

pipeline

ENTERTAINING THE GOSPEL

DALLAS ATKINS' 35-YEAR PASSION TO
PREACH CHRIST



AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY
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Brisbane Salvo Troy Grice has found fulfilment in helping Paralympian Gerrard Gosens realise his triathlon ambition. Photo: Rebecca Southall

The Salvation Army

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God is nobody's debtor

SCOTT SIMPSON • MANAGING EDITOR

“If anyone would come after me, he must first deny himself ...” At this time of year, as we approach another Self Denial Appeal, these words of Jesus found in the gospels (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23) should resonate loudly with all Salvationists.

For six Sundays, beginning on 14 February, DVDs depicting the work of The Salvation Army in developing countries particularly, will be made available to all corps across the Australia Eastern Territory. It all culminates in Self Denial Sunday, on 20 March, when Salvationists are encouraged to give generously towards the international work of the Army.

Take a moment to read the Self Denial Appeal ad on this page for a preview of this year's DVD series and to encourage you, in the lead-up to 20 March, to make a biblical assessment of the generosity of your own lifestyle. The pages of Scripture provide regular reminders of this important concept of generosity. Proverbs 11:24 says, “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want”. Second Corinthians 9:6 repeats this theme: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Take a moment to consider what a phenomenal concept

this is. What God is saying in these verses is that the more generous you are - the more you deliberately choose to give God your very best in every area of your life - the more opportunity you are giving him, through his amazing grace, to shower his abundant blessings upon you.

Still want more proof that surrendering your all to God is one of the most invigorating things you can do? Open your Bible at Luke chapter 12 and read verses 13-40. Here Jesus unloads with some of the most intense teaching the Bible gives on a Christian's relationship with their finances and possessions.

In Malachi 3:10, as the Old Testament draws to a close, the reader is given an invitation by God to put their generosity to the test: “Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

In obedience to God, it's your turn to give generously and sacrificially to meet The Salvation Army's call to serve suffering humanity. And remember, God is nobody's debtor. Give to him and he will give back to you in abundance. ¶



This year's six-week series features amazing stories from people in **Jamaica, Myanmar, Moldova and India** who have been assisted through donations to the Self Denial Appeal.

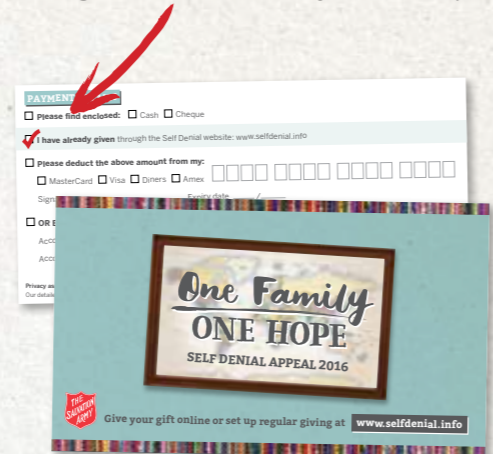
We'd like to invite you to bring hope to our international family during the 2016 Self Denial Appeal.

Give your one-off gift or sign up to become a year-round supporter at: www.selfdenial.info

Keep an eye out for this year's Altar Service envelopes at your corps!

The Altar Service is a special time set aside for Salvationists to dedicate their sacrificial gift to the work of God.

You can still participate in the service if you've given online! Simply tick the “I've given online” box on your envelope.



Change agents

WE ARE SAVED TO HELP OTHERS FIND SALVATION

COMMISSIONER JAMES CONDON IS TERRITORIAL COMMANDER OF THE AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY



I want to share with you an extract from a story I read recently. “Years ago, a farmer from the interior of China had come to a mission compound where a doctor had removed cataracts from his eyes. A few days after the farmer left, the doctor looked out his window and noticed the same man holding the end of a long rope. In single file behind him, holding onto the rope, were several dozen blind Chinese whom the farmer had rounded up and led for miles to the doctor who had worked ‘miracles’ on his eyes. Because his sight had been restored, he wanted others to experience the same thing!”

This story powerfully illustrates our responsibility to share the gospel of good news with others. We are saved to help others find salvation. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

In 2016, we will focus on Forward Together, and the priority I want to highlight this month is People Transformed by Jesus. If we are going to be fruitful and effective, then this must happen in every corps and centre throughout the territory. Jesus must be the centre of it all – our planning, strategy, programs. It is all about Jesus. For the past seven years we have taken the verse from 2 Corinthians 5:14 as our motivation – “the love of Christ compels us” – and that remains. If we are not fulfilling the mission of Jesus then we are not being true to the very reason to exist.

What is our mission? What does it mean to be The Salvation Army? It is to see people transformed by Jesus through the salvation provided by his death and resurrection. And there are still thousands who need to hear about salvation and be given the opportunity to be transformed. The only thing that will change us is a relationship with God through his son Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Nothing more, nothing less. And if we seek the salvation of souls as our primary goal,

then the Church, the Army, will be transformed as well. Saul experienced a radical transformation on the road to Damascus – from persecuting Christians to proclaiming that salvation is found in Jesus. And this transformation was the work of God. Paul, when writing to Timothy in chapter 1:15–16, says that he cannot take any credit for the transforming work of Jesus in his life. Rather, it should highlight the fact that God is patient with all who are yet to believe in him.

The work of transformation is the work of a lifetime. God continues to transform us and when we experience it we then are compelled to share it with others. You may wonder how you can do this? How can I make a difference and share the transformative work of God in my life? Let me suggest some ways to start:

Our attitude is so important. Christians should be cheerful, thankful, positive even in difficult times. Paul, when writing to the Philippians, said we are to be like lights – lights that emit a positive, thankful and cheerful attitude.

What about our words? Words encourage and build up or tear down and hurt others. Some words are filthy and not pure. Gossip, criticism and negativity are a few unhealthy ways of using words.

