that spirit and that passion for justice and seeing God at work? How can we bring that back to our local areas? How can we equip people to work out what that means for them, wherever they are?”

Exploring the calling

All of us are called to be part of what God is doing in the world. It’s an invitation as old as time itself, to join the Creator in his renewal and restoration of the world and humanity. How Salvos find their place within that calling is what The Salvation Army Come Alive campaign is delving into over the next six months (see ad next page).

“We want Salvos to really consider how they can best position themselves for the call that God has placed on all of our lives,” says Officer Recruitment Secretary Captain Paul Lorimer. “And, ‘What is God saying to me about that?’”

Despite people still saying “Yes” to God’s call, many Salvos still aren’t aware of the diverse range of pathways into leadership within The Salvation Army.

“As people start to explore those pathways, they will start to realise that officership is an incredible way to get the freedom to live a life of mission and ministry that aligns with their calling,” says Paul. “We want to raise the awareness and support people that are exploring the calling that God has placed on their lives.”

Over the next six months, Come Alive will hold an event in each state. To find out more, head to salvationarmy.org.au/ComeAlive

As the doors open again on the Rivervale Salvation Army building in Perth, a burst of fresh air sweeps through its dusty interior. As they step into their calling to The Rivervale Project, Marena and Steve Freind believe God’s spirit is ready to sweep through The Salvation Army, invigorating fresh ideas for mission and ministry and firing an unstoppable passion among Salvos to partner with Jesus in his new creation. ●

Lauren Martin is a staff writer for *Others*.



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◊ Auxiliary-Lieutenant Adam Purcell, Territorial Youth and Young Adults Secretary, is looking forward to the challenge of reconnecting young people to the Church.

Engaging Gen Z.

A generation searching for authenticity

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

Adam and Mel Purcell have been in their new appointments for only a few months. It's been long enough, though, for the auxiliary-lieutenants, who bring extensive experience to their roles, to appreciate that they, along with their team, have their work cut out for them.

Adam and Mel stepped into the role of territorial youth and young adults secretaries just a month after then-territorial leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, announced a raft of groundbreaking initiatives for the fledgling Australia Territory. The new measures included the creation of a Generation Z-focused Salvation Army community [people born between 1995 and the early 2000s] in each state capital city in the next two years.

Since then, Adam, Mel and their team have spent much of their time analysing research and statistics that focus on the relationship between young people and the Church. It's been a sobering, but not surprising experience.

"As a faith movement these are desperate times for us," says Adam. "Based on the recent 'Faith and Belief in Australia' research released by McCrindle Research last year*, Generation Y [born between 1980 and 1994] have almost all left the Church, and Generation Z [born from 1995 to the early 2000s] have almost never been engaged with it at all. We are dealing with the 'Harry Potter Generation' – they are enlightened to the supernatural, but not to a truth aligned with it."

The Tidds' announcement of a Gen Z-focused faith community, made at the Still Others conference in November/December last year, was in response to this and other research. It's been Adam's task since then to determine just what this community should look like and how The Salvation Army should go about realising this ambition. "The idea was to both take the time to hear from God on a new faith planting model for young people as well as helping front-line corps grow and develop new and existing youth expressions that engage young people in the community," says Adam.

The focus of the initiative has been one of the reasons why something needs to be done for our young people. Adam says that within different denominations, including The Salvation Army, there has been an emphasis on retaining young people already in the Church by keeping them busy. "It's been the music team and youth group that has kept young people in church until they're young adults, but we're not effectively understanding their needs in a faith community and we're not retaining them," he says.

According to the 2016 Census, there are almost three million people in Australia aged 15-24 and "most of them have never heard the gospel or been engaged in church, so we want to focus on reaching them," adds Adam. Recent research by McCrindle (2018 Annual Longitudinal Study) reveals that, "Half of Australians (51 per cent) are just as likely to go to a Salvation Army church as any other denomination. ▶

The younger generations are more likely to be open to attending a Salvation Army church than older generations ...” (35 per cent Gen Z; 22 per cent Gen Y, 19 per cent Gen X, eight per cent Baby Boomers, eight per cent Builders).

Adam believes that, because of its focus on social justice, caring for the homeless, those in emergency situations, and the environment, The Salvation Army is uniquely positioned to provide what young Australians are looking for in a church. “These young people have never been to a Salvation Army corps and they love the product, but not the retailer,” says Adam. “And they are not locking into the faith communities we offer. Our corps generally are doing a fantastic job, but unchurched young people need a different way to do faith.

“Gone are sacred Sundays. Now people work shifts, shops are open, there are fly-in and fly-out situations, sports and everything else. Church doesn’t fit on a Sunday and we are missing the mark in engaging the emerging generations. There has to be a reset of expectations.”

MISSIONAL HEARTS

As much as young people are often labelled the ‘selfie generation’ they actually care about making the world a better place and doing what it takes to achieve that. As a result, Adam says, they may not accept an invitation to church, but if they’re asked to come to a feeding program on a Wednesday night, they will go.

“Their hearts are missional and if we can combine faith in serving, this is what they will lock into,” he says. “I used to believe people needed to be saved and then serve in mission; now, people are finding faith through serving. They are attracted to a community of faith.

“One young person suggested the concept, for example, of having young people serve on a street mission team on a particular night and afterwards, having coffee, pizza and prayer, relating what they have learned to the Scriptures and the Gospel. This is what young people want and we don’t need to complicate it.”

Adam highlighted that for teenagers, however, the story is different. “We need to hear their voice, not about what will make church better, but how they connect with God, really connect with him. Social activities aren’t going to transform lives with



- **Top:** Youth enjoying a worship session at Summer Carnival in Victoria earlier this year;
- **Above:** Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd announcing the raft of groundbreaking Australia Territory initiatives at Still Others last year.



the love of Jesus. Relationships and trust have to be established before the Gospel message can be communicated and heard,” says Adam. “It’s a balance of fun, family and faith and all three are essential.”

Adam emphasises that we can’t be locked into what we’ve always done or focused on numbers. “It’s like the gridiron [American football] movies, where the movie begins with a dysfunctional and divided team, a coach that is tired, and a community that has no hope in their team. And we know the story – they start to win games and hope rises, and then they find themselves in the grand final and all has changed.

“But it always comes down to that final play and those last seven seconds of the game. The coach calls time-out but he doesn’t bring over the trusty playbook, he brings a whiteboard. The playbook has worked great to get them here, but if it was still working it wouldn’t have come down to those final seconds to win the game. The team needs to come up with something new, something that hasn’t been done before to win the game.

“That new play is our commitment to the young people who need to hear the gospel, and those who are leaving the church. If we can agree on the values, then we will get through the methods.”

SEARCH FOR MEANING

Throughout the Australia Territory, there are youth and young adult ministries that are growing and thriving, but critically, these are exceptions to the general trend. Typically, Adam says, these are ministries that are trying to create a sense of community in an authentic, safe and comfortable environment. “Young people see through attempts to ‘get them to Church’ – they want authenticity, where they are accepted and appreciated and can talk openly about faith and life. It’s not about giving people a half-strength latte so they can enjoy the full-strength one on a Sunday morning.

“Young people are searching. For them, it’s like being in a foreign country and you’re trying to find an electrical socket to connect with when your plugs don’t match. We need to be compatible with the emerging generation.”

This doesn’t necessarily mean expecting corps to change everything in order to adapt to one section of the community, says Adam, but being open to doing something new to engage them, as well as maintaining what they’re doing that works and

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We are dealing with the ‘Harry Potter Generation’ – they are enlightened to the supernatural, but not to a truth aligned with it.

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Auxiliary-Lieutenant Mel Purcell.

the legacy of what God has done. “We may not necessarily agree with new – or existing – methods, but we need to be willing to do whatever it takes to reach people,” he says. “This may require us to get out of our comfortable shoes and off our well-worn paths in order to walk with young people in this journey. It’s time to go barefoot on a new path, treading carefully, adjusting to challenges, but having the mindset to change. And we don’t have much time left.”●

* mccrindle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Faith-and-Belief-in-Australia-Report_McCrindle_2017.pdf

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Simone Worthing is a staff writer for *Others*

Grey army on the front line.

