

■ INTERVIEW

Peddles talk about leadership, Australia and gender equity

■ OPINION

Amanda Merrett on what an inclusive Christmas looks like

■ THE BIG PICTURE

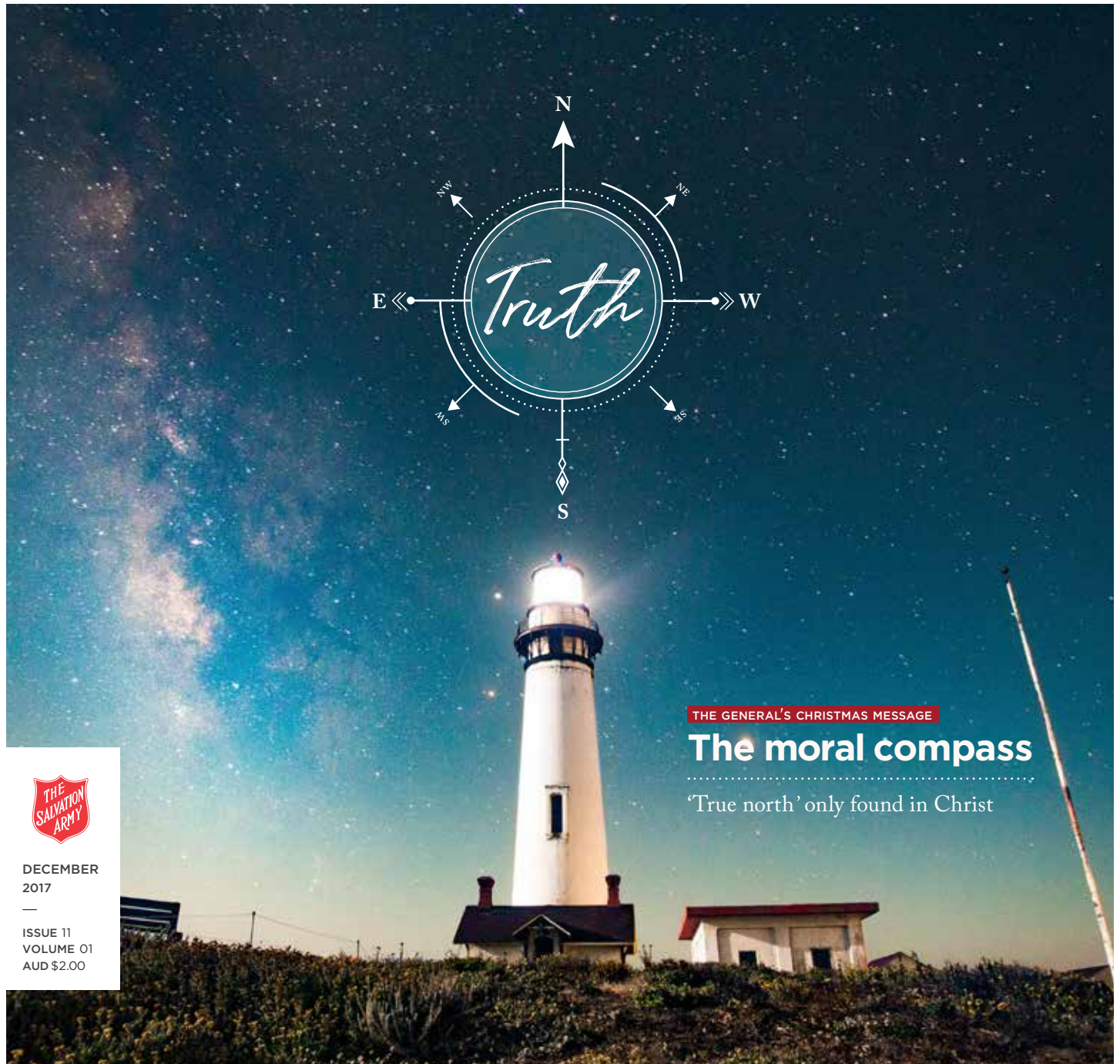
A Christian perspective on the December movie blockbusters

■ FEATURE

What happened to a Salvo corps when Santa came to town

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION



THE GENERAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The moral compass

‘True north’ only found in Christ



DECEMBER
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SCOTT SIMPSON | MANAGING EDITOR

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, my wife and I introduced a new Christmas tradition for our children. In mid-October, we take our three daughters shopping. They buy things like pens and pencils, pencil cases, a few small toys, perhaps a T-shirt or pair of shorts, and some personal hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc).

On returning home, they pack three shoeboxes full of the items they have purchased and then, on the next Sunday, take them to our church. The boxes are passed on to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, which distributes them to children living in desperate situations around the world.

This new tradition has been a wonderful way of helping our girls learn about the joy there is in giving (although I will admit there were a few touch-and-go moments the first year when the realisation dawned that the gifts weren't for personal consumption), as well as understanding just how much God has blessed our family with.

In this issue of *Others*, we explore the many ways that you, too, can focus on the act of giving this Christmas.

Amanda Merrett, in a Viewpoint article, argues that for Christians, Christmas *should* be about the inclusion of those who are on the edges of our communities, or excluded altogether. She then suggests a number of practical ways that we can include the excluded. Natasha Moore and Danielle Strickland also bring perspectives on the Christmas story

that challenge us to reconsider the way we approach the festive season.

All this talk of giving has helped sharpen my mind once again on what we, as Christians, believe has been the greatest gift of all – of God sending his precious Son to rescue a broken world. It can be all too easy to become distracted by the busyness of Christmas and, subsequently, lose sight of what an incredible moment in history this was. Of God, in the person of his Son, coming to earth to live among us.

It can also be all too easy to fail to understand just what a phenomenal act of sacrifice this was. The Father and the Son had existed for all time in a state of perfect union, and yet here was God willing to disrupt that union by sending Jesus to live among a broken humanity.

God knew the path of pain and suffering that his Son would have to walk and yet he still *gave*, willingly. It's an act of giving that surely stands alongside what we view as the ultimate sacrifice, that of Christ on the cross.

May God, this Christmas, take you to deeper levels of understanding the biblical truth found in Acts 20:35, that it is so, so much more “blessed to give than to receive”. ■

Scott Simpson is the Managing Editor of *Others*





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Major Brendan Nottle's 700km Walk the Walk from Melbourne to Canberra may be over, but his fight to end homelessness has only just begun.
Photo: Laura Lynch



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Transforming the present to create the future.

What our Army will look like by 2030

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

“FOR CHRIST’S LOVE COMPELS US, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again,” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

I love nothing more than having the opportunity to speak into the life of a person who doesn’t yet know Jesus. In such moments there is a real sense of the honour and privilege of being a partner with God in his work in our world. As we move into Christmas – and celebrate the reason for the season – opportunities abound to share the good news with others. In the sharing, there may be some preconceptions to address and context required as to why an investment in a relationship with Jesus is the most life-transforming gift a person can receive, but it’s always a life-giving (for me) and life-changing (for them) moment.

These moments are particularly special for me as it confirms over and over again my motivation for living a life of service and sacrifice. They are moments that reinforce how we as God’s people are seeking to emulate the love Jesus gave to all humanity by coming to earth from the comfort of heaven, sacrificing his life, so that all humanity could be saved.

There is no greater demonstration of the love of God than Jesus. In Paul’s letter to the first-century Christians in Philippi, he talks of Jesus living out this declaration of no greater love, by leaving heaven to come to earth and live “a selfless, obedient life and then die a selfless, obedient death – and the worst kind of death at that – a crucifixion” (Philippians 2:6 *The Message*). From his coming to earth over 2000 years ago to this precise moment, we believe the love of Jesus is the only ingredient that can fully transform lives. It is our privilege to be the carriers of the love of Jesus. Jesus paid the price for his love. Are we willing to do the same?

The words “*with the love of Jesus*” do more than round out our National Vision Statement. They are the defining difference in our work as Salvos. They form every declaration and inform every decision of The Salvation Army in Australia. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our movement. His love is the infrastructure of everything and anything that we do as we seek to transform Australia one life at a time.

The Salvation Army will only be a relevant and significant force in our nation if we’re equipped and prepared to sacrifice and commit ourselves to sharing the love of Jesus. If we want to bring hope to a broken world, it will only happen with the love of Jesus. If we want to build a just world in the face of injustice, it will only happen with the love the Jesus. If we want to see thousands of people set free from poverty, it will only happen with the love of Jesus.

Our national vision is a vision worth dying for. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him. This vision statement is a reflection of Christ’s mission and love, a mission and love he invites us to partner with him in. He gave his life for this mission and this is a vision that calls us to the same sacrificial living.

It is our tradition, it is our obligation and it is our privilege to PROCLAIM by preaching and teaching, SHARE through community and DEMONSTRATE in action the love of Jesus.

Tracey joins me in wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas season experiencing the love, hope and joy Jesus brings. May God bless you each one. ■

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



The Middle East Region - challenge and opportunity.

How well do you know The Salvation Army world? In this regular feature, we give an overview of The Salvation Army's Middle East Region.

HISTORY

The Salvation Army in the Middle East began with meetings held by expatriate Salvationists from South Asia who had moved to the Gulf Coast countries for employment. After years of independent effort by local leaders, requests for official recognition were sent to International Headquarters.

In August 2008, General Shaw Clifton appointed the first officers to Kuwait. Expansion has continued over ensuing years into the neighbouring countries of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Oman.

The Middle East officially became a region of The Salvation Army on 1 April 2011. For many Salvationists living in Gulf countries, with restrictions on freedom of religion, meeting to pray and share is difficult and challenging. However, a new Army fellowship commenced in December 2016 in one such country and is progressing well.

In countries with relative freedom, programs such as Bible studies, prayer meetings, outreach events and social care services have taken place. Regional officers have prepared and distributed new resources to aid in these worship meetings.

The Kuwait Praise Youth Band held two retreats that resulted in leaders extending weekly rehearsals to include more

devotional times and opportunities for creative expressions.

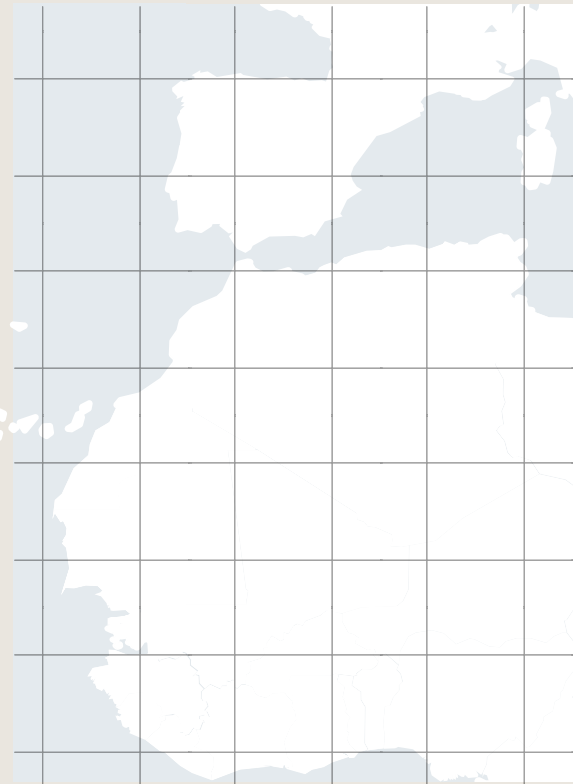
Greater ownership has led to the youth inviting others to attend and to a blog being set up to assist with community sharing and devotional resources.

Social care work continues to support domestic workers in distress with refuge facilities, training and repatriation. It also supports outreach programs and gives assistance to families and individuals in difficulty.

Advocacy work with government ministries, deportation centres and detention centres continues to take place. Prisons are visited on a weekly basis. Majors Heather and Stewart Grinsted are the Regional Officers in the Middle East Region. They describe the panoramic picture of The Middle East as “lands full of sand, oil (at present), beauty and silence, the ancient and the modern, the spiritual and the secular, historic hostilities and contemporary conflict, indigenous and expatriate people, riches and poverty, integrity and injustice, challenges and possibilities.”