Then what about our behaviour? Are we always thinking only of ourselves or are we looking for ways to serve others? Are we different or blending in with the world?

As we move Forward Together I leave with you two questions. To what extent are you experiencing the transforming power of God in my life? To what extent are you sharing the good news of the gospel of transformation? May God help us to move forward together in the power of the Spirit and rejoice in seeing people transformed by Jesus. ¶

'It's the work of a moment, it's the work of a lifetime ...'

CONTINUING A SERIES ON THE SALVATION ARMY'S 11 ARTICLES OF FAITH,
 WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF ITS INTERNATIONAL DOCTRINE COUNCIL, WE
 FOCUS ON THE 10TH FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE

WORDS • MAJOR GEOFF WEBB

We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(The 10th doctrine of The Salvation Army)

*It's the work of a moment, It's the work of a lifetime,
 It begins in an instant, It may take eternity, But the work
 of the Spirit, Of the world-changing Spirit, Can begin
 at this moment in me, in me!*

*(From Glory, a musical by John Gowans and
 John Larsson)*

In this Gowans/Larsson song, the writer maintains creative tension between contrasting aspects of holiness. In The Salvation Army, we have sometimes wrestled with varying understandings, with many writers contributing helpfully to holiness teaching – each seeking to bring clarity within the context and language of their own time.

Holiness theology developed along differing lines in the North American context from that of Europe. Consequently, there have sometimes been debates around various concepts: Crisis or process? Purity or maturity? Brengle or Coutts? Some key “themes” within Army holiness teaching may also have fuelled controversy. Among such themes are those of holiness as the blessing of a clean heart, as growth in Christlikeness, and as perfect love.

THE BLESSING OF A CLEAN HEART

Holiness as the blessing of a clean heart is often

considered to be “purity” teaching and associated most closely with “crisis” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The instantaneous element encompasses two “crisis” moments that are restorative in focus:

1. Justification – restoring the relationship with God and the believer.
2. Entire sanctification – restoring the image of God within the believer.

But the concept of “second-ness” or “subsequent-ness” has frequently proven to be a more contentious element within holiness theology. There would appear to be two reasons for this. Firstly, the tendency to elevate experience above Scripture as determinative (“If I cannot identify such a crisis in my life, maybe it doesn’t exist”); and secondly, the problem of “the language of crisis” itself (“If it is a crisis, it must be dramatic”).

GROWTH IN CHRISTLIKENESS

Holiness as growth in Christlikeness is often considered “maturity” teaching associated with “process” (2 Corinthians 3:18). But this could appear to be like being on a spiritual escalator that moves us inevitably to our destination. Maturity teaching might also suggest that holiness is only attainable for those who have been on the spiritual escalator long enough.

PERFECT LOVE

Holiness as perfect love was connected with Jesus’ call for us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48) in the context of:

- Loving God supremely,
- Loving others sacrificially, and
- Loving ourselves sincerely (Matthew 22:37-39).

But “perfect” is often taken to be absolute, and how can anyone be perfect? The New Testament concept of “perfect” (telos) relates more to “fulfilling its intended purpose” – much like a rosebud may not be absolutely perfect (if viewed under a microscope), but is perfect if a man presents it to his sweetheart indicating his love.

WHOLLY SANCTIFIED

To further complicate matters, a problem presented itself in the mid-20th century. Holiness teachers defined sin more narrowly, while the understanding of “infirmities” – the expression of our human frailties – was broadened. This was important, because if infirmities were considered to be sin, then clearly it was not possible for us to be wholly sanctified, or be kept blameless, in this life. There was a growing realisation, however, that there was an apparent distance between the promise contained within entire sanctification and the actual experience of those who claimed to have received it.

Given the confusion, it is perhaps unsurprising that Doctrine 10 became neglected by some, and became the source of tension for others. Are there ways to overcome the differences? How can we understand the concept of being “wholly sanctified” and being kept blameless? The following are some tentative ways forward that will hopefully prompt further discussion.

Holiness could be defined as a work of grace that operates instantaneously (the work of a moment), progressively (the work of a lifetime), and synergistically (a dynamic relationship of cooperation with God who provides the grace needed for holy living). While debate has often centred on the first two, we have not always focused much on the third aspect.

GRACE-MOMENTS AND GRACE-WORK

Part of a possible solution was tentatively suggested by Major Kalie Webb (in Carolyn Knaggs’s *In Her Own Words: Candid Conversations on Holy Living*), where she redefined “crisis” as “grace-moments” operating within a larger “grace-work” (“process”). With such terms, progressive and instantaneous elements are embedded within the element of cooperation with God’s grace.

The grace-moment associated with being wholly sanctified is intended to give us clean hearts and a life of victory over sin. General Coutts reminded us that “if this short and simple sentence, ‘Whosoever abides in him sins not’ (1 John 3:6) means anything at all, it means that we are intended to enjoy a life of victory ... [and] continually sinning and repenting is no more normal spiritually than a life of falling ill and getting well again is normal physically” (*The Splendour of Holiness*). However, grace-moments are not necessarily emotionally vivid – they may be moments of quiet dedication that may not be readily recalled subsequently.

But how do grace-moments connect within the larger grace-work? The following analogy may be helpful. ►

► Early in the 20th century, Einstein had explained the photoelectric effect – that light travelled as discrete bundles of energy. Thus light is not continuous, but comes as a stream of elementary particles (quanta) that behave as both particles and waves.

QUANTA OF HOLINESS

What if the grace-work of God in the life of a Christian is not simply a continuous process? What if that which appears to be continuous, is actually comprised of a “stream” of discrete grace-moments? Each discrete grace-moment could be considered a “quantum of holiness” involving an intervention of God and our cooperative response in grace-enabled obedience. Growth within the grace-work exists only within the continuous stream of quanta of holiness. This returns holiness to the concept of a work of grace operating progressively, instantaneously and synergistically.