World Senior Citizens Day is held on 21 August. It was introduced in 1988 by former United States President Ronald Reagan primarily to recognise and acknowledge the contribution of older people to society. One of the many ministries in The Salvation Army in which our senior citizens play a significant role is at Wollongong Corps on the NSW South Coast.

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

At Wollongong Corps, the entire front line to a community in need has a distinctly grey-top appearance, interspersed with splashes of wisdom-enhanced white. Every member of the front line – or Front Desk, as it is officially titled – is a senior.

There are 22 of them in the Front Desk ministry. Some are aged in their 80s, some in their 60s. Most are in their 70s. All are volunteers from within the corps community. This team of retirees provides the ‘people power’ to engage six hours a day, five days a week with needy community members who call at the corps for assistance.

The Front Desk ministry is part of the Wollongong Corps contribution to The Salvation Army Doorways (welfare) program. Community members seeking assistance through Doorways phone a Salvation Army call centre and, after assessment, are referred to a corps building like Wollongong to collect whatever has been allocated to them by an online assessor. People also walk into the corps building without appointment or assessment seeking assistance. ▶





Some of the Front Desk ministry team on the front steps of Wollongong Corps. The team engages with needy members of the community throughout the week. Photo: Lena Pobjie

They enter from a busy main street into an expansive modern and friendly foyer where they are received by a Front Desk ministry volunteer at a reception area. Mostly, community members receive a pre-approved EFTPOS card to purchase food. They could also be allocated a card for clothing, fuel, transport, medical bills and other needs. At Wollongong – which services a region known as the Illawarra (Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama) – up to 100 people are assisted every week at a cost of about \$250,000 a year.

Wollongong Corps adds value to the Doorways allocation by offering community members bags of food and a coffee (or cold drink) and toasted sandwich from its cafe. The food and coffee is mostly provided and paid for by corps people. It's not unusual for a community member to call into the Wollongong centre just to have a coffee and toasted sandwich, and a quiet chat with somebody who can help.

Regional Doorways manager Rodney Stanton says the effort of the Wollongong seniors is “way up there” in terms of corps-based Doorways activity in the Australia Territory. “Wollongong is certainly the supreme leader in terms of Southern NSW and the ACT,” he says. “They see more people for emergency assistance than any other corps in my region. It's remarkable that all of this is done by seniors who are volunteers. They are definitely carrying a torch for The Salvation Army.”

THRIVING MINISTRY

Wollongong's Front Desk ministry is coordinated by Janette and Ron Smart, who transferred to Wollongong from Sydney's Hurstville Corps five years ago. Ron, in his 80s, and Janette, a few years younger, are well-known in Salvation Army circles, especially in the music field. Ron was founder of the Sydney Staff Songsters and has been bandmaster at several corps, including Hurstville, Sydney Congress Hall and Campsie. He has been musical director at Hollywood Tabernacle (now Pasadena) in the United States. Janette was a foundation member of the Sydney Staff Songsters and a highly-motivated organiser and events arranger.

When they arrived at Wollongong, a small Doorways program was in place three hours a day, three days a week, with one paid employee and two volunteers. At first, Janette and Ron set up a small



◦ A friendly face and a warm welcome are always guaranteed when members of the community engage with the Front Desk ministry team at Wollongong. Photo: Lena Pobjie.

team to staff the reception area five days a week to assist the corps officers and the Doorways workers.

It's a busy reception area. Two days a week, hundreds of members of the University of the Third Age (an international movement whose aims are the education and stimulation of mainly retired members of the community) meet in the corps auditorium. Private groups use various rooms for conferences and training. Distance students from regional universities use rooms for examinations. The cafe is busy and operates five days a week.

The teams of volunteers for Doorways and reception were ultimately combined to provide coverage six hours a day, five days a week. Volunteers include a retired engineer, professional fundraiser, musical director, journalist, banking executive, nursing sister, school teacher, office workers and retired Salvation Army officers. In their previous Salvation Army



service, these front-line volunteers were corps sergeant-majors, corps cadet counsellors, Sunday school leaders and teachers, bandmasters, bandmen, songster leaders, songsters, women's ministry leaders, etc.

“When we started looking for people to staff the Front Desk ministry, we found just so many who had given tremendous service in their corps over a very long period and were not ready to sit on the sidelines, just yet,” Ron says. “They still wanted to be useful, although happy to move from the more demanding roles of leadership. The Front Desk ministry suits them fine.

“Most of our people spend one day a month on the Front Desk. Some do two days a month. A couple do one day a week. So it's more enjoyable than onerous. I think it's remarkable that people in the corps in their senior years are making such a huge

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It's remarkable that all of this is done by seniors who are volunteers. They are definitely carrying a torch for The Salvation Army.

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contribution to The Salvation Army's program of assisting community people in need.”

WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Corps Officer Major Rebecca Inglis is overwhelmed by the support provided by the seniors of her corps. “Our Front Desk ministry volunteers are the friendly face to welcome everyone who enters our building,” she says. “In essence, they are saying ‘you are welcome here’, which we see as an essential first step in building community inside our building, whether by pointing somebody in the right direction, providing food or a cup of hot coffee, or offering a listening ear.

“Our seniors are our most experienced and some of our most skilled corps members. They have really embraced the vision to transform our community one life at a time with the love of Jesus.”

Rebecca's father, retired officer Major Robert Sneller, drives a 130km round trip from Narellan, in outer south-west Sydney, every Friday to assist on the Front Desk because he sees the value in the service. “Working for the community through the Front Desk at Wollongong has allowed me to meet many different people and to assist them to overcome situations that have impacted their lives,” he says. “It gives me joy to help and a knowledge that God is using me to do the work of spreading his message of love and forgiveness.”

So, while The Salvation Army in Australia is trying ‘new things’ across the country, on the front line in Wollongong, everything old is new again. ●

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*



OI.

DANGER CLOSE

Rating: M

Release date: 8 August



LONG TAN IS ARGUABLY ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S greatest military victories, and one of its least known. The shame that cloaked much of our involvement in the Vietnam War also obscured moments of great heroism and self-sacrifice. New film *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan* will certainly raise that conflict's profile. It may also raise our awareness of how little control we have.

Danger Close will be released 10 days before the 53rd anniversary of that legendary battle. On 18 August 1966, elements of the 1st Australian Task Force

entered an abandoned rubber plantation at Long Tan, in the South Vietnamese province of Phuoc Tuy. There, the 108 Australians and New Zealanders encountered a force of North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong insurgents that could have been as large as 2500 men. Yet in the fire-fight that followed, only 17 lost their lives. This survival story alone earns the Battle of Long Tan its reputation as one of the greatest triumphs in our military history. However, the new film that seeks to record this dramatic encounter is unlikely to enjoy similar success.

The moment the camera turns away from the action, the film falters. In *Danger Close's* most personal moments, the performances are wooden and unengaging. The drama is also regularly telegraphed by simplistic lines and the lack of respect and authority among professional soldiers, even under stress, is hard to credit. Having served in our defence forces, I came away wondering if the filmmakers had ever met a real-life sergeant.

Danger Close is also a movie strangely out of time. It lacks the sensitivity learned by recent generations to the essential equality of all races. The yellow peril rush

screaming at the desperate Australians and New Zealanders like John Ford Indians attacking encircled wagons, and tumble to the ground just as ineffectually. They are props, not people, and their easy dismissal undermines the all-embracing tragedy of war. But if there's one thing *Danger Close* does get right, it's the undeniable fog of war.