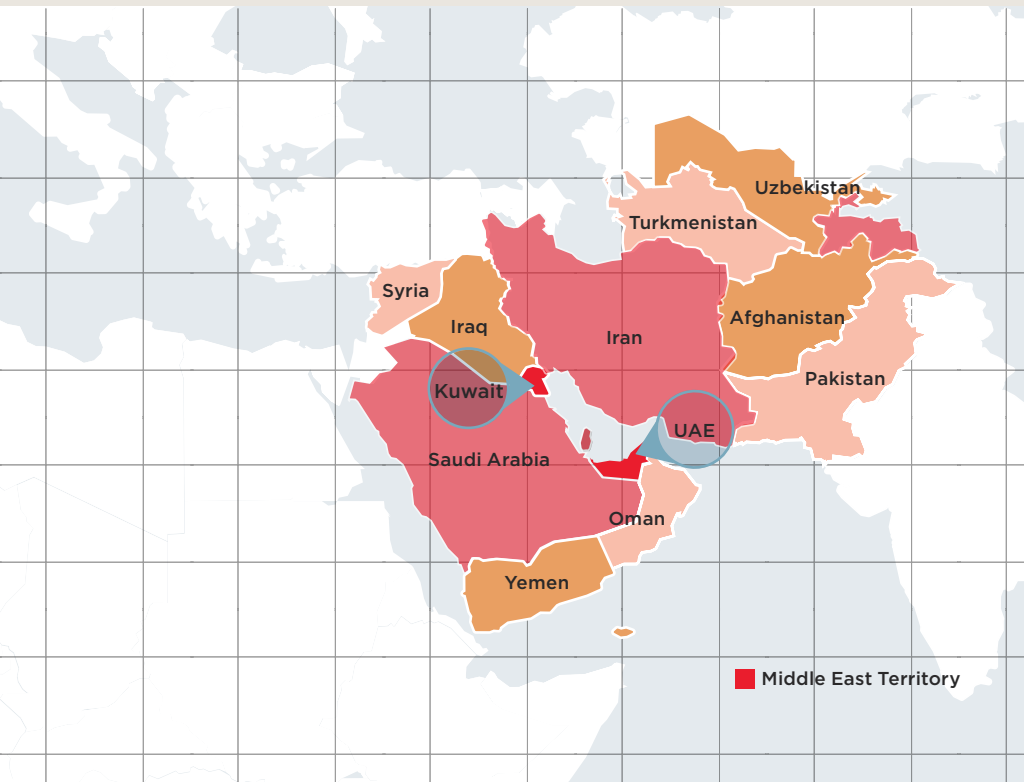
UNIQUE CHALLENGES

According to the Grinsteds, The Salvation Army, along with other churches, is being challenged to offer a spiritual home for a majority of transient people and, at the same time, for some who are more permanent.



AT A GLANCE

	Officers 2
	Employees 4
	Fellowships (corps) 11
	Senior soldiers 343
	Junior soldiers 51



to the Gulf States are tough, with long working hours, cramped accommodation and low salaries.

The Salvation Army visits their “camps” – high-rise blocks of flats – to offer pastoral and practical support. This includes Bibles in their own languages, basic food parcels, hygiene and medical supplies.

TRAINING INITIATIVES

The region received funding this year for a training weekend for local lay leaders across the region which encouraged and equipped them to be more effective in the congregations and communities they serve.

There was also a three-day celebration in Oman, under the leadership of Regional Leaders and Majors Anne and John Read from the United Kingdom, as part of the Whole World Mobilising initiative.

The small band that operates in Kuwait in worship and in witness, where possible, in embassies and bazaars, benefited from a three-day camp under the leadership of a retired music teacher from the UK.

In an upcoming weekend, a number of young adult Salvationists working in the Middle East will have the opportunity to reflect on what God is saying to them through a mixture of worship, prayer, Bible study, small group discussion, and personal reflection.

In 2018, The Middle East Region will celebrate its 10-year anniversary. ■

“What can we offer to the wider community?” they ask. “How do we engage with people from numerous different countries and cultures, many who come out of their comfort zones into the desert places?”

There are also challenges to cross religious boundaries and build friendships with Muslim neighbours, employers, landlords and officials.

“Although it is forbidden by law to proselytise, we try to take every opportunity to present ourselves in a Christlike way, to have meaningful conversations and to be salt and light,” the Grinsteds said.

“There are many expatriate Salvationists from around the world working in the Middle East in Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Fellowships have sprung up under local officer leadership and grown as more people move here and as The Salvation Army becomes known to be here. The Salvation Army is alive and active and soldiers and members will continue to need pastoral care and leadership.”

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

As part of the region’s social programs, a safe place for women caught up in human trafficking offers them care while their legal cases are being resolved, and they are eventually repatriated.

“While in The Salvation Army’s care, the women come very much under the influence of the Gospel through daily prayers, a weekly worship service and the pastoral work of staff who are all members of The Salvation Army,” Major Heather said.

“The women’s basic needs are met and we have created a schedule of programs, with the support of volunteers, to equip and enhance their basic skills.”

The “C” Clinic in Kuwait is a new initiative that responds to the health needs of vulnerable people. It offers the “4 Cs” – care to aid people in need; counsel for holistic, healthy living; consultation on medical issues; and connections to medical facilities for appropriate care. Living conditions for migrant labour workers



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 of this type of writing, please go to: others.org.au/viewpoint

An inclusive Christmas.

Reaching out to the 'others' in society

WORDS | AMANDA MERRETT

ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME, knows that I love Christmas. I have several Pinterest boards dedicated to Christmas baking, craft and decorations. And I love listening to Christmas carols. Over the years, however, Christmas has also become a profoundly spiritual time for me. Every year, as I participate in Christmas preparation, I am reminded that a vulnerable, helpless and displaced baby was God's plan of redemption and reconciliation for the entire world. As I reflect upon the Christmas story I am struck by the ways in which the Kingdom of God is revealed through the different people involved. In Luke 2:10, we read of angels announcing the birth of Christ to the Shepherds. Yet, this Lord is not powerful or rich. He is an outsider, a baby completely dependent on others, born to a people who are occupied and oppressed. And still, he is the saviour of the world. God's plan of redemption for the world doesn't start with someone who can command an audience. It starts with a baby.

This reveals to us the values of the Kingdom of God. God chooses to use people who are excluded, marginalised, weak and vulnerable, and considered "other" by society. Mary was pregnant out of wedlock. Against all cultural and social expectations Joseph decided to stay engaged to Mary. They would have remained on the margins for the rest of their lives.

The shepherds were working class and considered unclean by Jewish culture, yet

they are the people the birth of Jesus is revealed to. The magi who came from the east are foreigners concerned with science and astrology. For the Jewish people who studied and interpreted Scripture, not the stars, the inclusion of the magi is unusual and almost offensive. Yet, God still uses these foreigners in the Christmas story.

The Christmas story is extraordinarily counter-cultural to the narrative of Christmas embraced by Australians. The first Christmas was about the inclusion of outsiders, and yet today we typically celebrate Christmas with those closest to us. Australian society loves mateship, but we rarely extend friendship to those who are left on the outside – people seeking asylum and refuge, those living in poverty, people who are homeless, the immigrant, our nation's First Peoples, people experiencing family and domestic violence. If the first Christmas story was one of hope and inclusion for all people, what is the Christmas message for people who are marginalised now?

Australians love celebrating Christmas with food, family and friends, sport, music and, if you're from my family, afternoon naps. Of course these celebrations aren't bad, but as I reflect on the Christmas story, I wonder if there is a different way to embrace Christmas? Last year, Australians spent around \$8.8 billion on Christmas presents alone. Yet people who present to The Salvation Army for assistance receive just \$17.14 of income support per day. Is the Christmas story an opportunity to assess how we spend our money and time?

Christmas should be about the inclusion of those who are on the edges of our communities, or excluded altogether. There are things we can do to ensure the inclusion and dignity of people during Christmas (for example, using the *Ethical Shopping Guide*, or upcycling gifts). But ultimately, the Christmas story is a

counter-cultural one that invites us to change the way we live, not just the way we celebrate. Some practical responses could include:

- Gather people from your faith community and go for a prayer walk in your church neighbourhood. Ask God to reveal people who are the "excluded".
- Consider researching where your Christmas presents were made. Google "Ethical Fashion Guide".
- Volunteer at your community support service during Christmas. Take time to talk to those who are coming for assistance, and listen to their stories. Check out locally run Christmas events, consider attending or volunteering, or combine your church's events with them!
- There are many "Christmas orphans" who are alone at Christmas. Consider hosting a guest this festive season.

Who are the outsiders in your community? And how might God be asking you to include them this festive season? More importantly, how may God be asking you to include people throughout the year? The birth of Christ is a clear statement that the Kingdom of God is about a new way of living. In the midst of baking, presents, holidays and fundraising, have we forgotten about the inclusive message of Christmas?

It is easy to get swept up in the festivities, so take a moment and ask not what does Christmas mean to me, but what does Christmas mean to those in my community? ■

.....
Amanda Merrett is Assistant to the Social Justice Secretary in The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory.



WORTH
QUOTING.

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph. – **Shirley Temple**

Baffling but beautiful.

Making sense of the Christmas story

WORDS | DANIELLE STRICKLAND

WE'VE DONE A remarkably good job of sanitising Christmas. We really have.

We've smoothed over all the rough spots and photoshopped and fairy-dusted the characters to death. And in so doing, we've most likely missed the shocking and earthy truth of its message. The daring, crazy strategy of God becoming a helpless human baby to an oppressed people group – a move that against all odds, succeeding in changing the world forever.

It makes no human sense.

It obviously made sense to someone since heaven couldn't keep it in. Literally, heaven exploded on the eve of Jesus' arrival – bursting with good news that they could no longer keep to themselves. Angels almost giggling with the ridiculous grace of God emerging on the earth through a baby, 8 pounds and 6 ounces if you go by the movie, *Tallegda Nights*. Whoop whoop – baby Jesus!

So, remind me again why it matters? One more carol, another Christmas tree, presents we really don't need ... why do we keep celebrating Christmas?

I celebrate Christmas because it keeps me honest. If you read the accounts, every character in the Christmas story cannot understand what is happening. Everyone is surprised. Joseph is troubled, Mary is



confused and disturbed, the shepherds are terrified, the king is threatened, the wise men unsure, and the innkeeper is blissfully in the dark.

And if I'm honest, most of the time I fluctuate between these character reactions: surprised; troubled; confused and disturbed; threatened; unsure; blissfully in the dark. That pretty much sums up my faith journey.

God's plan is humanly impossible to track. It makes no sense until you tell it later, often years later, and even then it can be hard to understand.

I shared a ride with a remarkable man today. He was instrumental in reaching a people group who had never heard of Jesus before. He started the first church in the tribe and witnessed many miracles and amazing answers to prayer. I asked him what it was like. He answered honestly: "It was baffling."

Now, don't get me wrong. He is in good spirits. He's amazingly upbeat and expectant about what God is up to in the world. He is a campaigner of the Good News. He knows that God is on the move. But he also knows something that every-

one who gets invited into the unfolding drama of God's kingdom come knows, from the first Christmas events until now. What God is up to in the world is beyond our human understanding. And there is a word that sums that up nicely. It's a word that also sums up the actions of God putting skin on and moving into the neighbourhood. The word is *humility*. Yep. There, I said it.

Christmas keeps me honest. And honest keeps me humble. And even though I'm mostly surprised and confused, stuck between paralysis and terrified, I wouldn't trade the invitation God has given me in Jesus for anything else in the entire world.

So, from one rough, real, earthy character to another – merry Christmas. May God keep surprising and inviting us into the nonsensical, baffling, breathtaking reality of his kingdom come. And may we be caught up in the drama together, clothed in humility, and ready for some action. ■

Major Danielle Strickland is the evangelism consultant for The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory.


**WORTH
QUOTING.**

Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing. – **Abraham Lincoln**

Flip the script.

The circuit-breaker that changes the world

WORDS | NATASHA MOORE

A GROUP OF FRIENDS sit around a backyard table on a summer evening. The food is excellent, the conversation free-flowing. It is a magical evening.

Until, suddenly, it isn't. Someone else is standing there, a man holding a gun. "Give me your money," he says, "or I'll start shooting." The problem is, nobody has any cash on them. The tension escalates as the guests try to reason with the man. Then someone says: "We're here celebrating. Why don't you sit down and join us?" The man's expression changes. He sits down and eats some cheese. Before he leaves, he asks for a group hug.

It's a true story, told in an episode of National Public Radio's *Invisibilia* program titled "Flip the Script". The episode focuses on what psychologists call "non-complementary behaviour". Normally, people respond to kindness with kindness, and to hostility with hostility. Complementary behaviour like this is instinctive. To meet anger or hatred with its opposite instead, is incredibly difficult to do – but if we can pull it off, it has the potential to be a circuit-breaker, to completely transform intractable situations.