In *Authentic “Fair Dinkum” Holiness for Ordinary Christians* (Geoff and Kalie Webb), a habit-track diagram illustrates the possibility of choice when faced with temptation. What is not mentioned there is that people who have been overtaken in significant sin can usually not only identify the triggers, but also can discern where the Spirit of God was at work. There is a kind of “circuit-breaker” moment of clarity when the Spirit makes the person aware that they are about to embark on a “slippery slope”; and that, had they responded differently in that circuit-breaker moment, they might not have succumbed to the temptation.

The circuit-breaker moment could be considered as one type of “quantum of holiness”. John Larsson (*Spiritual Breakthrough*) helpfully describes a variety of moments of spiritual breakthrough, which he categorises as moments of feeling, perception and

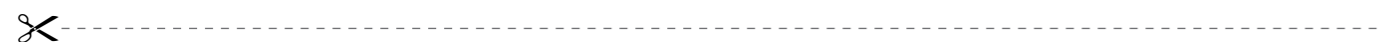
reception. Perhaps there needs to be careful consideration given to other types of “quanta of holiness”.

Each quantum of holiness operating within God’s grace-work builds incrementally toward the full renewal of the image of God within the individual; at which point the person can be free from “besetting sins” – the habitual patterns that result in repeated failure – but can experience victory over temptation, and growth in conformity to Christ. The grace-moment of entire sanctification may be theologically normative, but it may not be experientially distinguished from other grace-moments.

The concept of “quanta of holiness” relates not only to individuals but to holy living in community, and how we operate corporately. Corporate holiness is an area that has not been widely discussed in the Army (although see Geoff Webb, Rowan Castle, and Stephen Court, *Holiness Incorporated: Living and Working Beyond Corporate Integrity*). It is a dimension of holiness that needs further discussion.

The key to holy living involves continued growth in the fullness of salvation, which depends on continued grace-moments of obedient faith in Christ expressed in response to, and cooperation with, divine interventions of grace. It is, therefore, possible to experience the blessing of a clean heart, growing in Christlikeness expressed in quanta of holiness in which we show perfect love to God, others and ourselves.

May the God of peace sanctify you completely. May your spirit, soul and body be kept whole and blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Major Webb’s translation from the original Greek). ¶



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WELCOME MEETING
— FOR THE —

MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL

2016-2017

&

Installation

LT. COLONEL MIRIAM GLUYAS,
DIVISIONAL COMMANDER NSW/ACT

— AND —

MAJOR SHELLEY SOPER,
DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

THE SALVATION ARMY
CAMPSIE CORPS

SUNDAY
7 FEBRUARY
4:00 PM



Putting out the welcome mat

THE SALVATION ARMY IN AUSTRALIA IS PUTTING MEASURES IN PLACE TO ASSIST WITH THE INFLUX OF UP TO 12,000 REFUGEES FROM WAR-TORN SYRIA OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

WORDS • BILL SIMPSON

Trained teams of uniformed Salvationists will meet refugees at Australian international airports to assure them that they are welcome in our country.

Refugees will also be offered assistance to assimilate in Australia through living in the homes of Salvationists – in some cases – and at Salvation Army centres when they first arrive, training to get a driver's licence and help to find a job.

The program is expected to start when the first plane load of an additional 12,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq begins to arrive – possibly in February or March. The Australian Government announced the special intake – in addition to the previously agreed 13,750 permanent visas per year for refugees – late last year. The additional intake is intended to assist in a world crisis caused by escalating conflict in the Middle East. Although announcement of the additional 12,000 refugees has inspired The Salvation Army project, refugees coming to Australia under existing arrangements will also be assisted on arrival.

The Salvation Army has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in a less public and limited way for several years, mainly through legal methods to reunite families and help in the assimilation process. Australia Eastern Territory Multicultural Director Captain Nesan Kistan, who is a driving force behind the project, says it is a missional response by The Salvation Army to an enormous refugee issue. "Our intention and desire is to get every aspect of our existing programs and ministries working together in a unified response to assist refugees integrate into Australian life and our faith communities," he says.

"This will allow us the opportunity to put hands and feet to our mission of One Army, One Mission, One Message."

Captain Kistan, who migrated to Australia from South Africa in the 1980s, says his motivation is also personal. "Arriving in a new country ourselves as a family leaving a home suffering conflict and a great deal of persecution is not a new experience for people across the world, but it has certainly been my experience. I am reminded that the responsibility to love my neighbour is a spiritual responsibility but also one that has shaped my life and brought incredible hope and purpose."

Captain Kistan has achieved the agreement of the Australian Government and The Salvation Army to proceed with the humanitarian project. The Government, he says, is still fine-tuning its intake of the additional refugees. Terrorist attacks – especially in Paris in November – have impacted the pace of the Government's response, but Captain Kistan is hopeful The Salvation Army will be in a position to start in late February-early March. "That is current thinking (in early January, when this article was written). We are focusing on what we can do well with limited resources."

The present plan is to do the project in stages. The first stage will include airport welcomes, housing, driver training and employment assistance. Consultation is happening with other churches (including Syrian) and agencies already providing some of the services The Salvation Army will provide. Captain Kistan says a range of Salvation Army experience is being gathered to ensure success of the project.



Meeting refugees at the airport is a vital component of Captain Nesan Kistan's commitment as the Australia Eastern Territory Multicultural Director. Photos: Shairon Paterson



01



02

01. Scenes like this will play out at Australian airports over the coming months as refugees find a home on our shores.

02. Salvo Ambassadors are ready to play their part at the airports to greet refugees.

► The first visible sign for refugees will be the presence of Salvation Army teams at airports. Staff of the Army's Salvos Ambassador Movement are currently working on a suitable reception system. Property Department staff are identifying available accommodation which could be used for an initial three to six months. The New Arrivals Team is coordinating a work program with Salvos Stores and St Vinnies. This would centre on training and pre-employment experience, hopefully leading to employment. Appropriate staff are already working on the driver's licence scheme. There is a desire to involve as many corps as possible through people prepared to act as voluntary instructors. Financial assistance is being sought to purchase driving simulators.