Tradition reports Napoleon Bonaparte telling his generals, "Be clear, be clear, be clear! Anything that can be misunderstood, will be misunderstood!" Communication may have improved since the 19th century but the essential truth remains. No matter how good the technology, war contains so many variables, interacting at such speed, the outcome is regularly beyond human control. This reality becomes as clear to the commanders in *Danger Close* as it was to the writer of Psalm 33: "No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save" (Psalm 33:16-17).

Which you might think reduces every soldier's survival to a roll of the dice. Yet the same strategist who recognised this calamity millennia ago, saw its solution too. King David wrote: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

David knew he could stand firm in the face of any foe because the success of his struggle was decided by the God who determines the outcome of every calculation. A relationship with him was worth more than any war machine. 'Chariots' were the armoured personnel carriers of David's day; at Long Tan it was in fact APCs that saved the day. Yet their arriving in the right place, at the right time, despite the human factors involved, was God's call, not some colonel's. When we realise where real power lies, we can rest as easy in a fox hole as we can in our beds.●



O2.

STRANGER THINGS

Rating: MA15+

Channel: Netflix - Season 3



AS A SOCIETY, WE DON'T BELIEVE IN HELL anymore ... except when we do. The answer to this conundrum resides in your television set. Australians who've given up on anything remotely resembling a world for the damned are sitting down to contemplate just that in the wildly popular series *Stranger Things*. And the not-so-strange thing they're united on is they don't want to go there.

Stranger Things launched in 2016 as 'the little series that could'. It was a quirky, quasi-science fiction tale about weird things happening in small-town America.

In the first season, viewers were

introduced to Will Byers, a young boy who disappears riding home from a night of Dungeons and Dragons with his friends. Not content to sit idly by, his nerdy friends Mike, Dustin and Lucas set out on their bikes to solve the mystery. What they slowly uncover is a government conspiracy to breed gifted children capable of breaking into an alternate dimension referred to as 'The Upside Down'. With the help of a psychokinetic girl called Eleven, this ragtag bunch eventually rescues Will, but not before realising this alternate dimension is about as close to hell as any person might want to come.

The second season builds on the first, introducing the horrific creature at the heart of The Upside Down, nicknamed the Mind Flayer. It is a sentient evil that corrupts everything it touches, and is bent on breaking into our world. Just when you think it's finally been defeated, along comes season three to assure you the devil is not so easily locked away. This time Will and his friends have to deal with an army of damned figures the Mind Flayer has co-opted for his plan to destroy all life.

Film and TV fantasies are to society what your dreams are to your state of mind. It's no big surprise that people have been

known to have nightmares about leaving the house without their pants the night before a big exam. The brain takes our fears and translates them into startling visual illustrations. Likewise, writers and producers find fertile ground in topics in which society is publicly uninterested, but privately enthralled. *Stranger Things* is not the first series, or film for that matter, to build an audience around the idea that there is a malevolent force out there that would like nothing better than to see us inhabit a hell on earth.

The Bible, on the other hand, has no trouble attesting to the existence of a personal devil hungry for prey: "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). So why should such a determined adversary be invisible to the world around us? In his book, *Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis suggests that in our materialist age, the devil and his minions' tactics are to suggest that nothing spiritual exists, including God and themselves. But programs like *Stranger Things* reveal our deeper selves remain unconvinced. I don't believe it was the creators' intention, but their characters suggest the fearful things the Bible describes in detail: "This thing that took your son ... we don't really understand it. But its behaviour is predictable. Like all animals, it eats. It will take more sons. More daughters."

Interestingly, characters from the first two seasons of *Stranger Things* suggested lying was the best way to keep people safe. In the recently released third, though, telling the truth is presented as the only way forward. If that were the case, maybe it would be more effective for Christians to be honest with unbelievers about what it is that crouches at the bottom of their fears. Then maybe the victory Jesus has won over sin, death and the devil will shine all the brighter. ●

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

Read

DARLENE ZSCHECH

THE GOLDEN THREAD



As we navigate life challenges it can be helpful to simply be reminded of what we already know.

This book is like an encouraging chat with a good friend who sympathises with the messiness of life, while knowing how to nudge you away from negativity. It's conversational, with moments of inspiration and gentle challenge liberally sprinkled through the discussion.

Known for her songwriting and worship leading, Darlene Zschech brings her passion for God and knowledge of his character to each page. She shares candidly from her own experiences about following the 'golden thread' – finding, pursuing and holding on to God's presence in all seasons of life.

For her, this has meant discovering many moments of 'unexpected holy' – times where God's love and faithfulness were found in the midst of challenging circumstances. Sometimes these golden thread moments were immediately recognised, at others more clearly revealed in hindsight. Darlene draws on them all to illustrate the consistency of God's presence.

In each chapter, Darlene targets a different aspect of life with God, such as worship, obedience, hope, forgiveness, community, weaknesses, rest, courage, to name a few. She explores how the golden thread of God's presence helped her grow in each area, and encourages readers to actively engage with God in their own circumstances.

The Golden Thread is available from Koorong (koorong.com).

– Louise Mathieson

Read

FRANK DURACHER

NOW YOU KNOW



Major Frank Duracher has long been an ardent admirer of the late American radio broadcaster and journalist Paul Harvey, in particular his radio program, *The Rest of the Story*. In each episode, Paul would tell a little-known tale and reveal an ironic and surprising fact at the end of the broadcast.

In that tradition, Frank has crafted *Now You Know: The Rest of the Army's Story*. For almost five decades, he has been collecting nearly forgotten anecdotes from The Salvation Army's history. Now, he retells 50 of those most ironic and intriguing episodes.

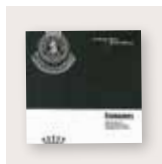
As you read, you will uncover surprising incidents in the Army's history.

Now You Know: The Rest of the Army's Story is available from Sydney Trade (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au

Read

NEALSON MUNN AND DAVID COLLINSON

INSANE



I was delighted when I heard that Salvo Publishing had reprinted *Insane: The Stories of Crazy Salvos Who Changed the World*.

I read this delightful book not long after it was first released in 2007 and it ignited in me a passion for Salvation Army history and something even deeper – a yearning for God to use me in crazy ways to change the world as well.

With short, engaging chapters on Salvation Army campaigns and ideas that changed lives and culture, the book invites readers to engage with the culturally relevant, Jesus-led movement that The Salvation Army was, is, and is to come. A great gift for new Salvos, but watch out ... it could just make them a little crazy!

Insane: The Stories of Crazy Salvos Who Changed the World is available from Sydney Trade (1800 634 209) or thetrade.salvos.org.au, and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018) or commerce.salvationarmy.org.au

– Lauren Martin

Watch

AMERICAN FAMILY STUDIOS

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



In an age when truth is a malleable concept, how can we know the Bible is true? In *The God Who Speaks: Tracing the Evidence for Biblical Authority*, by American Family Studios, more than 20 scholars outline the history of the Bible and explain why we can still depend on its contents today.

Prior to its release on DVD, the documentary picked up nods at Christian film festivals in 2018, and with good reason. It is a well-researched, well-shot and articulated documentary that is unafraid to ask tough questions.

The 90-minute documentary explores the accuracy and validity of both the Old Testament and New Testament, addressing cultural context, how literally they are to be read, and even if they were divinely inspired. By matching historical, theological and anthropological evidence, we are given a compelling case for the sanctity of the Scriptures. Available now from Koorong (koorong.com).

– Jessica Morris

Interculturalism thriving at Box Hill Salvos

Words Philip Messenger

BOX HILL IS A SUBURB THAT sits 15km directly east of Melbourne's Central Business District. At first glance, it looks like a typical Australian suburb – beautiful trees, local shops, schools and several footy grounds within a stone's throw of each other. But take a walk through Box Hill Centro, the central shopping centre, and a different picture emerges.

The area is being transformed into a district of high-rise accommodation alongside a variety of international restaurants. There is a multicultural feel to the area, and Box Hill Salvation Army is right in the heart of it.