This works on a small scale, in marriages and workplace spats. It works, too, on the world stage; most famously, perhaps, Martin Luther King's dogged determination that he and his fellow activists would meet prejudice and violence with peaceful

resistance dramatically rewrote the script of civil rights in the United States. King drew the inspiration for this counter-intuitive strategy from several places, but most powerfully – by his own account – from Jesus of Nazareth.

This Jesus was the master of non-complementary behaviour. He constantly baffled those around him, "flipping the script" on them. People who expected condemnation from him received compassion; religious authorities trying to catch him out repeatedly found themselves caught in their own traps.

He instructed those who followed him to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies and pray for those who persecuted them. And he went to his death in precisely the way he preached. He did not resist arrest, was silent at his trial for crimes he had not committed. As he was nailed to a beam of wood, Jesus prayed that his executioners would be forgiven for what they were doing.

That's Easter. But if we rewind to Jesus' birth, the Bible casts the Christmas story, too, in radically non-complementary terms. The tale of the baby in a manger, flanked by shepherds, announced by angels, is traditionally framed as the story of a world that decisively rejected its Creator, visited by him in completely unexpected form. Though abandoned by his creatures, this God refuses to abandon them in return, to match rejection with rejection.

The story no longer surprises us, but only because we're not paying attention. Christians see this as the story of a God who, to a people he describes as rebels, sends not an avenger but a rescue mission. To a people groaning under foreign occupation and eagerly awaiting a liberator, he sends, not a freedom fighter with crack leadership skills, but a helpless newborn. In a world where the ratcheting up of family

feuds, racial tension, or civil war is the default human setting, this flipping of the script from power to embrace weakness is a circuit-breaker.

The early followers of Jesus believed that his visit, and his death and apparent resurrection, had freed them to be vulnerable and humble; to show mercy and forgiveness to their enemies; to respond to power with love instead of fear. The Roman Empire tried to crush them. Within a few hundred years, it embraced their God-of-the-cross instead.

Of course, Christians have often stuck to their old complementary ways rather than risk the non-complementarity modelled by the one they claim to follow. They've coveted power over others, and responded to criticism with hostility. But when they have pursued Jesus' unlikely looking path to peace, Christians – and others – have met with startling success.

Researchers have found that non-violent resistance movements succeed twice as often as violent insurgencies. "Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon," wrote King. "It is a weapon unique in history, which cuts without wounding and ennoble the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals."

Meeting hate with love goes profoundly against human instinct. Yet Christmas – and Easter – intimate that such a logic, such a love, lies at the heart of the universe, and at the heart of human history.

If that is so, then it shouldn't surprise us that such counter-intuitive behaviour changes the world. Maybe it's the only thing that can. ■

.....
Natasha Moore is a Research Fellow with the Centre for Public Christianity (publicchristianity.org). A version of this article appeared in the *Canberra Times*.

Mailbox.



ACCEPTANCE IS THE KEY FOR DISABLED

I am replying to the article entitled "Longing to Belong", which appeared in the November issue of *Others*. I am so glad that this was written, as I understand what it is like to want to belong.

I am a Salvationist and, yes, I have multiple disabilities and know the feeling of not being accepted in a corps. I felt like an outsider, as though I had leprosy, and if anyone was asked about this they would say this was not true. There were others in this corps who also had a similar experience.

I believe that I have much to offer in the area of ministry – I have a particular interest in women's and children's ministries – and I know that God still has work for me to do. I know of many other people with disabilities who feel the same way and it shouldn't matter whether we have a disability or not. Thankfully, I now attend a corps in South Australia where it makes no difference who you are, you are accepted.

Reading this article has had such a profound effect on me that I intend writing a longer response to it. Thank you again for printing it.

– Elizabeth Raven



ENABLING CHURCHES TO EMBRACE DISABILITY

I was very interested to see the emphasis in a recent *Others* magazine on the inability of the Church to grapple with helping people with disabilities. I thought I would share this little happening at the Launceston Corps around 1976.

The concept developed involved parents and their children with a disability attending the morning worship meeting. Halfway through the meeting these children attended a specifically designed Sunday school. This was not to "mind" the children but a deliberate attempt to teach them about the Christian faith using the best people with skills to communicate an understandable message. In the meantime, parents could enjoy the rest of the morning service knowing their child was getting special teaching.

This worked well for a time, but unfortunately we had not allowed for the wide range of disabilities of the children and, bearing in mind it needed to be almost a one-on-one situation, it became difficult to recruit enough trained teachers. It was a small attempt where a Salvation Army corps tried to develop specific relationship with parents and their child with the disability.

– Lieut-Colonel Denis Lorimer



EPITOMISING ALL THAT OUR ARMY SHOULD BE

I am writing to say thank you to Major David Woodbury for his words (Viewpoint) in the November issue of *Others*.

As a fourth-generation Salvationist, for quite a while my concern has been that so many involved in our Army sit in a comfortable complacency, a place where Catherine and William Booth moved our people from all those years ago.

I am blessed to know so many – officers and lay people – who still today epitomise all that we should be, but deeply saddened to see so many who are filled with talents and gifts but, for whatever reason, are unwilling to share.

Again, Major Woodbury, thank you for your words which have caused me to reflect and thank my great God for placing me in a family that introduced me to Jesus at a tender age and then showed me how to reach out, without discrimination.

– Carol Almond

others

Your opinion counts.
We want to hear from you!



If you've read something in Viewpoint or elsewhere in this issue of *Others* that you would like to comment on, then please get in touch. Email your letter of no more than 250 words to: others@aus.salvationarmy.org



With the love of Jesus.

WORDS | CLAIRE HILL

*“Wherever there is hardship or injustice,
Salvos will live, love and fight
alongside others
to transform Australia one life at a time
with the love of Jesus”
- National Vision Statement*

OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, we have been looking at the National Vision Statement line by line. This month, we take a magnifying glass to the words: “... with the love of Jesus”. What compels a young, hot-shot lawyer to give up his well-paid senior partnership at a prime Sydney law firm to start a new kind of legal practice with the Salvos? What prompts a bright, well-liked 30-year-old occupational therapist to move 16,000km away from her loving support network to spend 13 years in Ghana, working with children and adults with disabilities? Could it be the same thing that inspires a couple who had been counting down the days to retirement, to commit to being Salvo rural chaplains, spending their days on the road, sharing the gospel with some of Australia’s most isolated communities?

Each one of these selfless and courageous life decisions are the product of the love of Jesus.

Jesus lived his entire earthly life for others: healing the sick, befriending the lonely, including the excluded and ultimately dying, so that all people could experience a restored relationship with God. The work of The Salvation Army in Australia is wonderfully diverse, yet everything we do has this one thing in common: our work is shaped, influenced and driven by the love of Jesus.

The apostle Paul gave a similar explanation for his willingness to risk imprisonment and death to spread the Gospel, declaring that: “The very spring of our actions is the love of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:14, *J.B Phillips*). He puts it another way in 2 Corinthians 3:16: “We love

because Jesus first loved us.”

As Salvos, Jesus is our inspiration and example. When launching the National Mission Statement, National Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, emphasised this same point, saying, “The good news of Jesus has been the foundation of The Salvation Army since the very beginning, and continues to be the inspiration and driving force behind our work today. This is central to everything we are – from our churches to our social work and beyond.”

When you join The Salvation Army you’re not just joining a group of people who want to “do good”. We are a Christian organisation, dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. Everything we do stems from, and is an expression of, that love. Being a part of this means you are continuing the marvellous story of millions of individuals who, since the Army began in 1865, have encountered the love of Jesus and felt compelled to live their lives sharing that love with others.

You’re signing up to a big, brave vision that says that we will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time - not “with hard work”, though we will work hard; not “with the best programs”, though we deliver outstanding programs; but “with the love of Jesus”. ■

.....
Claire Hill is Communications Coordinator for the Australia One Program.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that we will love with a Christ-like love and show compassion to those in our area of influence. May they witness the love of Jesus both through our words and actions.
- Jesus came to serve, not to be served. Lord, help us to be like you, serving those around us. May they see your selfless and sacrificial love.
- May the Lord open doors for us to share the Gospel with those who are in need of hearing the good news of salvation.

Living OUR VISION



Join in this special event as we mobilise across our National Movement to live our Vision locally!

In coming months you will receive an invitation to a 'Living Our Vision' event. This event will be one of many held across Australia, in each expression of The Salvation Army as we prepare to mobilise our National Vision.

In each Living Our Vision event we'll be exploring the National Vision Statement by asking 'why we should bother' with a new Vision, learning about our Vision for Australia, brainstorming ways we can live our Vision wherever we are, and taking action.

The Living Our Vision event is an exciting opportunity for you to learn all about our National Vision, and what you can do to be a part of it.

As we begin to mobilise, you can prepare for your local Living Our Vision event by thinking about the different ways that you can get involved, and the role you could play in shaping the future of The Salvation Army in Australia.



Truth for today.

Jesus points the way for a world that's lost its moral compass

WORDS | GENERAL ANDRÉ COX

We pause once again in the busyness of our hectic and frenetic lives to give thanks to God for his wondrous gift. It was the greatest gift ever given to humankind; a gift of healing, wholeness, restoration, love, reconciliation and relationship with the God who created the universe and our world. The apostle Paul reminds us of just how awesome that gift is: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

It is sad how many people fail to recognise and experience the truth of the gospel message; a message of good news reminding us of God's love and provision for whoever chooses to believe and take him at his word. At the trial of Jesus, Pilate asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). Today, increasingly, we ask ourselves that same question.

In recent months, we have had to expand our vocabulary to accommodate concepts such as "alternative facts", "false news" and "fake news". Little wonder that we live in a generation that is more and more sceptical and suspicious of any claims of absolute truth.

For many, truth has become relative and subjective; it

is what feels right for them or what they choose it to be on any given day or in any given situation. In fact, subjective approaches to truth are nothing new. People of all generations have chosen to read and interpret truth as they see fit.

How desperately we need to hear and live truth in a world that has lost its moral compass. Some would question the relevance and importance of Jesus and yet we see through the life he lived that God was truly with him. When we look at Jesus, we see evidence of God working in and through him. His life reveals the truth of God's promise and message for the world.

Living in the confusion of this 21st century, it can be hard to distinguish truth, yet Christmas is about God breaking into our world in the gift of his Son, Jesus. The angels broke into the world of the shepherds to announce the birth of our Saviour and those shepherds then went to the manger to experience the truth of what they had been told.

Jesus came and walked among us, died on the cross that we might be saved, then rose again and ascended to Heaven where he reigns at the right hand of God.



We know that one day he will return again to establish God's reign on earth – and what a glorious day that will be! By returning to the Father however, Jesus did not abandon or forget us. He said, "I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!" (John 14:16-17 *The Message*).

The challenge for us is to allow ourselves the space to be aware of and experience the presence of Jesus, which can be as real as that first Christmas. We need to be his followers and his disciples in this generation, and he has promised us that, "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you" (John 8:31-32 *The Message*).

Christmas is God's greatest gift because we can know truth – truth that is more than abstract concept, a truth that is real and alive, embodied in Jesus and imparted by the Holy Spirit.

"And we know that the Son of God came so we could recognise and understand the truth of God – what a gift! – and we are living in the Truth itself, in God's Son, Jesus Christ. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life. Dear children, be on guard against all clever facsimiles" (1 John 5:20-21 *The Message*).

I pray that you will experience the Truth this Christmas season. ■

.....
General André Cox is the world leader of
 The Salvation Army

When Santa came to town.

What happened to a Salvation Army corps when the Claus family moved into the community

WORDS | SIMONE WORTHING

For centuries, Rovaniemi, in Finland's north, enjoyed a fairly anonymous existence. Despite being the administrative and commercial capital of Lapland, it was a small city and very few people outside Finland would have been able to point to it on a map. It certainly wasn't considered much of a tourist destination ... and then Santa Claus came to town.

Santa's decision to move to Rovaniemi, from his traditional home at the North Pole, has its origins in a post-World War Two visit to the city by Eleanor Roosevelt, the former First Lady of the United States. In 1950, Roosevelt made her way to Rovaniemi, allegedly saying she wanted to see Santa Claus while in the Arctic Circle. In response, the city hastily constructed a cabin, and Santa's Village was born.