Further stages of the refugee resettlement program will include cultural orientation (including assistance with shopping, using government services, transport), learning the local language, financial literacy (budgeting), health care, legal rights in relation to visas, and translation services. "We already have experienced services in place, such as Moneycare, Salvos Legal, Salvo Housing, youth and seniors ministries, Salvos Stores, and others, to ensure this is done properly," Captain Kistan says.

"We also have enormous resources among our corps. We will certainly need a lot of people. We are hoping the regional hubs will become a place where a lot of the recruitment and drive for this program will come. Volunteers will not necessarily need a skill or qualification. They will need to be part of an initial training session.

But a lot of what we are asking or expecting is that most people will be able to do this as simply loving and caring for others (refugees)."

The Government is expected to allocate several hundred refugees to individual cities and towns as part of the assimilation process. Some cities and towns have already been contacted and agreed to relocate refugees to their communities. The Salvation Army will assist local councils and other groups to achieve assimilation goals.

When the Government first announced the additional refugee intake last year, it said priority would be given to people displaced from their homes by conflict in Syria and Iraq and now living under United Nations protection in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. They would be assessed as being the most vulnerable – women, children and families with the least prospect of ever returning safely to their homes. They would be registered with and referred by the United Nations for resettlement in Australia.

Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop told the media in November last year: "These people are hand picked by Australian authorities in the Middle East. We are focusing on people who have been persecuted in Syria and Iraq; people who are fleeing from terrorism (and) from persecution. Our screening and testing is very intense." The Government says permanent visas will not be offered to people in Australia or regional processing countries who travelled to Australia illegally by boat. □

Responding with faith and hope

WORDS • MAJOR DANIELLE STRICKLAND



01

01. The Salvation Army has been heavily involved in the refugee crisis in Europe.

02. Temporary shelters like this are a regular sight.

03. Preparing food for shelters is one way people have been able to volunteer to assist refugees.

If you are like me, you are watching the reports of the world's worst refugee crisis with a mixture of emotions — mostly fear and guilt. The displacement of more than four million people is mind-blowing, to say the least. I'm afraid of what it all means. What will it mean for this generation? What will it mean for Europe? What will it mean for the future of the world? I'm afraid of the uncertainty — the power shifts, the religious extremism, the clash of cultures. I'm afraid of what it signals.

I also feel guilty for listening to the reports, but not doing anything. That picture of a small boy washed up on the shore haunts me. I remember people — and governments — saying they would do things differently after the Holocaust. "Never again" is what I heard. I've heard the stories of boats filled with Jewish refugees being turned around and sent back to Germany. There was "no room" for them when they came seeking asylum. The same thing happened in Rwanda. We watched in horror as the people who had asked for help were slaughtered. After each horrific event, we try to wash the blood off our hands. Yet here we are again — the greatest refugee crisis of our time. What can we do? What will we do?

When we feel paralysed by fear and guilt and don't know how to respond, it is a call to rise up. We can fight against apathy and indifference.

Let's get mobilised. Instead of focusing on the many things we can't do, let's start with what we can do:

Pray. Here is a prayer guide: archive.worldvisionmagazine.org/story/pray-people-affected-conflict-syria - to help you find words to offer for this time and this place. Don't ever forget that God hears the cries of the oppressed.

Get informed. Don't let ignorance be an excuse. These fact guides can launch you into a deeper understanding about this crisis: www.mercycorps.org/articles/iraq-jordan-lebanon-syria-turkey/quick-facts-what-you-need-know-about-syria-crisis

www.unicefusa.org/stories/mission/emergencies/conflict/syria/infographic-syrian-children-under-siege/582

Give. This link will connect you to the work being done on the front lines: www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/europerefugees

Pray. Get informed. And give out of your blessings — you may find that you are the answer to your own prayers. May God help you to live out what you believe.

For more information about The Salvation Army's work with Syrian refugees, contact Captain Nesan Kistan at nesan.kistan@ae.salvationarmy.org

Major Danielle Strickland is the territorial social justice secretary in The Salvation Army USA Western Territory.



02



03

Greek translation

CADETS TO FULFIL 'CALLING' IN AUSTRALIA

WORDS • ANNE HALLIDAY

When cadets Pavlos (Paul) Anastasiou and Rachel Mina took up residence at the School for Officer Training College last month, they had travelled further than most – 15,316km from Athens, Greece, to be exact. The couple, along with their sons Mario-Silas, 4, and Ethan-Angelos, 1, have left their home, their families, their culture and their country to become part of the *Messengers of the Gospel* session of cadets. However, as Rachel and Paul see it, this move is the exciting culmination of a call that has been unfolding over the past decade.

"In 2006 when I met Rachel we had a common desire to visit Australia," Paul recalls. "We both felt a calling from God saying that he will train us there." Before heading to Australia in 2009 to complete a youth ministry internship in Melbourne with Planetshakers Inc, they spent a month serving with Cambridge Heath Corps in London. It was their first experience of The Salvation Army.

"We visited our friends who were getting ready for The Salvation Army college. We saw how the programs ran, the regulations and the church meetings and the whole idea of working to serve people in need more closely," Paul says. Adds Rachel: "For us to see so many people coming to the church every day, and the variety of community programs available was a new experience that marked our lives. It was something we desired to be part of. We felt as if a new path was opening up for us."

"During our stay in Australia this experience had so much influence on our everyday life," continues Paul. "No matter what our schedule was, heavy or not, we understood that we had to see the people's needs, without expecting something in return. The day we were leaving from Australia back in 2009, I felt God telling me that the journey has just began. As I shared this with Rachel, we were sure that God was telling us that we would come back."