It was this multicultural feel that attracted Sunny Choi to the area. She started attending Box Hill Corps nine years ago and is now the Intercultural Pastor at the corps. Originally from South Korea, Sunny has a passion for evangelism and she loves people, regardless of their nationality.

Box Hill Corps had for many years been passionate about multiculturalism and engaging people from non-English speaking backgrounds into the church community, but Sunny saw a new opportunity. She saw the opportunity for interculturalism. Multiculturalism sees people from different backgrounds staying within silos, engaging with people from similar cultures and languages. In contrast, interculturalism exists so that people from all over the world engage with each other, regardless of language,



Intercultural Pastor Sunny Choi (holding the flag) and a group of people from Box Hill Corps, including the four new senior soldiers and three new adherents who were enrolled on Sunday 9 June.

religion and culture.

Sunny now oversees a vibrant ministry of interculturalism, which involves English conversation classes, creative arts classes and, of course, gatherings over food. All these activities are run with the aim of connecting people into the life of the corps.

Tuesday nights have become a hive of activity as parents bring their children to creative arts classes, and while the children engage in making music, singing and playing timbrels, the parents participate in English classes, Christianity Explained, Bible studies and sharing tea and cake.

English conversation classes each Thursday see large numbers of people attending whose origins are in Asia and Europe as well as northern

Africa. One could be forgiven for thinking they have walked into a United Nations convention. The team of volunteers are passionate not just about teaching English, but also about building relationships. The conversation classes are followed up with English reading classes, with Bibles used to learn to read English.

The two Sunday morning services are followed by a lunch – a multicultural feast of food. Everything from kangaroo sausage rolls to kimchi is served in some kind of eclectic Master Chef experience. As good as the food is, the best experience of lunch is the community. People sharing stories in different languages, while eating different foods; and the one thing bringing them together is Christ.

Soldiership classes are a natural progression from the lunch and Bible studies. On Pentecost Sunday (9 June) four senior soldiers and three adherents were enrolled. In true 'Pentecost style' the service involved people speaking Indian, Swedish, English, Korean, Dutch, Mandarin and Cantonese.

What happens at Box Hill is not new, and it certainly isn't innovative, but rather it is what the Holy Spirit has always done. Regardless of language or culture, through the Holy Spirit, God breaks into the lives of those he wants to be in community with.

Philip Messenger is the ministry assistant at Box Hill Corps

Gold Coast marathon runners beat the odds

“GOD WAS WITH ME AND GAVE me the strength to stay strong and keep going.”

“It was challenging, but I kept thinking about God, my corps and my country and was determined to finish and represent them well.”

“I focused on the scripture that through Christ, I could do all things, even a marathon, and I made it and finished strong.”

So said just three of the nine young people from Papua New Guinea who successfully completed their first marathon (42km) race – the Gold Coast Marathon – last month, as part of The Salvation Army Hope and a Future program.

The program, now in its sixth year, aims to give young PNG nationals – most of whom are already serving in their corps – the opportunity to be mentored to help develop them into future leaders in their corps, family, community and workplaces.

The impact of the program on the participants goes far beyond completing a marathon – as significant as that impact is. It helps take their growth and development spiritually, personally and educationally to a level that transforms their lives, as well as their families, corps and local communities.

Several program participants overcame tough personal circumstances just to complete the training and confront the physical and psychological challenges of the race.

The youngest participant Samantha (Sammy) is only 18. She grew up attending The Salvation Army with her grandmother and is now on the worship team and leads the



Hope and a Future runners and mentors who ran in the Gold Coast Marathon. Photo: Kian Worthing



Hope and a Future mentor Lauren Martin with Papua New Guinea participant Sammy Savara.

dance group at Koki Corps.

Sammy had not been able to attend or finish primary school for some time but was determined to complete her education and worked several jobs in order to put herself through.

Sammy plans to use her educational grant through

Hope and a Future to complete high school and become an air hostess to represent her country around the world.

“It’s by God’s plan that I am here and I am so thankful,” she said.

The program also impacts the mentors, both Australian and former program participants from PNG, as well as the local PNG communities where the young people train for the marathon.

Mentoring for the fourth time, Captain Brad McIver, Public Relations Secretary for The Salvation Army in NSW, says the Hope and a Future program is a “wonderful partnership” between the Australia and Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands territories

that creates a “deeper hope and a better future” for everyone involved.

“This is not about us doing something for or to others; we gain as much from the participants and local communities as they gain from us,” he said.

“I come back a better person after every visit to PNG – a better husband, father, and deeper in my spiritual journey.”

Captain Krista Andrews, Carindale Corps Officer, who was a mentor for the first time, says that being a part of this journey with the young people, hearing their stories and investing in the opportunities God is placing in their pathways, has been a “rich and beautiful” spiritual experience.

– Simone Worthing

Donaldsons installed as territorial leaders

A NUMBER OF THEMES WERE evident during the welcome and installation meeting for the Australia Territory's new leaders, Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson, on Sunday 14 July in Melbourne.

Among the repeating themes were holy living, authenticity, wholeheartedness, attention-catching difference, mission and territorial values, combined with the total consecration of ourselves to God.

"When people interact with Salvos they should notice a difference – we represent the King of kings and Lord of lords. Our behaviours and interactions should be of a quality and standard that is pleasing to God and noticeable to people," said Robert. "It is not just about what we do but how we live."

While the meeting was focused on the Donaldsons, the commissioners quickly



Commissioner Lyn Pearce installs Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson as territorial leaders. Chief Secretary Colonel Mark Campbell is holding the flag. Photo: Steph Glover

reframed it to be centred on Jesus Christ and how Salvationists, employees, volunteers – Salvos – can be used to transform Australia.

During an engaging interview with Anna Goodluck and Auxiliary-Lieutenant Adam Purcell, Janine and Robert shared openly about faith and paralleled the Australia Territory journey to the journey of the Hebrews with God.

Giving a fresh perspective of the coming together of the two former territories, the Donaldsons linked the

God-given purposes to the Jewish nation with his purposes for the Army in Australia.

The official installation, conducted by Commissioner Lyn Pearce, was also totally focused on God, concerning Janine and Robert's relationship with and responsibility to him. This involved their personal accountability to God for their spiritual condition as well as the wider charge for them to lead The Salvation Army in Australia. Prayer was also pivotal throughout this welcome meeting.

There were many highlights of faith-centredness. Janine recalled how God had deeply impacted her when they were in Melbourne last year for Still Others (before they knew of their appointment as leaders in Australia). She said, "When so many people gathered around the map of Australia during the final Still Others meeting I was so moved and I still get excited about it now. It gave me an image of lives being saved and transformed throughout this large country."

– **Lieut-Col. Laurie Robertson**

Chinese community strengthens links with the Salvos

THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN Melbourne has again thrown its support behind The Salvation Army, donating \$10,000 through the See Yup Society.

The Salvation Army was one of three organisations to receive a donation from the society at its 165th anniversary dinner.

Major Bruce Harmer, Public Relations Secretary for

Victoria, accepted the cheque on behalf of The Salvation Army and thanked the society (in Mandarin) for its ongoing support. It is the fourth year the See Yup Society has donated to The Salvation Army to support its work with vulnerable people in the community.

"Attending events like the See Yup Society celebration is

a stepping stone to forge lasting relationships with the Chinese community," Bruce said.

More than 200 Chinese community leaders were at the presentation, including Gladys Liu MP and Long Zhou, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne.

– **Jessica Morris**



Major Bruce Harmer and See Yup Society treasurer John Wong with the donation.

New wheels shift Copper Coast into top gear

COPPER COAST CORPS HAS taken delivery of a new Ford Transit van that will allow it to expand client services right across the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia.

A \$35,000 grant from the Department of Human Services Community and Support Services through Grants SA (South Australia) assisted with the purchase.

“An upgrade to a larger, more reliable vehicle was sorely needed as we work in with other providers to support a growing list of clients from the Copper Coast to the southern Yorke Peninsula,” said Corps Officer Captain Karen Armstrong.