It wasn't until the mid-1980s, however, when companies began packaging pre-Christmas trips to the Lapland capital, that the city's tourism industry really took off. Rovaniemi is now recognised as the official home of Santa, and the Santa

Claus Village attracts around half-a-million visitors each year.

The Salvation Army has a corps at Rovaniemi and has seen the demand on its services rise in parallel to the increase in tourism. It is the most northerly corps in Finland, although technically it is located just outside (approx. 6km) the Arctic Circle.

"The Christmas season is a very dark period near the Arctic Circle because daylight time is so short," says Captain Teija Heikinheimo, who is the corps leader at Rovaniemi. "During Christmas time, Christmas kettles can be seen on the streets and the corps also arranges many Christmas parties for various kinds of groups.

"Many tourists from Europe and from all over the world come to see Santa Claus and the magical Finnish winter, with reindeers and the Northern Lights. At this time the Rovaniemi airport is the second busiest airport in Finland, with flights from all over the world landing there in the lead-up to Christmas."

Captain Heikinheimo, whose husband, Alpo, is a soldier at the corps, says many of the city's immigrants have found their way to the Army in Rovaniemi.

"There are a lot of foreign students [the University of Lapland is located in the city] and other immigrants in Rovaniemi and they all need a place where to learn the language and the habits of their new homeland," she says. "The Army can provide a helping hand and indeed it arranges things such as Finnish language study at the corps. Many of these immigrants are from Central America and the Middle East. Rovaniemi Corps is one of the most international corps in Finland at the moment!"

The corps also provides welfare assistance, including food, to those who are facing difficult circumstances and regularly works in partnership with Haaparanta Corps, 125km away in Sweden.

"There are a lot of activities at Rovaniemi Corps," says Captain Heikinheimo. "Open doors events invite new people to attend the corps and many have indeed ▶



01



02



03

- 01. Lieutenant-Colonel Cedric Hills, Chief Secretary of the Finland and Estonia Territory, with Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Hills, Territorial Secretary of Women's Ministries, take time for a photo with Santa. At left is Maria Vataja, secretary to Lieut-Colonel Cedric.
- 02. Rovaniemi in northern Finland is now recognised as the official home of Santa. During the Christmas season, the town, and the Salvation Army corps there, is extremely busy as tourists from all over the world come to see Santa and experience winter attractions.
- 03. Santa officially opens the Christmas season in his village in Rovaniemi.

found their spiritual home in the corps community. New members have been enrolled during the past few years, with many of them in the 20-40 age bracket. There has been new life at the corps.”

It would seem that there are plenty of reasons for Salvationists at Rovaniemi to enjoy a merry, albeit busy, Christmas this year. ■

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Simone Worthing is the international editor for *Others* magazine

STUDENTS REVITALISE
 JYVÄSKYLÄ CORPS

It's not just in Rovaniemi that The Salvation Army has a flourishing ministry with international students. In Jyväskylä, in Central Finland, the student population numbers about 30,000. Many of these have come from other countries.

Jyväskylä Corps organises youth activities for these students, attracting about 40-50 young people to worship services and “Nice Friday” evenings. Some of these students have become senior soldiers or adherents.

The corps also arranges special events, especially during national holidays. At Christmas, Finnish families get together to celebrate, and foreign students, unable to be with their own families, are offered fellowship and support at these times. Among the many special activities provided for them are learning how to ski and ice fishing. Many of these students are also enthusiastic helpers with the Christmas kettle collection.

According to Jyväskylä Corps, young foreign students have played a big part in revitalising the corps program.



Photo: Carolyn Hide



Leadership, Australia, and gender equity.

An interview with Commissioners Brian and Rosalie Peddle

*They hold the second-highest officer roles in the global Salvation Army. As Chief of the Staff and World Secretary for Women's ministries, respectively, Commissioners Brian and Rosalie Peddle are charged with leading the global mission of the movement. During a recent visit to Australia, they took time to speak with **Others** writer Anne Halliday ▶*

► **OTHERS:** *You have been officers for 40 years! What appointments have been most formative in that journey?*

BRIAN PEDDLE: We were officers for 13 years serving at the training college and in youth ministry before we were appointed to corps work, which was unusual at that time. Having come to corps ministry a bit later we found ourselves in significant corps where we settled our framework and philosophy of ministry. We felt like we were jumping into the deep end and doing a lot of learning and being stretched. As we look back we see God's hand and we give thanks, that every one of our appointments between then and now put us into learning curves way beyond our comfort levels. Becoming Chief Secretary in the UK is another one of those formative appointments. We had no cabinet experience, no leadership experience at that level. We recall a sense of feeling inadequate but also discovered what it means to be embraced by a territory and yes, given permission to lead while being fully supported.

ROSALIE PEDDLE: Yes, all of our appointments have been a shock and unanticipated. We have never looked beyond the current assignment and have never wanted to leave or experienced the sense we were finished. Engaging in leadership at divisional headquarters and territorial headquarters level has pushed me far beyond my comfort zone, resulting in developing my capabilities and capacities to heights far beyond anything I could have imagined possible.

OTHERS: *What moments have been spiritually formative for you as leaders?*

BP: The way I think about it, ours is a covenant relationship with God and we play that out through the Army and officership. Through the years, at different points we've added dimensions to that covenant through surrender as a couple in leadership together and later our daughters became a part of that surrender as they shared and participated in our ministry. We do recall vividly covenant moments that involved trust where we could not see the future, bringing with it a continued need to lean heavily upon God. I'll be honest with you; we did not want to leave corps ministry, especially having waited a while to be a part of that dynamic experience, to help in administering the Army. We were at a symposium and at the end they put a covenant card in front of me and we were asked to add what it was that God was asking of us. It was obvious what I had to surrender. Our preferences needed to become second place to what the Army needed from us and by God's design what he needed. My best gift to the General and the Army today is that I can keep a dozen things in the

air at a time and it doesn't bother me. I knew then I could do that, but I wanted to do that as a corps officer. These were significant moments in the journey.

RP: I think for me, it was the conscious awareness throughout my life that I needed to constantly cultivate a daily, deep spiritual relationship with God in order to be fully engaged in that which he had called me to do. It has been my anchor and stronghold. Everyone comes at this differently but you've got to find what works for you to create that time where you let the Word and God speak into your life so that you experience growth and transformation. I celebrate significant God moments, which have been life-changing encounters.

OTHERS: *What kind of leadership do we need to be developing to serve the future mission of The Salvation Army?*

BP: The biggest asset the Army has is its officers and their availability – keeping themselves fresh and “appointable”. We need people who are able to take any appointment to the next level. If we are talking about characteristics of emerging leaders, what comes to mind for me are people who are emotionally mature, self-aware, intuitive, people with unquestionable integrity, people who are inspirational – and it's not just inspiring people with a sermon but with life lived in the real world. Something that is not an option is a passion for the mission and the extension of God's Kingdom here on earth.

RP: To add to that, my vision is to develop creative and relevant ways to empower women leaders to be fit for mission and leadership for The Salvation Army of the future. Within our movement we have many incredible, gifted women leaders who will rise up to take their place and lead in all levels of Salvation Army mission and ministry. With God's help, wisdom and courage I want to have influence and impact to help make this happen. This will take me and others into deeper waters of change and forward thinking.

BP: I'm not a futurist but I am bold enough to say traditional frameworks around leadership will shift. “Command and control” structures will not survive. Personal powers will fall away. Male prominence has got to bow down. The officer-lay worker friction has to get sorted and all in the next decade. And those that can't survive in this new reality can't be leaders. It's that simple. I am not assuming that everyone is okay with that but we believe that the generations that are coming will embrace new models of leadership and governance. The General and I admit we are laying



foundation stones. But they have to be stones that those following us can climb onto because we won't get there in our term. We are committed to doing what we can in our time, and doing that courageously. We are trying to staff the international Army with a set of disciplines that are probably well beyond any human capacity, so we build teams. I think what's critical is that territories and command leaders are doing the same thing. International Headquarters (IHQ) doesn't have an officer contingency outside of the territories. So if the territories aren't doing a good job with leadership identification, development and in capacity building there will be future challenges and our next few Generals will experience challenges in providing needed leaders.

OTHERS: Can you imagine what the Army would look like in another decade?

BP: What I can see is an Army that is not confined in any way to a building, but is "fit for purpose" – that

has future-proofed itself by God's grace. I see an Army that is coming to grips with its core values – very in touch with why we were raised up in the beginning, comfortable in our own skin, quite willing to accept we have a DNA in the body of Christ that doesn't give us an option when it comes to the poor and marginalised, and that we don't see that as a problem but an opportunity.

RP: These are exciting days to be in leadership. While we cannot see the future we actually have the opportunity, with the wisdom of God, to help shape the future. The Whole World Mobilising initiative has been a catalyst in helping the Army come to grips with the need to return to what God intended for us from the very beginning: to be about the mission of Christ in a broken, helpless world in need of a Saviour. It is great to see the Army across the globe moving out of their barracks and into the streets of villages, communities and cities sharing the message of hope and transformation. I see a vibrant, mission-focused, God- ▶

► blessed Salvation Army that not only reflects Jesus but powerfully impacts the world with Calvary's love.

OTHERS: What is the significance of Australia becoming one territory for the global Army?

BP: Any country needs to be able to have one voice and one mission because it is one Army, and this particularly so in Australia. What knocks me over is how the two territories (Australia Eastern and Australia Southern) have become so different in their structures and programs. We were convinced of the Australia One project because it was a better plan for Australia. I like your tag line "1+1=new" and the vision of winning Australia for God, one Australian at a time. When that proposal came to IHQ the message was: we can be stronger together, positioned to serve Australians better, we can create efficiencies that will save money and create a war chest that will serve Australians well into the future. And we are still banking on that. You have your own flavour of Army – you are entrepreneurial: driving lessons for refugees, Salvos Funerals, Salvos Legal. Other people from around the world are catching wind of that and wondering if they can do it too.

OTHERS: How is the Gender Equity Plan that Australia has put in motion regarded internationally?

BP: Gender equity is an issue we can't celebrate to the level we want to celebrate it. In Australia you are targeting the equity that is applied to officers who are still in time to be prepared for senior leadership, with a goal to reflect this across the leadership spectrum. The reality is that we have leaders at present who were not afforded that opportunity. What we are dealing with is the consequences of that inequity. We can't adjust any quicker than we are and so it will take a generation or two to right that. It will take that long but it will be easier with the generations to come. I think the appointment of Julie Campbell as Gender Equity Advocate creates an accountability to turn the tide here in Australia. There are other territories doing this, yes, but perhaps not quite as demonstratively. Australia has done this "out loud" and we applaud that.

RP: Appointing gifted men and women into significant roles has to be an intentional focus for the international Salvation Army as we move into the future. It is about more than gender and marital status. It has to be about putting the person who is best qualified and gifted for the role and who will deliver the desired outcomes. It is not an easy task internationally and will be challenging. We need to be sensitive to cultures, personal agendas, keeping marriages safe and strong and tooling up

potential leaders. If our goal for the future is a strong and vibrant Army then we need strong, vibrant and inspirational leaders.

BP: One of the balances that we do have to hold is that we could end up treating the traditional roles that women have held in the Army as substandard. The reality is that in many parts of the world, leading women's ministry is the bread and butter of the Army's work and the backbone of The Salvation Army. We still need competent officers leading women's ministry as much as we need them in other roles.

RP: IHQ watches this issue and continues to be concerned that across the Army world globally, we still have an imbalance of power. If Australia can be helpful in naming this and coming up with strategic activities to bring change, we will welcome it. We should be embarrassed that we are still having these conversations. But the issues are deep. Our dialogue with each other on this, across cultures, with couples and at all levels is critical.

OTHERS: What is the gender equity landscape like in the non-Western territories?

BP: The reality is you can't start in the same place. Are we pressing those issues? Yes, we are. But we can't always get up on a platform and name and shame because the dialogue is very different in other places. We can't just take what Australia is doing and put it in every territory. It wouldn't be understood. But we are making sure the women in some of our territories have what they need to experience the fullness of their officership. It's small steps. And when it comes to choosing people to represent the various parts of the Army at IHQ, the women, along with the men, are given that opportunity. You've got to do what you can do, to bring the change you can where you are and let that seed flourish around the world.

RP: There are healthy conversations taking place in many of these non-Western countries regarding this very topic. Our present-day international leaders are empowering and encouraging local leadership to find ways to achieve gender equity so that women and men are treated equally. It would not be wise for us to lack cultural sensitivity and we need to understand that every country has to deal with the laws and rules of the country. There are many things we can do within the context of The Salvation Army in these territories that would help women feel valued, important, loved and respected. ■

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Anne Halliday is online editor and writer for Others

The rise of Catherine.