After visiting a Greek church in Toronto, Canada, the couple returned to Greece and joined The Salvation Army's fledgling work in Thessaloniki. "After returning from Australia we were different people. We realised that, because Christ was near to people we had to be near to people, too. We came in contact with the officers here in Greece and felt that in The Salvation Army we could live a holy life in a practical way. What attracted us to The Salvation Army was the practical Christianity."

For the past four years, Paul and Rachel have been involved with The Salvation Army in Athens, where they felt God's prompt to take their service further. "When we met Polis and Maria (the officers in Athens) and heard the whole story and the important part that Australia played so that The Salvation Army could come to Greece, it was another confirmation. We can feel the changing of the spiritual 'climate' in Greece and we are going to be the messengers of his Gospel," says Paul.



01

"God led us there, at that specific point of time in order to call us to full-time ministry in The Salvation Army. After getting involved with The Salvation Army in Athens, and participating in the daily community and spiritual programs, our call was confirmed. Our daily involvement with the corps filled our hearts with a sense of peace we had never experienced before. That peace, God's peace, was the confirmation in our hearts that we have found a new home; The Salvation Army." Another confirmation was the encouragement they received from Rachel's parents. "They are people who struggle a little bit with the changes, but they said to us that God is opening up a way in front of us and that we need to walk in it, without looking back."

While they are ready to embrace their new life and call in Australia, both Paul and Rachel are mindful of how God might be positioning them for the future. "Greece is the biggest passage for people that are coming from war zones and destroyed countries, cities, villages and homes to find a better future in the countries of Europe," says Rachel. "This is our time, and the opportunity for The Salvation Army to preach the word of God in our nation and to some other nationalities that need it now more than ever." ¶

"What attracted us to The Salvation Army was the practical Christianity."



02

01. Paul and Rachel's experiences in The Salvation Army in 2009 set them on a new path that has led them to offer themselves for officership.

02. Paul and Rachel with their children Ethan-Angelos (left) and Mario-Silas.

Entertaining the gospel

FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS, CHRISTIAN PERFORMER DALLAS ATKINS HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY A SINGLE PASSION – TO COMMUNICATE THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST’S PERSONAL AND RELENTLESS LOVE TO EVERYDAY AUSSIES, BY WHATEVER CREATIVE MEANS POSSIBLE

WORDS • ANNE HALLIDAY / PHOTOS • JO GOTTLE

Dallas Atkins, of Tuggeranong Corps, is a singer/songwriter, musician, puppeteer, magician and comedian. He’s performed in schools and coffee shops, churches and nursing homes, community events and clubs. But it all started with getting himself kicked out of the Defence Force in 1978.

“I lasted six months in the Defence Force, but the chaplain in charge of my platoon was a very close friend of my aunty’s,” Dallas remembers. “We became friends. I didn’t know at the time, but he would get letters from my aunt asking how I was going. They were praying me into the kingdom.”

Leaving a Defence Force career behind, Dallas returned to his home town of Nelson Bay. “I was at the beach one day and two of my friends came up to me and told me I had to check out this church because they had a band and some good looking girls,” he smiles. “So I went! There was a band playing but they weren’t playing Christian songs. They were playing songs I knew but with a twist in the lyrics. The atmosphere was good, the band playing and food was flowing. But the thing that held my attention was that they were genuinely interested in getting to know me.

“A few days later I was at the beach, catamaran sailing with Graham Steele, the youth minister at the time. During the sail, a rope got caught around his toe and broke it. When

we got back on the shore, the team gathered around him and were praying healing and peace for him. I had gone to Sunday School as a kid but I had never experienced that kind of situation before. “I was thinking to myself, ‘I wish I had a broken toe’. I wanted to feel that experience. That was the turning point for me and I gave myself to Christ soon after.

“A few months later, the chaplain that I met in the army retired and moved back to Nelson Bay. We picked up our friendship and that really backed up the seeds that had been planted.” Dallas moved to Sydney about a year later. “I was involved in a church in Liverpool and that’s really where I was discipled and learnt to sing and write songs.”

OUTREACH BAND

In the early 1980s, Dallas moved to Canberra for work and became involved with the Youth for Christ movement. It was here he met his wife Bronwyn (Bonnie) Butler, who was in a Salvation Army rock band called “Faith”. In 1987, with a group of other Christians from various churches, Bonnie and Dallas formed a six-piece band called “The Message”. “We called ourselves a Christian outreach band. We weren’t out there just to entertain, we wanted to see souls won.”

At that time, we were part of Mawson Corps (now Woden), which was headed up by Envoys Lew and Norma Gibson. “They built a youth hall and ran a coffee shop out of it



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01. After 35 years, performing is second-nature to Dallas Atkins.

02. Dallas always likes to get his audience involved, utilising any number of props and dress-ups as part of the entertainment.

03. His interactive shows are inspired by creating connections between popular culture, such as the music of the Beatles and the message of the gospel.

“Over the life of the show we saw hundreds come to make commitments for Christ.”

► every Friday night and showed a lot of support for the youth. That’s where we started out playing.” Soon after the band packed up and hit the road for eight years, living by God’s financial provision and travelling all over Australia.

“God really blessed us. We saw hundreds of young people and adults come to the Lord. There were crazy times, too. One booking meant we had to get from Western Australia to Newcastle in two days. We took shifts and just kept driving. We made it to Newcastle two hours before the show. Through Facebook, I still get a lot of feedback from people whose lives were touched during that time. I received a letter from one girl who was 16 at the time and her encounter with Jesus has meant that her whole family had become Christians.”

When Dallas started to introduce puppets into the rock show in the early 1990s, the band saw an opportunity to connect with families. The “Mess Up Puppets” were born. “We put together the ‘Right Way to Go Show’. It was a bit like Disney on Ice. We made massive body costumes and rigged up a theatre and lighting. It was a rock n’ roll puppet show, which shared the gospel in a comical way. Over the life of the show we saw hundreds come to make commitments for Christ.” The Mess Up Puppets continue to perform at festivals and Christian events today.