“It will now be much easier for our volunteers to collect donated furniture or relocate people. In some cases, we’ve had to help furnish a whole house, which was difficult using our small van.”



Taking delivery of the new van (from left) Manuel Correll, of Copper Coast Corps, Lexie Murdock, of Murdock Motors Yorketown, Copper Coast Corps Officer Captain Karen Armstrong and Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis.

The van has been put to immediate use and is already making a big difference. Karen said only one weekly trip to Adelaide (150km away) to pick up goods from Foodbank was

now necessary, instead of three.

“Our priority was always to purchase a vehicle locally, with Murdock Motors at Yorketown able to supply the vehicle required, and we thank them

for their assistance,” Karen said.

“Thanks must also go to our grant writer Manuel Correll and Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis for providing a letter of support.”

The Salvation Army experiences a high level of community support on the Yorke Peninsula, which was again reflected in support for the recent Red Shield Appeal.

“There’s no doubt we are taking on more complex cases and I’m all about giving people a hand-up and providing the tools to enable them to get out of poverty,” Karen said.

“By regularly spending time with people we can work on budgeting issues, and through education help improve shopping, cooking and parenting skills.”

The Salvation Army will celebrate 136 years on the Copper Coast in October.

Carindale mums reconnecting with church community online

THE BUSY MUMS VIRTUAL Bible Study at Carindale Corps in Brisbane’s south – an initiative where participants all meet in their pyjamas – is meeting the needs of young women who often find themselves disconnected from their church community.

“Our church is full of children growing and learning, but it’s not always easy for the mums to get out to a Bible study or social group,” said Jessica Ndenda, one of the participants.

“So, we decided to do things differently and improvise! Once



A virtual Bible study for young mums is building close relationships in a safe and supportive environment.

the mums wrestle their young ones to bed, they dial into a video chat and talk about being women of faith. It has grown

to be a group of connection, support and fun each week, so much so that we are looking at starting a second one.”

The mums are going through the book *Present Over Perfect*, by Shauna Niequist, that talks about releasing the busyness of life and recognising who you are in God.

“This is about creating community and building relationships where people are,” said Captain Krista Andrews, Carindale Corps Officer.

“We currently have around eight or nine young mums doing just that, for an hour

every Tuesday night.”

The group, which began in April, runs during school terms, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

There is also an ongoing group-chat site for the mums, where they can post prayer requests, inspiring quotes, podcasts and encouragement to other group members.

“This is about making a safe space for the mums, where they can ‘test the waters’ and leave if they want to,” said Jessica.

“It also allows the mums to be more vulnerable and connect more closely with each other.”

– Simone Worthing

Self Denial funds can now make the change

THE SALVATION ARMY 2019 Self Denial Appeal has raised \$3,249,606, that will be used for both Salvation Army community development and mission support projects across the world.

‘Be the Change’ was the theme for the 2019 appeal, based on 2 Corinthians 9:11.

“As God has blessed us greatly we want to help others, and start a positive cycle that will change the world,” said International Fundraising Manager Leigh O’Donoghue.

“Donations to the appeal will not just change one life but equip entire communities to improve their own lives – for example, their health through access to clean water, their livelihood through income-generating activities, and through the education of women.

The Self Denial Appeal is based on Salvation Army founder William Booth’s understanding that God’s love is to be offered to others; that people in despair need hope. And hope is released through love-filled, practical action.

For those who would like to give one week’s salary or more to the appeal but struggle to achieve that in the six-week intensive campaign, there’s an opportunity to set up an ongoing regular giving plan.

To set up regular giving, or to donate online to the 2020 Self Denial Appeal, go to **self-denial.info**. If you would like to speak to someone about giving online, contact Leigh on 02 9466 3152.

– Simone Worthing

Lismore Salvos opens the door to ‘homeless’ Indigenous congregation



◆ Majors David and Meryl Cook with Arising Ministries congregation members Maryanne Roberts-Henderson and her sister Pastor Lois Johnson. The two congregations share Lismore Salvation Army hall. (The majors retired on 1 July.)

A COMBINATION OF GOD’S voice, a serious flood and an Aboriginal memorial service has resulted in an exciting ministry partnership for The Salvation Army in Lismore.

It began in May this year, with then Lismore Corps Officer Major David Cook standing at the rear of the corps worship centre, captivated by what was unfolding in front of him. The hall was packed with people praising the Lord, singing and clapping, the like of which David had not heard during his and wife Meryl’s time at the corps.

“It was like Army meetings I remember from my younger days, but these people weren’t Salvationists – they were from the local Aboriginal community, remembering one of their own, Greg King, an Elder who had died 12 months earlier,” David said.

Lismore Corps had built a good relationship with this Aboriginal congregation, known as Arising Ministries, over the previous 12 months and David was seeking God’s direction and his purpose for that relationship.

As David stood there, he heard God’s voice: “These people need a place to worship.”

David was introduced to the Aboriginal pastors and Elders after the service and shared with them what God had told him. They stood in silence with their eyes wide and tears flowing. “They were visibly moved and the Holy Spirit was doing his work,” David said.

Over the following week, David learned that this Aboriginal congregation had been ‘homeless’ after Lismore’s major flood two years earlier, which had forced the congregation to vacate a building in the

Central Business District they were using for worship.

A series of unsuccessful attempts to use other churches’ facilities followed and after two years without a home, the Indigenous congregation’s future looked bleak – until God spoke to the local Salvation Army officer.

“It was an easy decision to open our building for them,” David said.

The Aboriginal congregation is settling in well at its new ‘headquarters’, holding various weekly gatherings including worship, prayer, youth group and women’s fellowship.

“They even asked if their children could attend our Sunday school and the Kids Club on a Friday afternoon, and could their people also attend our worship if they wanted to?” David said.

– Kevin Elsley

Stepping up literacy to tackle poverty in Tasmania

SOME SAY A-B-C IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3, but for many Australians who struggle with literacy, this isn't the case.

Tasmania has the lowest levels of literacy in Australia, with more than half of the state's population having inadequate reading and writing skills.

Tasmania also has the highest rate of poverty in Australia, which prompted The Salvation Army to introduce its STeP123 literacy program 10 years ago with the aim of building pathways out of poverty.

Stepping up its involvement, The Salvation Army has now implemented a new project called 'Reading Together', which has been rolled out in primary schools in the Huon Valley region.

Volunteers are paired with a child, and early feedback is that self-esteem and confidence in reading has risen dramatically.



Peter, a volunteer with the Reading Together program, reads with children at some of Tasmania's most disadvantaged schools as part of The Salvation Army STeP123 Literacy Project..

"The idea is to get the children enjoying reading. It is about developing their enthusiasm for reading and conversation," said STeP123 Literacy Project Coordinator Deborah Stroh-Reilly. "Many [of these children] don't have adults who speak to them at home, and we know conversation increases the ability to read."

The project has been introduced in two schools in disadvantaged areas, where STeP123 has partnered with teachers to identify and support children aged 5-12 with literacy skills.

About 40 children use the weekly program, allowing them to read and converse with a trained adult volunteer.

On the other end of the scale,

the adults who take part in the program also grow in their own literacy, whether through reading, interacting with the community, or preparing to enter the workforce.

Twelve volunteers sourced from the wider community read with at least three children each for 20 minutes once a week, and teachers are seeing positive results.

"One teacher told us that the project has 'improved engagement and the likelihood of [kids] reading again'," said Deborah.

With financial support from the Tasmanian Community Fund and other benefactors, STeP123 provides people of all ages with workshops in emotional, functional and computer literacy. Reading Together is the latest addition in the pursuit of equal opportunity for literacy.

— Jessica Morris

Four decades of college childcare celebrated at closure

A CELEBRATION DAY HAS BEEN held to mark the closure of The Salvation Army Booth College Early Education Centre in Sydney's Bexley North.