In part one of a two-part series, we look at the rising emphasis historians are placing on Catherine Booth's role in the establishment of the social justice heart of The Salvation Army

WORDS | JOHN CLEARY

OVER RECENT YEARS, Salvationists have begun to ask questions about the place of The Salvation Army in the modern world. There is a renewed interest in looking at the early days of the Army to find what many early Salvationists knew and understood about their movement and just what we may have lost along the way; most significantly, the place of Catherine Booth (pictured), not just as “the mother of The Salvation Army” but as a notable figure in Victorian England, both for the church and in the history of modern feminism.

In 1864, the year before William and Catherine Booth set up the Christian Mission, the British Government passed what was called the Contagious Diseases Act. It was to become a significant marker on Catherine's journey into some of the dark places where The Salvation Army was destined to shed light.

The Contagious Diseases Act was set up to try and deal with the huge rise in sexually transmitted diseases following the return of thousands of soldiers from the Crimean War. The law criminalised prostitution by criminalising the prostitutes, not the procurers. Catherine was approached by Josephine Butler, a leading Anglican crusader on women's issues, to fight to repeal the act. They argued that guilt in that situation, if it's going to go anywhere, should be with the procurer, not with the women who, by the dreadful circumstances that they found themselves



in, were reduced to selling their bodies for sex: radical thoughts at a time when women were treated by law as largely the property of their husbands.

Catherine, in joining this fight for social reform, was not only standing up for principles she had been thinking through for some years regarding the place of women in society, but also with the tradition of evangelical social action going back to the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, and the fight to end slavery.

Over the past century, we have come to associate evangelical Christianity as principally concerned with getting souls saved

and putting them securely in the lifeboat to heaven. But this was not the tradition of Catherine Booth and the early Army. Catherine's understanding was that God created men and women who are all radically equal before God, and that we have a responsibility to build the Kingdom of God here on earth, to make earth as it is in heaven. Social reform was the responsibility of all Christians.

William shared Catherine's strong sense of social justice. However, as a successful evangelist, his focus was on getting people saved, so that they in turn could save others, and eventually as they became better people, society was changed for the better. But Catherine was doing something different. She argued that our social structures carry sin with them – that the structures help create the situation where sin thrives – so we have a duty just as we do to reform people, to actually reform the structures.

William had to wrestle with this and did so for some years. He had a strong sense of social justice, just as Catherine did, but he wrestled with the means. ■

Part two of “The rise of Catherine” will appear in the January 2018 issue of Others.

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John Cleary is a prominent Australian broadcaster and Salvation Army historian.

A SUMMER OF UNLIKELY HEROES

These Christmas holidays will be crammed with films for every Aussie taste, but keep an eye out for those that promote the most unlikely champions. An empowered orphan, a clumsy bear, a quadriplegic's wife, and a struggling entertainer – each contributes a story that will fill out your family's idea of just how unimportant worldly success can be.

words Mark Hadley



01.

STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI



Christmas approaches, and so the decorations go up, the specials are announced and the latest *Star Wars* saga opens at theatres. This time, though, *The Last Jedi* presents us with one of the franchises' most conflicted heroes.

In *The Force Awakens*, budding Jedi, Rey, discovered the lonely planet on which Luke Skywalker was hiding. Now, in *The Last Jedi*, she begins her apprenticeship. However, Luke entertains serious doubts that helping her to command her powerful connection with 'the force' will return the galaxy to balance. The Jedi master fears Rey will follow in the footsteps of the twisted Kylo Ren,

who in the last episode killed his father Han Solo. Rey is just as troubled by her master's fears and seeks guidance in an unexpected direction.

Star Wars is, as always, a human struggle to bring order out of chaos. "You find the most ancient story of good against evil, told in a most fascinating way," says Gwendoline Christie, who plays the evil Captain Phasma. Yet the real pay-off for parents is the institution that takes centre place. "It's about family," said now-deceased Carrie Fisher, "and that's what's so powerful about it."

Kylo Ren can only draw closer to the dark side of the force if he distances himself from his natural and spiritual parents. However, in an age where it's popular to encourage children to find their own way, *The Last Jedi* puts great weight in the wisdom of elders. Like the Bible, the path to understanding begins with acknowledging that mums and dads might know better: "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." (Proverbs 1:8-9). ■

02.

PADDINGTON 2



In 2014, *Paddington* was the surprise success of the Christmas season, and this year's follow-up about the brave bear from darkest Peru will provide similar hijinks and an even stronger affirmation of the everyday hero. The second *Paddington* film opens with its clumsy bear a welcome member of the Brown family. However, he is missing his Aunt Lucy and hatches a plan to buy her an antique pop-up book. Paddington offers his skills as a window cleaner to the community, and predictable calamities ensue. However, before he can buy his gift, it's stolen by a fading actor who recognises in it the secret to renewing his fortune. Paddington is framed for the crime, and the Browns must come to his aid if he's to prove his innocence and send his present on its way.

Paddington 2 is a combination of slapstick routines that well suit young children. The value of the storyline, though, lies in the form Paddington's heroism takes. Many children's heroes are lauded for their superpowers and success. Paddington is valued not for his abilities but his desire to do his best, and his determination to see the same in everyone around him. "Paddington wouldn't hesitate if any of us needed any help," Mr Brown says. "He looks for the good in all of us."

It will be a welcome parallel for parents trying to teach their children that God isn't looking for great deeds but a devoted heart: "Serve [God] with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought" (1 Chronicles 28:9). ■



Breathe is the true story of Robin and Diana Cavendish. Robin, played by Andrew Garfield, is a tea importer who wins the heart of Claire Foy's beautiful socialite, Diana. They marry and move to Kenya, but tragedy strikes when Robin contracts the polio virus. He returns to England a quadriplegic, totally dependent on machines to breathe. The best doctors believe he will never leave his hospital bed and Robin's only request is, "kill me".

However, Diana is determined her husband will be part of their baby son's life and kidnaps him from the hospital. What follows is the moving story of a family striving to get the best from a life others would consider meaningless. If there is a low point in this heroic journey, though, it's Robin's attitude towards euthanasia. He is a self-made man who has no time for God, and his determination to end his life on his own terms is appreciable but ultimately selfish. However, it does allow Diana to emerge as the film's real heroine. Her every decision displays the self-sacrificing, others-oriented love that finds its ultimate home in the heart of God. ■



03.

BREATHE

What *Breathe* lacks in special effects, it will more than make up for in heart. It's a disability story that follows firmly in the footsteps of 'triumph of the will' tales like *The Theory of Everything*, but with a much greater concept of selfless love.

04.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN



The Greatest Showman is based on the life of real-life promoter, P.T Barnum, the founder of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Phineas Taylor Barnum, played by Hugh Jackman, is frustrated by his inability to provide the life he promised his childhood sweetheart, Charity. So, he tells his family his idea for introducing America to a world of curiosities. What follows is a contraction of the historical Barnum's life, leading to Jackman

recruiting everyone from bearded ladies to 'Siamese twins' to create a spectacular singing and dancing show. Jackman doesn't exploit the unusual humans he discovers, so much as celebrate the individuality each represents. "Every one of us is special, and nobody is like anyone else," he tells the dubious little person soon to become The World's Smallest Man. "That is the point of my show." The real P.T Barnum had a reputation as a hoaxster. However, this 'value of the individual' actually underlines his documented belief that God valued every human life: "A human soul, 'that God has created and Christ died for,' is not to be trifled with. It may tenant the body of a Chinaman, a Turk, an Arab or a Hottentot – it is still an immortal spirit."

The Greatest Showman is certain to entertain. I'm hoping it will also underline the value of the least regarded members of our society. ■



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



01.

01.

DOCTRINE FOR TODAY

Review: Commissioner Doug Davis

In *Doctrine for Today*, a group of past or present members of the International Headquarters Theological Council – Australia’s Lieutenant-Colonel Geoff Webb among them – provides readers with helpful insights into The Salvation Army’s 11 Articles of Faith.

Each of the doctrines is taught in contemporary language and thought-forms along with useful discussion points for individual or group work. The book is a serious read for committed readers and may prove useful for soldiership preparation. This slim volume offers weighty concepts and its short chapters invite further study alongside an open Bible. Commissioner Robert Street’s introduction lucidly develops the reasons why an understanding of the Army’s doctrines is important for 21st century Salvationists. The commissioner states, “Without an eternal standard of truth humankind has nowhere to turn for ratification of what is right or wrong, good or evil”. The book is both devotional and theological and will appeal to as wide a readership as that of the international panel of writers.

Doctrine for Today is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018) or Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209).



02.

02.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
EUROPEAN BRASS BAND
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Review: Adam Cole

This double CD and separate DVD, recorded live at the 2017 European Brass Band Championships at Kursaal Concert Hall in Kursaal Oostende, Belgium, highlights the amazing talent of some of the finest brass bands in Europe. Showcasing the best of the competition, the album certainly gives listeners the chance to witness the dizzying heights of what is achievable by brass bands, both inside and outside The Salvation Army. These heights are reached in the first piece, *Destination Moon*, which sets the tone of what is to come with technically demanding passages, a great expanse of volume and wonderful control. It sets you up for an amazing journey as you want to continue listening to what comes next.

Amidst all the musical fireworks on this album, the Cory Band rendition of *Abide With Me* is the highlight, displaying not only a wide range of sound but also a real tenderness that will leave you in

awe. It is, in essence, what music is all about, taking the listener on a journey of discovery, but, more importantly, touching the soul in a special way.

Recorded during competition, this music is do or die, with little or no opportunity to hide mistakes. It really is an amazing journey, and you can join them just by pressing ‘play’.

Highlights from the European Brass Band Championships 2017 CD and DVD are available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



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CATHERINE WYLES

A PRODIGAL MUM

Review: Claire Watson

The Prodigal Son is arguably the most familiar of Jesus’ parables. Yet have you ever wondered about the response of the mother to her son’s departure? Major Catherine Wyles, from the United Kingdom, explores this question as the springboard for sharing her experiences as a prodigal mum. Both Catherine

and her husband are officers in the United Kingdom and have four grown sons. His family has a rich heritage within The Salvation Army, extending back to the formation of The Christian Mission in the mid-1800s. Among her seven grandchildren, however, only one regularly attends Christian worship. While her target audience is women, the book could have been enriched by the inclusion of her husband's perspective.

Parents whose children have walked away from God will resonate with her feelings of disappointment, guilt and fear. Commenting on the exodus of the younger generation from the Church, Catherine says, "We – the parents – are a grieving generation". Yet her focus in this book is not her son's story but her own: "Not only did my son walk away but, because of my attitude towards the situation, my own relationship with God weakened."

A Prodigal Mum is an easy read at just 55 pages. Each chapter begins with the imagined thoughts of the mother from the parable, and ends with questions for reflection and discussion. She includes numerous illustrations from the Bible and from her own experience. Topics include: relinquishing expectations; refusing to play the blame game; tough love; and prayer.

She reminds us that the responsibility to pray for, and seek out, young people who were once part of the family of God belongs not only to parents, but to the whole corps.

Unlike the parable, the hope within Catherine's story is not the reconciliation of her son to God. Her continuing journey is sustained, however, by God's abiding presence and love.

A Prodigal Mum is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) or Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



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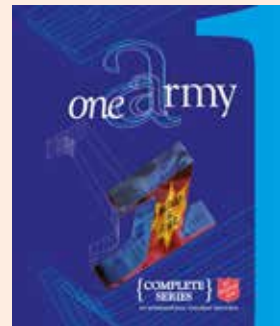
WORDS OF LIFE

God blesses us all abundantly as he daily brings joy to our hearts! In 2018, *Words of Life*, written by Major Beverly Ivany, will focus on the theme of joy, beginning with "Joy in Tough Times".

Old Testament readings focus on the opening chapters of Genesis and Deuteronomy, as well as Exodus. In the New Testament you will explore 10 different "rules" linked to the Israelites' Red Sea experience – and apply them to your everyday life.

Most weekends will involve a look into the Psalms or Proverbs, as well as a hymn or worship song. Major Dieudonne Louzolo, of the Rwanda and Burundi Command, writes the Easter series.

Get your copy of the 2018 January-April issue of *Words of Life* from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) or Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).