GOD’S PROVISION

By 2000, Dallas and Bonnie had moved back to Canberra with their two young sons. For the past 15 years, Dallas has been creating one-man shows, including his latest, Dallas Live, and continues living out his passion, bringing his unique creative ministry to adults and kids. Now based at Tuggeranong Salvation Army, Dallas is about to launch his newest show – a Beatles inspirational night. “Really it’s just about using Beatles music and the connection people have with that, to help take them another step towards Jesus,” he says.

For most of his ministry life Dallas has been committed to serving with a dependence on God’s provision for his financial needs. “It’s not easy but we do not want to charge a fee for sharing the Gospel so just ask for a donation to cover fuel and travel costs. God has surrounded us with supporters who regularly sow into our ministry We leave and trust God’s provision for us and for the work. It’s as simple as that.” ¶

For more information go to: www.dallasatkins.com



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01. Dallas spends much of his time working with churches, communicating the message of God’s relentless love.

02. Dallas draws on his skills as a musician, songwriter, magician and comedian for his shows.

Street Soccer kicks community goals

CAIRNS COUPLE TACKLES SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH SPORT

WORDS • SIMONE WORTHING

“Most of the players don’t have anything, but in Far North Street Soccer, they belong to something,” says Lynn Dennis, who, with her husband Russell, an ex-professional English football player, was instrumental in starting and coordinating the program. “We started running the program over year ago as we had a number of clients who couldn’t access sport and recreational events due to finances, homelessness, mental health or other social issues,” says Lynn, who is also senior team leader for the Cairns Personalised Support Service (CPSS) run from The Salvation Army’s Centennial Lodge.

“Research in mental health recovery shows that access to these programs and events is critical in terms of social connectedness and getting back into the community.”

The free program aims to engage the marginalised, vulnerable, and others facing challenging circumstances, through sport. Community members are also part of the mixed teams, which are open to all ages. Volunteers cook a free sausage sizzle after the game. The program also offers games for children who often then tell their parents and carers about the services available at CPSS.

Russell, who is now an outreach worker with CPSS, began coaching the players and organising local games on a Friday afternoon, generously hosted by the Stratford Dolphins Football Club. As the program grew, Lynne approached the more central Edge Hill Football Club, who now host the games and support the program.

“Some of the players, who wouldn’t necessarily seek support from us, have now met us through sport and are confident enough to ring us and access specific help,” says Lynn. “One young guy, who was socially isolated and had spent some time in a mental health unit, really gained his confidence through the program and found a job. Another guy, with a history of drug and alcohol abuse, was also able to turn down opportunities that would lead him back into that lifestyle.”

The program is also a joint venture between local businesses, other service organisations such as Red Cross, Centacare and Ozcare, and local sporting clubs. “We’ve



People from all walks of life join together for Far North Street Soccer and together have fun, build relationships and learn new skills.

had two kits donated by local soccer teams, and all our equipment is purchased by Partners in Recovery, who support people living with a mental health condition to access their own supports and services based on their needs,” says Lynn. “The other services take our referrals and lead people to us as well. This program shows that we can all work together.”

Brandtree, a local printing and digital design company, also support the program. “They are in the process of building a website, not only for Street Soccer, but for other free programs that we run, such as yoga, so that this can be accessed by our clients and also services,” says Lynn. “It will also have the capacity to build on a free community sports program across the region.”

Hundreds of players have been a part of Far North Street Soccer since it began, with up to 20 players participating each week. Players come from all walks of life and include those from the general community. “They know they are not alone, they are joining in with others and doing something fun, and learning skills, too,” Lynn says.

Far North Street Soccer has a dream – to start generating some funding so it can assist extremely disadvantaged people access sports programs as members of the community. “We would like to be able to help them with fees, equipment and kits so they are not isolated in their communities,” says Lynn. “People often don’t want to go to traditional mental health groups, but playing soccer allows them to grow and improve while reconnecting with their community.” A full-day corporate, five-a-side football carnival is also being planned for later this year. ¶

School of hard knocks

SALVOS STEP INTO EDUCATION GAP FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

WORDS • SIMONE WORTHING

“Whatever it takes” is the mission statement behind The Salvation Army’s first independent school in Australia, located at and run by its Youth Outreach Service (YOS) in Lawnton, north Brisbane, in partnership with Pine Rivers Corps. YOS Lawnton, as the school is temporarily named, opened in January last year.

“The school, which is accredited through Education Queensland, is a special assistance school for young people who have extraordinary circumstances and mainstream schooling hasn’t been flexible enough to cater for their needs,” says Darren, YOS manager and principal of the school. “It is not unusual for students at the school to have experienced exclusion and expulsion from mainstream because they haven’t fitted the mainstream education model.” The school has accreditation for Years 7-12 and currently focuses on Years 10-12.

YOS Lawnton, in partnership with St James College in Spring Hill and Queensland Education at Stafford, also operates two alternate education programs on Salvation Army premises – at Streetlevel in Spring Hill and Stafford Corps in Brisbane. All students who attend YOS Lawnton must want to come to the school, and also be in need of special assistance and support. “Through a family vulnerability measurement index, we know that 70 per cent of our students have histories of trauma, up to 50 per cent are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and many others experience mental illness, significant drug use and complex family situations,” Darren explains. “Our young people know that this is a safe place, they are loved unconditionally and accepted no matter what.”

To ensure each student receives the support they need, each class has one teacher and one youth worker. “The role of the youth workers is one of case management,” says Cheryl, YOS Lawnton team leader and deputy principal. “They work with students one-on-one, get to know them, regularly check in to see how they’re going and link them with other support services and organisations.”

Desiree, youth worker – health and wellbeing, explains that her role is to get the students to a place where the barriers that prevent them coming to school and learning, are broken down. “It’s a varied role that might include picking up the students and bringing them to school, home visits, or sitting with them to help them complete homework,” she says. “We do whatever it takes.”