The event was held at the college on Saturday 29 June with food stalls, a jumping castle, petting zoo and live entertainment honouring the positive impact the centre has had on the community over the past 39 years.

The centre opened in 1980 when The Salvation Army Officer Training College relocated to Bexley North from nearby Petersham. At that



Booth College Early Education Centre Director Tracey Robinson at the celebration day in Sydney.

stage, the centre catered only for the children of cadets and staff; however, it was opened up to the community as an official

childcare provider in 1993.

Centre Director Tracey Robinson, who has worked at the centre since 1998, said it had been an honour and a privilege to care for children over the years, especially the children of cadets.

"You're going on a journey in those two years with each cadet family," Tracey said. "Sometimes they're putting their children in care for the first time. They need to be confident that their children are going to be well cared for. That's been really important."

The centre also forged deep

connections with the local community over the years, with children who had gone through the centre often returning for work experience years later.

Tracey knows first-hand the benefits of Salvation Army children's ministry. She calls herself a "bus kid" – a child from the local area who was 'bussed' each week to Campsie Corps for Sunday school.

Tracey went on to become a Sunday school teacher, section leader and then young people's sergeant major (YPSM) and is still a Salvation Army soldier.

— Lauren Martin

Red Rocket ready to take off in Preston

MATESHIP, MISSION AND holistic men's health are at the centre of an initiative at Preston Salvation Army in Melbourne.

Project M is bringing together men of all ages to work on converting a small caravan into a mobile coffee and food van. Nicknamed the 'Red Rocket', the caravan will travel around the Darebin council area to provide food, coffee and other basics to those doing it tough.

"The whole concept of Project M is that we bring men together to use their skills and create a sense of common purpose, a goal we can work towards," said project manager Damian Rawlings.

"During the six-month refit, we will work and bond together, helping each other learn what it means to live in a healthy and productive way as men today amid the demands of everyday life."

Preston Corps Officer Major Peter McGuigan said the van



◀ (From left) Lucas Edwards, Major Peter McGuigan, Tim Hiah and Red Rocket project coordinator Damian Rawlings at the coffee van that is undergoing refurbishment. Photo: Imogen Rawlings

would provide those working on the project with a community to belong to, and a productive space in which new skills are learned and spiritual, emotional and mental health is nurtured.

When the Red Rocket is on the road, the ministry will be a connecting point for locals who will have access to personal

support, including referral to mental health services.

"There's a lot of men today who struggle with identity and underlying issues of who they are as men," Peter said.

The project is being implemented through the territorial Innovation Funding grant.

– **Jessica Morris**

Taree celebrates 130th anniversary

TAREE CORPS, ON THE NSW Mid North Coast, will mark its 130th anniversary this month with a weekend of celebration.

Former Taree Corps Officers Majors Rodney and Leonie Ainsworth and the Sydney Staff Songsters will be the special guests on 3-4 August.

"This occasion will be an opportunity to remind us of the great things God has done in and through Taree Corps throughout its 130 years, and also to look forward in faith to 'greater things' that he will do," said Taree Corps Officer Major Sandy Hogg.

The corps has already held a number of significant events as part of a year of anniversary celebrations. In March, the band, songsters and youth timbrels from Parramatta Corps visited, and a month later the Sydney Veterans Band was the special weekend guest.

Exploring life and faith over a coffee in Murray Bridge

THE MARKETPLACE COFFEE Club, hosted by Murray Bridge Corps, is a unique example of how chatting over coffee is often a relaxed and inclusive way for people to explore faith.

Twice a month on a Sunday morning, Captains Claire and Tim Watson, officers at the regional Murray Bridge Corps, 75km south-east of Adelaide, gather with leaders and members from a variety of denominations and backgrounds, for coffee, faith discussions and friendship.

Three people have accepted Jesus as a result of coming to the club with their friends.

"We meet at Murray Bridge Marketplace at 10.30am ... and coffee shop Mojo Espresso changed their opening hours to accommodate us as they were interested to see that the club involved the churches working together," Tim said.

"During each club, a different person will share for around 15 minutes on how Jesus has impacted their life, and then we have a chat around the tables.

"Coming to a church service is a strange thing for most people; so coming to a shopping centre makes it easy."

Claire said: "God has wanted us in this shopping centre for a while now. He prompted me to start a weekly prayer group here three years ago to pray for the city. Six of us meet in the food court on Monday mornings; we're just ordinary people, wanting to pray for Murray Bridge, and the coffee club is part of what God is doing here."

– **Simone Worthing**



◀ Murray Bridge Corps Officer Captain Claire Watson says the coffee club is a relaxed way for people to talk faith.

Enrolments

BOX HILL CORPS

VIC



MINISTRY ASSISTANT PHILIP MESSENGER enrolled four senior soldiers and accepted three adherents at Box Hill Corps on Pentecost Sunday, 9 June. Pictured are (from left) Sunny Choi (Intercultural Pastor), new soldiers Grace Lee, Wi Sook Kim, Bong Ki Shin and Yingshen Xu, Philip Messenger, new adherents Young Yoon, Michael An and Ann Go, and Eliza Li (Intercultural Team Member).

GOLDEN GROVE CORPS

SA



MAJORS ANDREW AND DIANNE JARVEY enrolled Joshua as a junior soldier and accepted nine people as adherents. Pictured above (front row from left) Karen, Cindy, Josiah, Ursula and Joshua; (back row from left) David, Nicola, Nicole, Brad, Stephine, Major Dianne and Major Andrew. Peter Rigley is the flagbearer.

NOARLUNGA CORPS

SA



CAPTAIN SIMON PICKENS, SOUTH Australia/Northern Territory Divisional Youth and Young Adults Secretary, and Renee Pickens, Divisional Children's Coordinator, recently enrolled Daniel, Emily, Jack and Isabella as junior soldiers. They are pictured above (from left) with their supporters.

CASTLEMAINE CORPS

VIC



CAPTAIN JUDY SHAW, CORPS OFFICER, recently accepted Belinda Harris as an adherent at the corps, pictured left with flagbearer Dean Curtis. Many of Belinda's family attended as well as some of her fellow volunteers from the corps Thrift Shop.

CAMPBELLTOWN CORPS

SA



CAPTAIN AARON STOBIE, CORPS OFFICER, enrolled Chantal Adams (second from right) as a senior soldier and accepted George Halls (right) as an adherent at Rediscovery Church on 21 June. Chantal is the first senior soldier at Rediscovery. Captain Lauren Stobie is second from left.

BURWOOD CORPS

NSW



LIEUTENANT DILLON WU, BURWOOD CORPS Officer with Lieutenant Rong Fu, enrolled Stephen Pong as a senior soldier on Sunday 2 June. Pictured above (from left) are Lieut Dillon Wu, Stephen Pong and Lieut Rong Fu. Simon Feng is the flagbearer.

Send us your enrolment stories.

We want to share your stories. Please send details and a high-resolution photo to Simone Worthing at simone.worthing@salvationarmy.org.au

PARAFIELD GARDENS CORPS

SA



OVER THE COURSE OF THE FOUNDERS' Day weekend in June, Area Officer (Northern), Major Susan Wallace, accepted Peter Kehoe and Rita Pereira as adherents and enrolled Caitlyn Hale and Sonia Hallett as senior soldiers during Friday night church. The group is pictured (from left) Rita Pereira, Caitlyn Hale, Captain Colin Palstra (Corps Officer), Major Susan Wallace, Sonia Hallett and Peter Kehoe.

On Sunday morning, Captain Kylie Palstra, Corps Officer, accepted four new adherents: Rachael Melville, Angel Hnatyszyn, Kathryn Ellis, and Daniel Hubbert (not pictured).

PARRAMATTA CORPS

NSW



MAJOR BILL MOLE RECENTLY ENROLLED his granddaughter, Margaret Eden, as a senior soldier. Margaret is pictured above with Majors Bev and Bill Mole.