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ONE ARMY, THE COMPLETE SERIES

This DVD and book set covers the complete *One Army* series that has been previously released as individual units by The Salvation Army over the past few years. The 12 units of the series include: Introduction, In Calling, In Covenant, In Christ, In Truth, In Purpose, In Prayer, In Fellowship, In Service, In Faith, In Holiness, In Hope, In Love.

These integral aspects of the Army have been presented for information, inspiration, discussion and response. They show what the Army is, what it teaches and what it does. The series is presented using various forms of communication and include participation and interaction. Especially, it is presented in the context of how each life can find its own place in the will and purposes of God.

One Army, the Complete Series is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) or Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).

Cupcake teams share passion for brothel ministry

SALVATION ARMY “CUPCAKE TEAMS” from Victoria, NSW and South East Queensland gathered at Camberwell Corps in Melbourne for their annual conference on Saturday 14 October.

The teams, which make up the Salvos Brothel Support Teams Ministry, connect with and care for women working in the sex industry in Australia.

These teams are locally-based outreach ministry teams of corps or churches as part of local community engagement mission. They are led, administered and resourced through Camberwell Corps.

Across Australia, the teams visit more than 80 legal brothels in Melbourne and Geelong, eight in Auburn, Sydney, two in Tweed Heads, northern NSW, and nine in the Gold Coast/Brisbane area.

Salvationist Nikki Capp, who has led this ministry over the past nine years, is a passionate advocate for the injustices faced by women around the world, particularly those that strip hope away from women through poverty, gender inequality and sexual exploitation. In addition to leading Salvos Cupcake Teams, Nikki is involved in advocacy and the movement for prostitution law reform in Australia. An Advisory Group



Major Robbin Moulds (left), Nikki Capp and Major Heather Jenkins spoke at the Salvos Brothel Support Teams' annual conference in Melbourne.

is also being established to lead the strategic direction of this ministry, with members from both senior Salvation Army leadership and key practitioners in the area.

Salvationists make up 60 per cent of the volunteer teams, with both Salvationists and women from a range of other churches also serving on visiting teams.

Guest speakers at the conference included Salvationist John Cleary, veteran ABC broadcaster and one of Australia's leading commentators on religion. He gave a colourful presentation outlining the history of the Army's work with prostituted women, which began in Melbourne in the 1880s.

Senior Sergeant Richard Farrelly, from the

Victoria Police Sex Industry Coordination Unit, spoke to the women about some of the challenges facing both legal brothels and the illegal sector, and the increasing work being done in the anti-trafficking space. Major Robbin Moulds, Auburn Corps Officer and NSW contact for Salvos Cupcake Teams, led a workshop on personal boundaries, their importance in bringing order to our lives, and gaining a clearer sense of ourselves and our relationship with God and others.

The teams also shared working sessions on the challenges they face in their ministry, possible solutions, resources available and plans for the year ahead.

– **Simone Worthing**

National justice conference focuses on loving thy neighbour

DELEGATES FROM BOTH Australian territories of The Salvation Army attended the annual Justice Conference in Melbourne from 27-28 October, with the theme this year of “Love thy Neighbour”.

The Justice Conference is a vital global platform for the faith and justice community, bringing together world-class speakers and artists into gatherings designed to motivate and support emerging works of

justice around the world. Speakers this year included Major Brendan Nottle, Captain Gen Petersen, Captain Peter Hobbs and Casey O'Brien Machado (from The Salvation Army), Melinda Tankard-Reist (advocate for women and girls), Dr Michael Frost (author and missiologist), Lisa Sharon Harper (speaker, writer and activist), and many more.

“The Justice Conference confirmed and

solidified what we are teaching throughout our social justice departments,” Casey said. “It was encouraging to hear a lot of what we teach and practise coming back to us. We, The Salvation Army, has much to learn, but also much to contribute!”

Under the “Love thy Neighbour” theme, conference speakers and the offered electives unpacked what justice looks like in everyday life on a personal and corporate level.

Queensland corps serving community through Sunday morning breakfast

“GOD IS A PIONEERING GOD,” says Captain Lincoln Stevens, Corps Officer with Captain Leanne Stevens at Inala, 20km south-west of Brisbane. “If we’re willing, he will allow us to be pioneers as well.”

Captains Lincoln and Leanne are certainly doing pioneering work in their area. For the past three years, a Sunday morning community breakfast has replaced their traditional worship meeting, allowing the corps to build relationships with local people and support them in the ups and downs of life.

“We aim to give people a really good meal at the breakfast, but we are also getting to know them, becoming their friends and creating a sense of community and belonging with people they can trust,” Captain Lincoln said.

“By doing this over time, we are seeing what issues and needs they have and can help direct them to the right support services. As a result, people are coming and doing things with us, getting to know God, and seeing dramatic changes in their lives.

“It’s not a quick process, though, but it’s a process that is certainly working here in Inala.”

Somewhere around 80-100 people come to the breakfast each Sunday. Local community members also assist with the setup and food preparation, working alongside corps members to serve others.

When the Stevens’ first came to Inala in November 2013, they quickly realised there were a lot of people in the area who were lonely, struggling to make ends meet and



Captains Leanne and Lincoln Stevens have replaced Inala’s traditional worship service with a community breakfast, attended by more than 100 people each Sunday.



facing tough life circumstances.

From the beginning they sought God’s direction for their appointment, wanting to be open to his lead.

“God told me very clearly that the church in Inala would not be church as we know it,” says Captain Leanne. “He also gave me the verses from Ezekiel 36:34-36 – about rebuilding the wasted and desolate places.

At the same time, Lincoln had a vision of a hall full of people sharing a meal.”

The Stevens’ were convinced that God was taking them back to the basics, doing what Jesus did, and what William Booth did in the early days of The Salvation Army.

“We can invite people to church until we’re blue in the face and some might come, but they often don’t stay as it’s a culture shock to them and they don’t feel accepted,” Captain Lincoln said.

“If we invite people to a free breakfast where they sit with a bunch of Christians, get to know them and can get help for them through the services we offer, then we can more naturally invite them to the Alpha course, Bible studies, Mainly Music and other things.

“We believed more people would want to come and, in turn, get to know Jesus, and we are seeing them coming now.”

– **Simone Worthing**

Bill Hunter steps down from Broncos chaplaincy role



SERVING THE BRISBANE Broncos rugby league team as chaplain for 20 years has been a “dream role” for Bill Hunter, a businessman who leads The Salvation Army’s God’s Sports Arena church in Brisbane.

Bill (pictured) is stepping down from the voluntary job after two decades with the National Rugby League club, making way for the “new face and fresh approach” of incoming chaplain, Warren Crank, and a change in focus for himself.

“I feel honoured and privileged to have been in this position and to have served the players, staff, coaches and their families,” Bill said.



Many people don’t realise that most major

sporting teams have a chaplain.

“This is not a role we put up in lights and advertise.

“Most of our work is behind the scenes. It involves supporting players, staff, and coaches – whoever needs you. It’s not just spiritual guidance, but also counselling, referrals to support groups when people need help with certain issues, and doing weddings, christenings and funerals. I was there for their spouses and families as well. There is so much a chaplain can do in major sporting clubs.”

Bill would attend the pre-game training session and barbecue, chatting with the players and encouraging them before the game. He would also spend time with them in the dressing room after the game – either to offer congratulations or condolences.

– **Simone Worthing**



After his arrival at Parliament House in Canberra, Major Brendan Nottle was joined by politicians from both parties who support his campaign for a national strategy to end homelessness. Photo: Laura Lynch.

Politicians vow to follow Major Nottle’s lead and stride out against homelessness



MAJOR BRENDAN NOTTLE’S 700km Walk the Walk may be over, but his fight to end homelessness has only just begun. The Melbourne-based Salvation Army officer is calling on the federal politicians of all persuasions to create a national plan that can be enacted across the country.

Labor has vowed to take up a national homelessness strategy to the next election in response to Major Nottle’s 40-day walk from Melbourne to Canberra.

Major Nottle completed the last kilometre of his journey on 16 October with Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and was also joined by Minister for Human Services Alan Tudge, Assistant Minister to the Treasurer Michael Sukkar, Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness Doug Cameron, and Federal Member for Melbourne Adam Bandt.

Their conversation signalled the beginning of a week of important meetings with numerous politicians, including Prime Minister Malcolm

Turnbull and Minister for Social Services Christian Porter.

“It was a good starting point to have people from different political persuasions, having a civil conversation around the issue of homelessness,” Major Nottle said.

Commissioner Floyd Tidd was also present at the event after walking with Major Nottle earlier in the month.

“Walking 700km is an incredible demonstration of commitment to the forgotten people in our society who face some of the most complex issues and challenges every day,” he said.

“Brendan, you are an inspiration to The Salvation Army and to all Australians.”

The walk prompted donations of more than \$120,000 to the 614 Corps’ outreach work with the homeless community in Melbourne.

You can sign Major Nottle’s petition for a national and nonpartisan strategy to end homelessness at signforthehomeless.com.au/

– **Jessica Morris**

Bus tour crosses boundaries of Aboriginal culture

AN ABORIGINAL-LED bus tour across country Victoria and NSW has helped 42 Salvationists embrace Aboriginal culture.

The Salvation Army has a long history with Aboriginal people, and the “Crossing Boundaries Bus Adventure” was organised to close the modern divide between Aboriginal Australia and The Salvation Army.

Tour guide, Uncle Vince Ross, who has been a Salvationist for 65 years, said the four-day trip in early October was all about building relationships through understanding lifestyle, culture, history and spirituality of the Aboriginal people. “Aboriginal people have known God for thousands and thousands of years,” he said.

Uncle Vince encouraged delegates to “cross the borders” of traditional religious and theological thought and understand how Aboriginal people lived out and expressed their faith in God. He and his wife, Aunty Enid, did this by dropping in on friends, family and other connections throughout rural Victoria and NSW during the tour.

“I’ve had to walk on both sides of the fence – I’ve had to walk on the non-Aboriginal side, but also have to be true to myself as an Aboriginal person. I don’t always fit because I’ll always be thinking differently,” he explained.

“I’m always working outside of those boundaries and those borders, so this was ideal that we named this tour ‘Crossing



Uncle Vince Ross with Elder Esther Kirby, of Kerang, one of the towns visited by the Crossing Boundaries Bus Adventure during their “immersion” experience of Aboriginal culture.

Boundaries’. We’ve taken these people into different areas where they’ve never been before.”

The 1250km tour took the group through Shepparton, Deniliquin, Balranald, Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Bendigo. By stopping at various Aboriginal sites, it gave participants the opportunity to engage with Aboriginal culture and to learn about the

Army’s history of working with their people.

“It was an immersion experience,” said Major Marion Weymouth, a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group. “Our emotions were stirred by past recollections of what we’ve done and why Aboriginal people were on a reserve in the first place.”

– Jessica Morris

Doorways Hub opens to support vulnerable community in Katherine

THE KATHERINE DOORWAYS Hub in the Northern Territory officially opened to community members last month.

“The Doorways Hub (part of Katherine Corps) has been at least four years in the making,” said Harley Dannatt, Katherine Doorways Hub Coordinator. “The project is a fantastic demonstration of how all Katherine services and the community have come together to support vulnerable people.”

Funded by the Department of Housing, the Doorways Hub is a community space equipped with a laundry, toilets, showers and a safe place to relax and connect. Collaborative case management is also available for anyone wanting to address a range of issues, including barriers to accessing housing.

“This is exciting because it means those experiencing or at risk of homelessness have a safe, inclusive and welcoming space to come

and from there we can build relationships and be proactive together and hopefully assist people to move into safer and more stable accommodation,” Harley said.

Through partnerships with other Katherine organisations and community groups, the Doorways Hub provides “doorways” into other supporting programs such as counselling, family support, legal services, housing support and emergency relief.

Cultivating healthy rural communities

“THE SALVATION ARMY’S response to the needs of Australians living in rural areas will undoubtedly look different into the future,” said Major Maree Strong, convenor of The Salvation Army’s first Cultivate Rural Ministries Conference. “We need healthy faith communities led by healthy leaders in order to see a revival in our land.”

Cultivate took place at the Wagga Wagga Corps in NSW, from 30 October-2 November. A second conference was held in Emerald, 900km north-west of Brisbane, from 13-16 November. The aim of the conferences was to inspire, encourage and equip leaders for ministry and mission in the rural context.

With the population of many rural towns on the decline, and different denominations not being able to sustain pastors in many of these areas, churches, including The Salvation Army, are discussing new ways of going forward in serving some of the country’s most remote and isolated places.