“Restorative Justice” plays a large role in assisting the students work through their issues, meet their goals and change their lives. Although “time out” days may occur, no student is expelled from the school. “Instead, our restorative justice practices help rebuild personal and community relationships so the students grow and develop,” says Cheryl.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

At the end of last year, YOS celebrated the graduation of 72 students across its three schools. Twenty-five graduated with their Year 12 Queensland Certificates of Education (QCE). Others received their Years 10 and 11 certificates, achievement and encouragement awards, and certificates in Vocational, Educational and Training (VET) courses such as child care, hospitality and horticulture.



“Our young people know that this is a safe place, they are loved unconditionally and accepted no matter what.”

Major Leonie Ainsworth (far right), with the YOS staff, (from left) Dina, Desiree, Darren and Cheryl.

YOS Lawnton also offers additional personal development courses such as Rock and Water, Shine, and Drumbeat, for which students can gain QCE points. This year, the school is also offering a social communication unit which enables the students to serve in the community as part of their studies. “This integrated curriculum enables us to teach values and build character in our students,” says Darren.

Other services are also available to the students through the school including Centrelink, Youth Justice, a psychologist, and Salvation Army services such as welfare. The students are referred from local high schools, Youth Justice, the police, friends of current students and through Lawnton’s outreach worker at local courts.

“When the kids first come in, they are hesitant and unsure,” Cheryl says. “We work to build trust and that grows over time as the relationships develop. It’s a privilege to be let into their world.” Dina, youth worker – health and wellbeing, agrees. “The kids start talking about the school as a family. We also have graduates who drop in to visit and let us know how they are doing. It’s not just a school for them, it’s a family.”

Cheryl emphasises that YOS is also a faith community, where there is opportunity for students to develop a relationship with God and reconnect with spiritual growth. “We often pray for people in the school, have conversations with young people about what they believe, and make sure they are aware that they can ask for prayer for anything they’re going through,” she says. “As staff, we have devotions together and are pastored by the Pine Rivers corps officers.”

Majors Rodney and Leonie Ainsworth, who served as corps officers at Pine Rivers before retiring at the end of last year, saw the school, its students and staff as being naturally connected to the corps. The Ainsworths focused on being involved, encouraging and available.

“I saw my role as supporting the YOS team and doing whatever we can to support them,” says Major Leonie.

“These are opportunities to build relationships. It’s also an exciting opportunity for the corps, a mission field in itself, and I pray it will continue to develop over time. The corps has also catered for different YOS functions, provided funds for Christmas gifts, and included the students in special events.”

The young people love having the support of the corps. “They will open the doors for older people and have daily interactions with them,” Darren says. “It’s more than a program response; it’s a natural response and a community is being built.”

FUTURE DREAMS

As the year progresses, YOS Lawnton would like to increase its involvement with, and support of, the parents and families of the students. There are also plans to involve the students in service projects, establish a support group for young people who have transitioned from the YOS programs, and develop an alternate education program at Soundpoint – The Salvation Army and Sony Foundation Youth and Community Centre in Goodna, west of Brisbane. The team would also like to focus on developing sponsorships and a volunteer program.

“We would also like to continue our plans to build classrooms, workshops and possibly a coffee shop on the site here, so we can cater for up to 80 students in five years’ time,” says Darren. “This is our dream. We would like to consider including a boarding school for homeless students – offering accommodation in the community that is part of the school.”

Staff members love being part of having a positive impact on the lives of young people. “The staff is great,” says Darren. “We have in them all the essential ingredients for the success of the school. God has certainly blessed us, opened doors, and protected us, and we are looking forward to what he will do in the future.”

“It’s not just a school to the students, it’s a family.”

The guide of his life

TROY FINDS FULFILMENT IN RACE EXPERIENCE WITH PARALYMPIAN GOSENS

WORDS • SIMONE WORTHING / PHOTOS • REBECCA SOUTHALL

Troy Grice has competed in more than 50 triathlons including three Age Group World Championships in New Zealand, England and Canada. He's compiled an extensive individual CV in the multi-discipline sport. However, he describes his experience last month acting as "guide" for three-time Paralympian Gerrard Gosens at the National Paratriathlon Championships on the Gold Coast, as the most fulfilling moment he's had in triathlon.

Racing in the PT5 category – athletes with a visual impairment – the pair finished the 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run in second place. It was the first time that Gosens, who alongside his Paralympic Games appearances in Atlanta, Sydney and Beijing has also climbed Mt Everest and run from Cairns to Brisbane five times, had competed in a triathlon. For Grice, who attends The Salvation Army at Carindale in Brisbane, it was an emotional experience.

"I've done 55 triathlons myself and this was by far the best feeling on a course I've ever had," he says. "I nearly cried with happiness several times on the course and the people at every single tent were clapping and cheering, shouting out Gerrard's name, with even an occasional cheer for me too. This doesn't happen when you race for yourself. I don't need to do more for myself; it's far more rewarding to put back into the sport and help someone do something they otherwise wouldn't be able to do."

Gosens was delighted with the result. "I'm so thankful for Troy's courage and enthusiasm and willingness to give this a go," he says. "Blindness is the largest disability in the world and yet there were only three vision impaired people competing today. That means there are potentially thousands of people in Australia who are blind or with low vision who may love to do something like this, but can't because they don't have a guide. It takes a person like Troy who will step up and say they're prepared to do this, that gives people the opportunity to get involved in sport."

SALVO CONNECTION

Grice met Gosens at Yeronga Park swimming complex in Brisbane, where they both train. He discovered that Gosens, despite his long and distinguished sporting career, had never done a triathlon. He made an offer. "When Troy asked me about doing a triathlon, I thought, 'Why not have a go!'," says Gosens. "I'm always up for a new challenge



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01. Grice and Gosens celebrate their second-placing at the National Paratriathlon Championships.