MAJOR SHARON SANDERCOCK-BROWN recently enrolled Ray Haule as senior soldier, pictured above, with Lieutenant John Corey holding the flag.

TORQUAY CORPS

VIC



MAJOR HEATHER ELLIS, CORPS OFFICER, enrolled Jan Johnston as a senior soldier on Founders' Day – 7 July. The photo shows Jan with Heather.

New red shield designed for Indigenous Canadians

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE HAS unveiled a new Salvation Army red shield acknowledging the Gitxsan Indigenous people of Canada during a recent visit to his home territory.

The Gitxsan shield, approved by International Headquarters, was envisioned by Indigenous Salvationist Alex Stoney as a response to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the (Canadian) Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Indigenous Salvationist and professional artist Michelle Stoney designed the shield as an acknowledgement of the Gitxsan language, culture and history within a Salvation Army context and representing Army ministries within the Gitxsan Nation. The shield includes the clans of the Gitxsan Nation, which are represented by a frog, a wolf and the fireweed plant.

The Gitxsan Nation is one of Canada's First Nations, which occupies 33,000 square kilometres of traditional territory in British Columbia.



◉ (From left) Commissioner Susan McMillan, General Brian Peddle, Simogyet (Chief) Axigigii of the Gitxsan Nation, Indigenous Salvationist Alex Stoney, who envisioned the shield, and Indigenous Salvationist Michelle Stoney, who designed it.

Shirli Congoo, the Australia Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry General Manager, said the shield was a beautiful tribute.

"Many Indigenous nations would appreciate and connect with the symbolism of the artwork as many nations prior to colonisation had no written

language and used artwork symbols to convey important and sometimes complex stories and messages through the generations with relation to hunting, food, historical or sacred information etc.," Shirli said. "It's great to see Indigenous peoples being recognised and celebrated in

a way that they can express themselves through art, song and dance.

"The Australia Salvation Army is on a journey of building cultural capability and we look forward to the day when one component is designing a shield that represents our First Nations peoples."

Poland has a heart for the homeless

THE SALVATION ARMY IN Rzeszów, Poland, has launched a social assistance program – Have a Heart – for people living rough on the streets, or facing other challenges.

The program is for city residents, as well as those in surrounding areas who ask for help. It offers food, toiletries and clothing as well as pastoral and counselling assistance.

Commissioner Read receives the highest order

COMMISSIONER HARRY READ, 95, has been admitted to the Order of the Founder, The Salvation Army's highest honour. General Brian Peddle presented Commissioner Read with the honour last month during commissioning celebrations for the *Messengers of Compassion* session in the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

General Peddle read the



◉ General Brian Peddle awards Commissioner Harry Read.

citation, which stated that Commissioner Read was admitted to the Order of the

Founder "in recognition of a life of outstanding Christian witness in word, verse and deed spanning 75 years, with a recent and relevant witness through social media captivating a global audience with the authentic message of reconciliation, hope and peace".

Commissioner Read has previously served as Territorial Commander in the former Australia Eastern Territory.

UK pledges help with resettlements

THE UNITED KINGDOM'S commitment to resettle even more refugees after its current Syria-focused program expires next year has been welcomed by The Salvation Army.

The Home Office said that the UK would welcome between 5000-6000 refugees from 2020-2021.

The Salvation Army has worked with local authorities across the UK on refugee resettlement since 2016.

"We have put our hearts into supporting people forced to leave their homes and have enabled resettlement schemes to continue to thrive," said Major Nick Coke, the Army's Refugee Coordinator.

New positional statement released

THE SALVATION ARMY HAS released its newest international positional statement – on sexism.

The international positional statements reflect the official viewpoint of The Salvation Army and are written with the intention of providing information and guidance to its members.

As well as stating the position, each document expresses the scriptural and theological grounds for the statement and the underlying principles.

The statements must be approved by the General before publication.

To view the statements check out salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips

Peddles lead Indonesian celebrations



◆ The General, supported by Commissioners Rosalie Peddle and Jennifer and Peter Walker, signs a plaque for three corps buildings badly damaged by the earthquake in Palu, which have been refurbished.

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, Salvation Army world leaders, recently led the 125-year anniversary celebrations of The Salvation Army in Indonesia.

The General and Commissioner Peddle (World President of Women's Ministries), accompanied then territorial leaders, Australian officers Commissioners Peter and Jenny Walker, to Palu

in Central Sulawesi. Many parts of Palu are being entirely rebuilt after a 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck the region in September 2018. The General also signed plaques for three corps buildings badly damaged by the earthquake but now refurbished.

A crowd of some 17,000 Salvationists and friends gathered in the nearby village of Maranatha as part of the

celebrations. Local dignitaries and representatives from other faiths participated in the event.

Returning to the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, the Peddles led the commissioning meeting for 32 cadets of the *Messengers of Compassion* session.

Acknowledgement was also made of the service of the Australian commissioners, who concluded their time as leaders soon after the celebrations.

Army response takes heat off French crisis



◆ The Salvation Army in Paris assisting the most vulnerable during the extreme weather conditions last month.

THE SALVATION ARMY IN FRANCE HAS assisted vulnerable members of the community to stay cool, safe and healthy in the extreme weather that hit the capital Paris, and other parts of the country, last month.

The focus was on assisting people experiencing homelessness, with distribution points offering free hats, caps, sunscreen and drinking water.

Mitigation measures were also put in place at The Salvation Army homes for older people in the capital.

FRED LIMPUS



MAJOR FRED LIMPUS WAS promoted to glory on 1 June, aged 98. Relatives Majors Denice and Rodney Strong conducted a memorial service at Nambour Corps on 7 June.

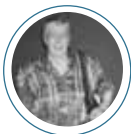
Major Sue Cox read a tribute from Queensland Divisional Commander Lieut-Colonel David Godkin and offered prayer. Fred's grandchildren spoke lovingly of his strong family values before Lieut-Colonel Neil Young, a close family friend, paid tribute on behalf of The Salvation Army. Son John and daughters Joy and Kaylene spoke on behalf of the family.

Frederick Frank Limpus was born on 16 April 1921 and spent his early years in the Rockhampton region, living in a bush-timber iron shack with a dirt floor and no electricity. He attended a one-teacher school as the only white child among 25 other students.

His family attended North Rockhampton Salvation Army. Fred went to officer training college as part of the *Valiant* session, and was commissioned in 1944. He married Rita in 1948.

Fred was a man of prayer and the Bible, and had the ability to relate to people of all ages. He was a 'father figure' to many. In 1986, Fred and Rita retired and bought their first home at Kawana on the Sunshine Coast, soldiering at Nambour Corps. Rita was promoted to glory in 2006.

JEAN BUERCKNER



MAJOR JEAN BUERCKNER WAS promoted to glory on 11 June, aged 92. Her funeral service was held at Inala Chapel, Blackburn South,

on 21 June.

Jean Florence Buerckner was born on 17 September 1926 in Melbourne, one of six children. She attended The Salvation Army Sunday school in South Williamstown and made a commitment to follow Jesus at the age of eight. She entered officer training college in 1955 as part of the *Soulwinners* session.

After commissioning, Jean was appointed to the Bridge Program in Adelaide, followed by Harbour Industrial Home in Victoria, Elim in Tasmania and Sunset Lodge in Adelaide, before spending five years on the training college staff. She then went back into social service work with appointments at Allenby Lodge, The Haven, Inala Village (all Victoria) and Sutherland Lodge in Adelaide, before retiring in 1986.

Jean's joy came from her work with disabled and disadvantaged people. She believed people with disabilities should not be institutionalised and, while at The Haven in North Fitzroy, started helping the girls move into flats in the community. She taught them to cook and ran budgeting classes. This was the beginning of supported independent accommodation.

Jean had an ability to handle difficult situations and was keen and hardworking. She was champion of the 'underdog', the poor, the marginalised and the single mother.

but their written tributes were read by Barry Parkes and Maree Maunder. Kevin and Peter Parkes then spoke very highly of their mother, before Louise Rowan and Chloe Parkes read tributes. Kelsie Parkes sang 'Hallelujah' as her tribute.