“Establishing communities of hope based on an integrated mission model and offering a holistic approach to ministry and engagement with the local community will be key to a vibrant, healthy future for the whole body of Christ,” said Major Strong, who is



Major Cathryn Williamson, assisted by Major Maree Strong, demonstrates a ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ class – a 10-week program that she leads for children in the rural NSW town of Cowra.

also the NSW and ACT Divisional Rural Liaison Officer.

“Forming beneficial partnerships within the Army and with other denominations could be critical in establishing and sustaining healthy faith communities.”

The keynote speakers at the conference were Julie Greig, who has worked as a rural chaplain with the Uniting Church and has a degree in Rural Community Development, and Matt Cairns, who works for The Salvation Army in the Social Justice Department of the Australia Eastern Territory. Other speakers included Chris Brindley, the Worship Arts Coordinator for the Australia Eastern Territory, Marcus Hutchins from the Social Program Department, and

Major Strong. Julie spoke about cultivating beneficial partnerships between rural and city communities.

“Jesus was the original rural chaplain,” she said. “He takes the risk and goes where the people are.”

Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, NSW and ACT Divisional Commander, led the conference’s opening discussion, on “Cultivating Culture and Conversation”. “This is a unique opportunity to progress things that matter,” she said.

“The people in the bush realise that it’s time to do ministry differently, to form partnerships and meaningful relationships, work together and share resources.”

– **Simone Worthing**

Unique conference enables Chinese congregations to ‘Live it Out’

THE SYDNEY-BASED Chinese corps and congregations gathered last month for the “Live it Out” conference.

Held at The Salvation Army’s Collaroy Centre on Sydney’s northern beaches, the weekend was led by National Director for Multi-Cultural Ministries, Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Pho (pictured), who “gave powerful and uplifting messages and devotions,” according to organiser, Major

Glenys Domrow. “It was a wonderful blessing to be part of this and to feel God’s spirit working amongst those in attendance,” she said.

It was the first time a Salvation Army conference has been held for Chinese congregations from across Sydney. Approximately 80



people from Campsie, Burwood, Bankstown and Hurstville attended. Corps officers led devotional times each morning, before Lieut-Colonel Pho led the sessions.

It’s hoped that next year a similar conference will be held, with Chinese congregations from beyond Sydney also being invited.

Lieutenant Frank Wang, Bankstown Corps Officer, said there was lots of positive feedback received from the delegates.

Trekkers step out for hope in Sri Lanka's highlands

A SMALL TEAM of passionate trekkers raised more than \$30,000 on The Salvation Army's latest "Trek for Hope" through the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka.

The funds raised will go towards Salvation Army programs that impact women, children and families in Australia. A donation was also made to The Haven, a Salvation Army centre in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, which cares for women, children and babies who have faced tragic circumstances.

The trekkers visited The Haven before embarking on their six-day journey.

Trek organiser Peter Cleave, the Australia Eastern Territory Development Manager (Special Projects), said the trek took the team through some of the most spectacular terrain on earth.

"Hiking began before dawn with a climb of Adam's Peak – 2m taller than Mount Kosciuszko – to watch a beautiful sunrise," he said. "A short scenic railway journey to Nanu Oya took our group into the Central Highlands where the scenery changed again. Our intrepid trekkers walked through cloud forests, eucalypt forests, manicured tea plantations, through a railway tunnel, past Bambarakanda Falls – Sri Lanka's highest waterfall – through rice paddy fields and local villages."

Along the way, the trekkers were treated to tasty traditional cuisine made by the local villagers and stayed in a variety of mountain-top lodges, all with spectacular views.



Participants in the Trek for Hope Sri Lanka enjoyed breathtaking scenery and challenging climbs.

They also visited a tea-processing factory and enjoyed a tea-tasting session.

Hikes through World's End and Knuckles National Park completed the mountain section before the trekkers headed to the inland city of Kandy for some sightseeing and bargain hunting.

"The adventure treks have now raised over \$270,000 to help the Salvos bring hope and a way forward for many in our community. We would love you to be part of a future trek," Peter said.

One of the trekkers, Anne, said that, although the trekking was challenging, the whole trip was "just fantastic".

"The group was so supportive and everyone got on so well together," she said. "It was great to have the challenge of the trek, the first I've done, and to raise money for people in such difficult circumstances at the same time."

"I loved the beautiful scenery and seeing the simplicity of life there. It was so rejuvenating and I would do it again in a heartbeat."

The next fundraising trek will take on the Great Wall of China in September next year, and in 2019 it will be the Kokoda Track. Details at salvos.org.au/adventure – **Simone Worthing**



The Tournament of Roses Parade is always a colourful spectacle.

Young Aussie Salvos to march in Rose Parade

THE SALVATION ARMY'S Southern California Division has invited a youth band from Australia to take part in the historic "100 Years of Marching Celebration" at the 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

At the recommendation of Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge, National Secretary for Mission, a National Youth Band will be formed to represent the new Australia Territory at the parade. The Tournament of Roses Parade, also known as

the Rose Parade, is part of the United States' New Year celebrations. It is traditionally held on 1 January.

The proposed dates for the National Youth Band's tour are Tuesday 26 December 2018 to Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Auditions for the National Youth Band will be held at various locations around Australia, or via Skype, beginning on 9 December in Melbourne.

Western Australia youth in a mission state of mind

SALVOS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA know their state is big, but that doesn't deter them from giving each other a helping hand.

Sixteen youth and young adults from Morley Corps in Perth recently travelled eight hours to help out their mates at Kalgoorlie Corps. Over a weekend they painted 80 metres of fencing, led the Sunday service, and ran a "community fun" afternoon.

Steve Freind, the Morley Youth Pastor, said the short-term mission trip was about teaching young people to serve others in a tangible way like Jesus instructs us in Matthew 25.

"We live in a world where young people are brought up with an 'it's all about me mentality', but we recognise that the Gospel isn't about having that mentality; the Gospel's actually about Jesus showing us how to serve others," he said.

The state-focused mission trip is the first of its kind for Morley Corps.

"Of course we wanted to invest in a local Salvation Army!" Steve said. "We think that's key, because even though we are a world movement, we are also a local and state movement. We wanted to invest in what



The team from Morley Corps travelled eight hours to Kalgoorlie to help out the local corps.

the Salvos are already doing in communities and hopefully increase their capacity and influence there."

You could say Morley Corps fulfilled this year's vision with gusto. At the Family Fun Day alone, 250 members of the Kalgoorlie community joined in the corps' festivities. It was 150 more than expected and it delighted Captains Mark and Zoe Schatz, the Kalgoorlie Corps Officers.

"The captains were saying that 50 per cent of the people the Army engaged with on that night were new connections with the church. It was really cool," Steve said. And while the team from Morley won't be around to see the long-term impact of their contribution in Kalgoorlie, they've already seen the dramatic change it's had on their own group of youth and young adults.

– **Jessica Morris**

Cubby-house auction gives homeless youth a roof over heads

THE MEN'S SHED at Ingle Farm Corps in Adelaide is keeping a roof over the heads of homeless youth by building cubby houses.

The Men's Shed designed four cubby houses, which were auctioned off at the Harcourts South Australia Quarterly Awards event on 19 October, to raise money for The Salvation Army's Burlendi Youth Housing.

Burlendi provides short-term emergency accommodation for up to eight young people aged between 15 and 17 who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness. The shelter, which provides 24-hour support to the young people residing there, is part of the Ingle Farm Corps' social programs network.

The Cubby House Project is a partnership between The Salvation Army's Public



Members of the Ingle Farm Corps' Men's Shed designed the cubby houses and built two of them in the workshop.

Relations Department in Adelaide, The Harcourts Foundation and Harcourts [Real Estate] South Australia. Three of the four cubbies purchased at the auction by Har-

courts franchises will be decorated and re-auctioned in their local communities, providing further funds for Burlendi. The fourth cubby was auctioned directly to a private buyer.

The Men's Shed built two of the cubbies, with students from nearby Tyndale High School also completing two. Men's Shed Director, Bryce Routely, who teaches a Certificate 1 in Construction at the school, encouraged the students' participation, with the support of the school.

"The guys at the shed have been positive about the process and the idea of supporting homeless youth as part of The Salvation Army," Bryce said.

– **Simone Worthing**

ENROLMENTS

■ CHIFLEY MISSION/ST MARY'S CORPS NSW



CAPTAIN RACHAEL FARTHING, Chifley Mission Leader, enrolled Tiffany Beynon-Mills and Leah Stubbings as senior soldiers on 15 October, followed by St Mary's Corps Officer, Major Nellie Moed, enrolling Aneita-Rebecca Roberts as a senior soldier. Pictured is Major Farthing with (from left), Tiffany, Leah, and Aneita-Rebecca. Bill Manns and Meryl Austin are the flagbearers.

■ WARRAGUL CORPS VIC



CORPS OFFICER, Lieutenant Amanda Hart, enrolled Darcy Seccombe as a senior soldier on 15 October. Pictured are (from left) Lieut Amanda, Darcy and Captain Angela Locke, Associate Corps Officer.

■ BLACKTOWN CORPS NSW



CORPS OFFICER, Captain William Geracia, recently enrolled Elijah Baker as a junior soldier. Elijah is pictured with Captain Geracia and Gail Salmon who runs junior soldiership classes at the corps.



MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS CONFERENCE

Friday 23 – Saturday 24 March 2018

Featuring special guests:
Len and Heather Ballantine

Friday: Gala Dinner 7pm–9.30pm

Saturday: 10.15am–5.30pm
Electives: brass, vocal, contemporary, drama, creative writing, sound production, media.
Finale Concert: 7pm

Venue: Box Hill Salvation Army
17-23 Nelson Rd Box Hill, VIC. 3128
Travel Subsidies available to interstate delegates







Salvationists at Wittenberg door for historic symposium

THE FIRST-EVER Salvation Army Europe Zone theological symposium took place in Wittenberg, Germany, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses, which sparked the Reformation.

The dream of Commissioner Birgitte Brekke-Clifton (International Secretary, Europe Zone, International Headquarters), the symposium sought to empower young Salvationists from countries across Europe.

With the title “Salvationists at the Wittenberg Door”, it was designed to increase understanding of the historical contribution of Luther to the Church over the past 500 years, while also encouraging delegates to make a renewed commitment to the life of holiness expressed through discipleship, and join God’s work in building a world where all can experience dignity and justice.

“It was good to learn more about Luther’s life and the time he lived in a city where history was made,” said Commissioner Marie Willermark, Territorial Commander



Salvation Army delegates from all over Europe gathered for the first Europe Zone theological symposium in Wittenberg, Germany.

Germany, Lithuania and Poland Territory.

“It was interesting to understand how his personal journey with God interacted with other people and their calling. It was

encouraging to see how the Holy Spirit, no matter what the Church and society looks like, always turns the spotlight on Jesus and who we are in him.”

Army leaders gather for world conference

ALL OF THE 59 Salvation Army territories and commands from around the world were represented at the International Conference of Leaders, hosted by USA Western Territory, from 4-11 November.

This global leadership team met under the direction of General André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women’s Ministries.

The conference covered a range of practical, moral, ethical and theological issues, providing a shared platform from which the international Army can continue to fulfil its mission into the future.

For updates go to others.org.au/news

General Cox emphasises unity of mission

DURING A RECENT visit to the Netherlands and Czech Republic, General Andre Cox challenged Salvation Army leaders to reach out to their communities, because “people need God!”

The General and Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women’s Ministries, also visited “The Connection”, a meeting point of the corps in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. A highlight of the day was the opening of four new apartments for residents of a clinic for supported addiction treatment.

The afternoon concluded with several workshops in which the General himself took part. He answered questions and shared his dream about The Salvation Army being a force for good deeds, change and positive transformation.

The international leaders’ visit to the Netherlands concluded at a gospel celebration attended by 700 people, including the local mayor.



General André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox greet people at “The Connection” in the Netherlands.

On the Sunday morning the General and Commissioner Cox, supported by territorial leaders Commissioners Hans and Marja van Vliet, flew to the Czech Republic to meet with Salvationists and friends.

Social justice commission highlights girls' potential

THE SALVATION ARMY International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) played an important role in proceedings at the United Nations (UN) in New York to mark the recent fifth annual International Day of the Girl Child.

The day celebrates the value of girls worldwide and mobilises the global community to empower girls and help them realise their potential.

The ISJC's participation through conducting several sessions particularly highlighted the vital part played by Salvation Army girls worldwide.