Edna was born on 6 September 1933, one of four children. Her mother was the songster leader at Warrnambool Corps. Edna married and had three children – Kevin, Bruce and Peter – before her husband was tragically killed in a motor accident and she was left to raise the boys.

The family moved to Melbourne and attended Canterbury Corps, where Edna was a very keen Home Leaguer, songster and timbrellist, and also taught in the Sunday school. Years later she transferred to Chelsea Corps and was again very active in various ministries.

In retirement, Edna moved to a Salvation Army home at Weeroona and visited many of the residents, bringing comfort and peace to all she made contact with.

During this time her second son Bruce passed away and it was a very difficult time for the family. Wanting to be closer to family, Edna moved to Queensland and soldiered in her later years at Caboolture Corps.

EDNA PARKES



EDNA JEAN PARKES WAS promoted to glory on 11 May, aged 85. Family friend Colin McMillin, of Waverley Temple Corps

in Melbourne, conducted the thanksgiving service at Caboolture Corps in Queensland on 17 May.

Caboolture Corps Officer Major Helen Ellicott prayed before various tributes were given. Edna's brothers, Bill and Graham Maunder, were unable to attend,

Tribute reports.

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

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 27 June

Major Belinda **Spicer**, Mission Leader, Macquarie Fields Mission (additional appointment), NSW/ACT Division; Major Lynden **Spicer**, Mission Leader, Macquarie Fields Mission (additional appointment), NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 1 July

Major Adam **Couchman**, Corps Officer (pro tem), Box Hill Corps, (Continuing – Lecturer, Eva Burrows College), Victoria Division; Major Megan **Couchman**, Corps Officer (pro tem), Box Hill Corps, Victoria Division; Major Jeanette **Stoltenberg**, Transition Officer, Officer Personnel, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

Effective 22 July

Major Alwyn **Robinson**, Candidate Development Coordinator and Individual Training Officer, Officer Formation Stream, Eva Burrows College Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Major Robin **Pullen**, Chaplaincy Team Leader, Rural Chaplains and Flying Padres, Community Engagement.

Effective 1 August

Major Bong-kyu **Lee**, Corps Officer, Belmore Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Major Eun-sill **Seo**, Corps Officer, Belmore Corps, NSW/ACT Division. (Major Bong-kyu **Lee** and Major Eun-sill **Seo** are transferring to the Australia Territory from the Korea Territory); Major Janette **Shepherd**, Chaplaincy Team Leader, South Australia (pro tem) and Chaplain – Toward Independence Network (pro tem), Community Engagement; Captain Amy **Stobie**, Assistant Corps Officer (pro tem), Mandurah Corps, Western Australia Division; Captain Ronald **Stobie**, Assistant Corps Officer (pro tem), Mandurah Corps, Western Australia Division; Captain Erica **Cossington**, Retired Officers' Chaplain, Western Australia (Additional), Officer Personnel, Office of the Secretary for Personnel; Major Peter **Anderson**, Chaplain, Linsell Lodge, (full-time), Community Engagement.

Effective 12 August

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Colette **Albino**, Corps Officer Albany Corps, Western Australia Division; Auxiliary-Lieutenant Duane **Albino**, Corps Officer Albany Corps, Western Australia Division.

Effective 2 September

Major Gary **Masters**, Executive Manager, Legal Department, Office of the Secretary for Business Support.

Effective 16 September

Captain Katie **Parker**, Assistant Divisional Commander, Divisional Headquarters, Victoria Division; Major Sandra **MacDonald**, First Five Years Major of Officership and Aux-Lieut Development Co-ordinator, Eva Burrows College, Office of the Secretary for Personnel.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON (TERRITORIAL LEADERS)

South Australia 2-4 August – Divisional visit.

Hobart 8 August – Board meeting.

Melbourne 12 August – EMLT gathering, Eva Burrows College.

NSW/ACT 16-18 August – Divisional visit.

Queensland 23-26 August – Divisional visit.

Western Australia 30 Aug-2 Sept – Divisional visit.

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

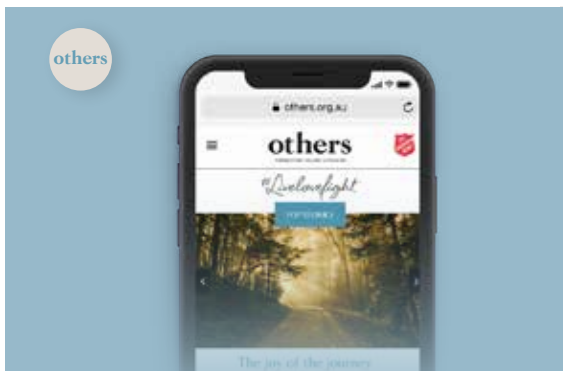
#Geelong 5-7 August – Pre-retirement Seminar, Geelong Conference Centre.

*Geelong 5 August – Pre-retirement Seminar, Geelong Conference Centre.

Craigieburn 25 August – Craigieburn Corps, Victoria.

#Colonel Mark Campbell only

*Colonel Julie Campbell only



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I am no one without God.

Bridge Program put me on the path to life

WORDS ANNI

I DIDN'T LEARN ABOUT RACE UNTIL I started school, so in my mind I wasn't Indigenous, I was just black. Growing up and attending school in the 1960s and '70s, I had always been told I'd never amount to anything. As my life progressed, I found it easier to spend time with people who drank every day because it didn't matter what you said; no one was going to remember it anyway.

My automatic response to everything was, "I don't know." Nobody cared. I was always overlooked because of my colouring and lack of intelligence, or because I didn't fit the 'norm'. By this stage I was a closet drinker, but I would often think, "There must be more to life than drinking ... surely this is not why I am here."

I told a friend's parents – churchgoing people – that I needed help. They took me to The Salvation Army William Booth rehab centre in Surry Hills, Sydney. It was 1984 and I was 20 years old.

In rehab, I had to learn to develop relationships that were meaningful. I spent two years at William Booth and Selah (a Salvation Army rehabilitation centre on the NSW Central Coast). That time gave me the ability to make something lasting rather than something in the wind. It taught me a lot about myself and what I could do. When you're an alcoholic or addict, you tend to blame God for everything – even if you're not a practising Christian, or you're an atheist or an agnostic. Over the years I have learnt it was not God who left me, but I who left God.



• Anni says she is an example of the transformation only God can work in a person's life.

I now have the 'weirdest' relationship with God because of the 12-step Bridge Program I did in rehabilitation. I have learned to be obedient, and it's really hard to be obedient when you don't want to be! I have learned that God is patient, he is loving, he is kind – and they are things I need.

One of the things about being Indigenous is that the wind and trees give me proper connectedness to God as I understand him. The breeze is slow when I am connected to God, but the trees sway frantically when I am chaotic. If I didn't have a healthy relationship with God I still would have nothing and be no one.

Even when things get hard and I want to run, I have to remember not to; that running is not an option anymore. The Salvation Army has been a cornerstone for me. When things get tough, I go back, refocus and regroup. The Salvos have always been there and laid a solid foundation for me. It is still my safe place when life gets tough.

I now do a lot of street ministry at the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne. My constant prayer is to hear people's

hearts. I've learned very much that I'm just an instrument. God always meets people where they are at and that's why I like doing this ministry – I'm no different to the people I meet.

I learned very early in my recovery that God is doing for me what I could not do myself. He died so I could have life more abundantly. •

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Anni was named Westlakes Elder of the Year 2019 to coincide with NAIDOC Week last month.

Tell us your story

We want to be able to share your 'salvation story'. Tell us in no more than 600 words the story of how God has transformed your life, accompanied by a print-quality photo that is at least 1mb in size. Send it to others@aus.salvationarmy.org, and we will be in touch should we decide to share your story.



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