The theme for 2017, "EmPOWER Girls: Before, During and After Crises", included a focus on the distinct challenges that girls face during emergencies such as armed conflict and natural disasters. The vulnerability of girls, it was explained, is greatly magnified during times of crisis.

Counselling offered at scene of church shooting

OFFICERS AND STAFF from The Salvation Army in San Antonio were deployed to provide emotional and physical support within hours of the tragic shooting, which killed 26, at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, last month.

The Salvation Army's mobile kitchen arrived on the scene within hours, and officers spent time ministering to relatives as they waited on word about their family members.

"We were able to give water and snacks but most importantly we listened to many of the families share stories about their missing families. We prayed with many of the families," said MajorCarolynn Webb, San Antonio Area Commander.

Army playing vital relief role in northern Ugandan refugee crisis



Major David Bennett spends time with one of the refugees in northern Uganda. Below: Ugandan relief workers have also played a vital role serving their communities.

AUSTRALIAN SALVATION ARMY officer, Major Peter White, has spent the past three months in Uganda's Northern Region, leading The Salvation Army International Emergency Services team.

The team, which also includes New Zealand officer Major David Bennett, has worked with a number of non-government organisations, and the Ugandan Government, to provide relief to thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum.

"There are 14 different refugee settlements located across the north of Uganda," said Major White, who is the Hurstville Corps Officer in Sydney's south. "Many of the refugees, around 86 per cent, are women with young children."

The Salvation Army and partner organisations have provided toilets and clean water, as well as non-food items including cups, plates, bowls, jerry cans for water and cooking pots.

"The team is working in three settlements," Major White said. "At a recent meeting, the government refugee desk officer expressed his gratitude for the current work of The



Salvation Army, as well as acknowledging its services and projects from previous years and the value of the partnership between the Office of the Prime Minister and The Salvation Army."

The local Ugandan Territorial Headquarters team, trained by Major White and his colleagues, will monitor the completion of this project, along with some International Headquarters follow-up, by the end of December.

GRACE PILLEY



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL Grace Florence Pilley was promoted to glory from Bethanie Gwelup in Western Australia on 28 September, aged 95. A service to celebrate and honour her life was held on 10 October at Morley Corps, conducted by Major Pat Walton.

Grace Anderson entered The Salvation Army Training College from the Geelong Central Corps in February 1942, as a member of the *Steadfast* session. Following her commissioning in November 1942, Lieut Anderson was appointed to the Sunshine Corps, then Rochester, Yea and Eaglehawk. In November 1946, Grace married Lieut Alfred Pilley, and joined her husband at the Heywood Corps. Corps appointments followed at Horsham, Ballarat North and Colac. They were blessed with two children, Alfred Ian (deceased) and Gwenda Joy. Corps officer appointments continued for the Pilleys at Ararat and Sunshine in Victoria; Port Pirie, Glenelg, Mount Gambier and Prospect in South Australia; then Moreland in Victoria.

In October 1969, the Pilleys left to serve in Indonesia where they remained for more than 10 years. During this time, Grace served as Territorial Home League Secretary, Territorial Secretary for Evangelism and in Child Sponsorship. They returned to Australia in January 1980, and Grace was appointed as the Territorial Secretary for Evangelism. In August 1980, Grace and Alf moved to Pakistan, where Grace was the Territorial Home League Secretary for four years.

Upon their return to Australia in late 1984, Grace served in the State Social Services Department in Victoria, initially as Liaison Officer, then as Migrant Services and Refugees Officer. From January 1986 until their retirement on 13 January 1989, the Pilleys served at the William Booth Memorial Centre and Bridge Program in Adelaide. Alf was promoted to glory from Melbourne in 2003. In recent years, Grace relocated to Perth.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are with daughter Gwenda, daughter-in-law Joan, grandchildren Michelle, Simon, Natalie, Stephen and Melissa, and great-grandchildren Leo, Sam, Aiden and Lachlan.

BRUCE PARKINSON



CAPTAIN BRUCE PARKINSON was promoted to glory from Geelong on Friday 29 September, aged 79. A graveside service was held at Kyabram Lawn Cemetery on Tuesday 10 October, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving on 12 October at South Barwon Corps, conducted by Captain Kylie Collinson.

Bruce Parkinson grew up in the small town of Stanhope in north-central Victoria. On 14 January 1961 he married Gwen Cameron, who had also grown up in Stanhope. For 24 years they worked together on their own farm in the Shepparton/Kyabram district. They welcomed two children to the family – Kevin (deceased) in 1962 and Debra in 1963. Active Salvationists at the Shepparton and Kyabram Corps, Bruce and Gwen were involved in many parts of corps life, including working with street kids, the weekly hotel ministry and, for Bruce, the role of bandmaster.

In 1990, Bruce and Gwen offered themselves for full-time service as Salvation Army officers. They were appointed as Envoys to Swan Hill Emergency Centre. Corps appointments followed at St Arnaud, and then Swan Hill, where Bruce was also appointed Territorial Coordinator of Aboriginal Ministries. Bruce and Gwen were promoted to the rank of captain on 7 May 2001.

Bruce had a strong heart for Aboriginal ministries; he became affectionately known as “Digger” among the Indigenous communities he loved and served. People described him as a person who lived out his Christian faith with “his sleeves rolled up”. Bruce and Gwen moved to Geelong in August 2002, with Bruce’s change of appointment

to Coordinator of Aboriginal Ministries in Victoria. Captains Bruce and Gwen Parkinson entered honourable retirement on 1 September 2003. Gwen was promoted to glory on 26 May 2011.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are with daughter Debra, son-in-law Rob, siblings Ken, Ian, Enid and their partners, grandchildren Leanne and James, Mathew and Emma, Luke and Chloe, Milissa and Steven, great-grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

DAVE PRICE



DAVID JOHN PRICE was promoted to glory from Wollongong on 19 May, aged 90. His funeral service was held on Tuesday 30 May at Lakeside Memorial Park, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Wollongong Salvation Army Citadel, led by Corps Officer Captain Phil Inglis.

Dave was the first-born of Noel and Emma Price in Newcastle on 9 January 1927, and his sister Betty was born a few years later. The family moved to the NSW South Coast in the early 1950s. It was Dave’s love of brass bands and male voice singing that had him walking down from the Baptist church he and his family attended in Wollongong, to The Salvation Army hall. While there, something else caught his eye; Joan Everitt, the daughter of Majors George and Elsie Everitt who were the corps officers in Wollongong at the time.

Dave was enrolled as a senior soldier and he married Joan on 1 December 1951. Dave and Joan became parents to Philip and Lloyd, and later proud grandparents to Vanessa and Jason. They also had a number of great-grandchildren. Dave lost his dear wife of 54 years in 2005.

Dave played an active part in the Wollongong Corps for well over 60 years. He loved playing in the band and singing in the male voice party. Dave loved his Lord and his vows of honesty and integrity, and he always evidenced a high standard of Christian living.

 ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 31 October: Captain Catherine **Spencer**, Project Officer (Pro-tem) Personnel Department.

Effective 1 November: Captain David **Janssen**, Coursework Coordinator and Lecturer, School for Mission and Theology, Eva Burrows College.

Effective 10 January, 2018: Major Christine **Unicomb**, Lecturer, School for Mission and Theology, Eva Burrow College; Major Brian **Unicomb**, Administrator EDMS AUE (based in Melbourne).

Effective 11 January: Majors Michael and Sandy **Hogg**, Corps Officers, Taree Corps.

Effective 1 May: Major Debbie **Serojales**, Literary Secretary & Generous Lifestyle Program Coordinator, Philippines Territory; Major Rod **Serojales**, Corps Program Secretary, Philippines Territory.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Merrily **Cowper-Furlong**, of her sister, Nesta, on 17 September; Major Paul **Beardsley**, of his mother, on 2 October; Lieut-Colonel John **Hodge**, of his father, Percy Ronald (Ron) Hodge, on 18 October; Major Max **Hale**, of his mother, Mary Hale, on 22 October; Major Drew **Ruthven**, of his father, on 23 October; Major Pam **Marshall**, of her father on 29 October; Captains Peer and Gai **Cathcart** of their son, Alexander, on 10 November.

RETIREMENT

Major Louise **Nicholson**, on 30 November; Major Gary

Craig, on 31 January, 2018.

ACHIEVEMENT

Captain Jason **Davies-Kildea** received his Doctorate of Philosophy on 26 October.

 ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD

(NATIONAL LEADERS)

Melbourne Fri 1 December – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery event at St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral.

COLONELS GRAEME (CHIEF SECRETARY - AUS) AND KARYN RIGLEY (TSWM/TERRITORIAL SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL - AUS)

Melbourne Sat 2 Dec – Our Christmas Gift Concert.
Northern Territory Fri 8 Dec-Tues 12 Dec – Northern Territory Region Visit (Darwin/Katherine).

LIEUT-COLONELS KELVIN (CHIEF SECRETARY - AUE) AND CHERALYNNE PETHYBRIDGE (TSWM/TERRITORIAL SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL - AUE)

Sydney Fri 1 Dec – Christmas “Thank you” Breakfast.
Sydney Fri 15 Dec – THQ Redfern Christmas Party.
Gladstone Sun 17 Dec – Holiness Meeting and “Christmas in the City”.

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I am a man set free.

WORDS | ASHLEY

PUSHING A SHOPPING trolley aimlessly through the streets of Southport on the Gold Coast, with nothing in it but my three striped bags of possessions, I felt sad and lost. Minutes earlier I had used a needle that still had blood on it from the previous user, but I had no regard for my life. I just wanted to get high, end my

pain. Here I was, 46 years old, a broken man.

At the age of 30 I was on top of the world. I was wholesaling cars, and I was good at it. I drove a Porsche, earned more than \$10,000 a week at one point, wore Hugo Boss clothing and bought multiple properties. But I was also an intravenous methamphetamines drug user. I was using drugs socially – marijuana and speed. I'd used them as a kid to block out anxiety and depression, which were part of my childhood. I was also snorting cocaine, a habit which escalated quickly, and was soon costing \$1500 a day.

Really, I thought I was quite the man, but I was shallow and self-centred, focused on image and material possessions. I was a showman with an ego, good at talking rubbish and living a lie. The cocaine was part of my success image and I hoped it would help people to like me.

At first the drugs helped, gave me confidence, but then the opposite happened and I spiralled out of control. Even when my son was born on Christmas Day, a miracle IVF baby, I kept using drugs. My wife left me, I lost my job and lived in a tent in a caravan park. Seven years ago I got clean for 10 months and then relapsed. I was shooting up ice and heroin, something I thought I would never do.

And now, here I was pushing my trolley.

I knew that something had to change, that somewhere, there had to be hope, and love. I entered Fairhaven (The Salvation Army's Recovery Services Centre at Mt Tamborine) determined not to go back to drugs and a broken, empty life. I had been here before, four years earlier, but I had no higher purpose in my life. This time, I wanted change. As a 46-year-old man with a 13-year-old boy, it had to happen. The recovery process through the Salvos' Bridge Program is tough, disciplined and intense, but I knew that if I had hope, and love in my heart, I could get through it. That was the major turning point for me to continue to fight.



Ashley says he is a "new man" since completing The Salvation Army's Bridge Program for people suffering from addictions.

Today, I have graduated from Fairhaven. I have a good job selling cars, I have good friends and I have God. This is so much more than the material riches of the past. This journey is all about love. God is love, and he is in my heart. That's all I need to know.

I was so lonely back then and now I have connection. Connection – that is the opposite of addiction. The Bridge Program is amazing. Through the steps it has connected me with myself, with others and with God. My caseworker was amazing and enabled me to go deep, bringing up a lot of stuff around my defects and assets, my resentments, my conduct in relationships.

With God in my life, I see myself now as a beautiful person with a loving heart and beautiful friends – and hope has been ignited. I didn't realise that family and friends were so important. I'd pushed everyone away and had nothing, nobody.

I'm finding out who I am, and see who and where I want to be. I'm open, honest and genuine. For such a long time I was like the walking dead. Now I have life. I'm a man set free. ■



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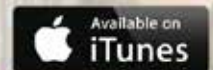
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Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choir

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3. O HOLY NIGHT
4. AWAY IN A MANGER
5. BETHLEHEM MORNING
6. HARK THE HERALD
7. HEAR THE BELLS
8. MARY DID YOU KNOW
9. THE FIRST NOEL
10. SILENT NIGHT
11. WHEN A CHILD IS BORN
12. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

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