02. The duo power around the cycle leg of the course.

and opportunity. It was a short lead time but we were focused on being as best prepared as we could."

Gosens has strong connections with The Salvation Army. Bill Hunter, who leads the Army's God's Sports Arena (GSA) church in Brisbane, ran as a guide for Gosens at the Sydney Paralympics in 2000 and at the World Championships in France in 2002, and the pair has completed several City to Surf races in Sydney and National Championships for Athletes with a Disability. Gosens has also spoken at GSA several times. "Gerrard is not willing to hang back and he doesn't blame his blindness for not doing things," says Hunter. "He is willing to get up and give life a go."

Gosens and Grice plan to next race together at the International Triathlon Union paratriathlon event at Penrith, west of Sydney, in April. For more information about Gerrard Gosens, go to paralympic.org.au/athlete/gerrard-gosens

THE SALVATION ARMY
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY

MISSION PRIORITIES



OUR PEOPLE MARKED BY PRAYER AND HOLINESS



OUR PEOPLE IN EVERY PLACE SHARING JESUS



CORPS HEALTHY AND MULTIPLYING



OUR PEOPLE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED TO SERVE THE WORLD



OUR PEOPLE PASSIONATE ABOUT BRINGING CHILDREN TO JESUS



YOUTH TRAINED AND SENT OUT TO FRONTLINE MISSION



SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF NEW SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS





Risen

RATING: M
RELEASE DATE: 19 February



There are a great many books that you might direct your Christian friends to if they have questions about the resurrection – John Dickson’s *A Spectator’s Guide to Jesus* or Frank Morrison’s *Who Moved The Stone?* to name two – but not that many films. Until now. *Risen* addresses many of the key arguments sceptics bring to bear on the most amazing event in human history.

Risen is being touted by its producers as *Gladiator* in tone but thriller in nature. It certainly follows the trajectory of a classic mystery. Joseph Fiennes stars as the tribune Clavius, a veteran centurion tasked with avoiding a political crisis for

Pontius Pilate. The battle-hardened soldier oversees Jesus’ removal from the cross and his burial in a rock-cut tomb. However, when rumours begin to emerge that the Nazarene has been seen walking about, the governor dispatches Clavius to produce Jesus’ body and put an end to the turmoil that threatens to undermine his authority:

Jewish priest: The Nazarene said he would rise again after three days. You’ll lose peace and order if it’s true.
Pilate: Will the people believe it?
Jewish priest: The weak will.

Clavius, though, is anything but weak. He’s a bloody-handed sceptic who is shown ruthlessly crushing the rebellions of religious fanatics, and he sets about systematically investigating the claims with the plan of proving the resurrection a fallacy. In so doing, *Risen* provides a dramatic, first-hand account of what it must have been like to sift the evidence of Jesus’ resurrection in the 40 days following his death.

Risen is a Hollywood imagining that will certainly leave many Christians debating the details, but its attention to the biblical accounts runs far closer

than recent productions like *Noah* and *Exodus: Gods and Kings*. The gospels confirm the leaders of the Sanhedrin did go to Pilate asking him to ensure Jesus’ body was secure because they were aware of his claims and were afraid people might believe in his resurrection. History also suggests Pilate had good reason to fear religious zealots. Both Luke’s *The Acts of the Apostles* and Josephus’ *The Jewish War* mention insurrections centred around supposed messiahs. The Gospel of Mark also records the Roman officer in charge of Jesus’ execution coming to his own conclusions about the man being crucified: “And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’”(Mark 15:39).

Of course *Risen* rearranges the timeline and embroiders heavily on these starting points. However, it still provides excellent answers to alternate explanations for Jesus’ miraculous return:

1. **Jesus only swooned and recovered in the tomb** – Clavius is clearly a centurion who knows his business. A spear-thrust ensures the Nazarene prophet is certainly dead when

he’s taken from the cross. Even if there were any doubt, wounded men weakened by blood loss don’t move stones the likes of which the centurion and his helpers use to close the tomb.

2. **The disciples stole Jesus’ body** – Clavius discovers Jesus’ followers were running scared from the Sanhedrin and lacked anything like the courage to overpower the tomb’s guards or hide the corpse.

3. **The believers went to the wrong grave** – There’s no geographical mistake. Clavius has no problems finding the grave the priests placed their seals and guards around.

4. **Early Christians fabricated the story** – If so, they made some unlikely choices. Clavius’ investigations take him to the door of Mary Magdalene, the woman first to see Jesus alive who also happens to be unable to testify in a Jewish court of law.

Risen races to a climax that departs from the Bible’s account but still keeps alive the spirit of the original centurion’s conclusion. In so doing it should help jaded audiences come to grips with the truth at the heart of its mystery: you don’t have to understand how a resurrection happens to acknowledge that Jesus returned from the dead. As Clavius writes: “I have seen two things that cannot be reconciled. A man dead without question, and that same man alive again.”

If Jesus is dead at point A, and alive at point B, resurrection is the only reasonable conclusion.

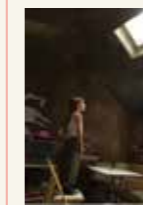
Risen is being described as an unofficial sequel to *The Passion of the Christ*. It certainly shares the same potential to get viewers thinking. If indeed Jesus did return then any filmgoer, faced with the inevitability of death, would be foolish to ignore the consequences. Clavius is asked what frightens him the most about this investigation and he rightly answers, “Being wrong, and wagering eternity on it”.

– Mark Hadley



Room

RATING: M
RELEASE DATE: 28 January



One of the hardest skills a scriptwriter will ever have to master is the art of adaptation. Take a comic and turn it into a TV show, or an essay and create from it a documentary. Crossing from one medium to another requires choices. In the case of *The Lord of the Rings* it led to a whole new form of the story that is as much loved as the original book. In the case of the *New York Times* bestseller *Room*, it resulted in an equally moving story that sadly lost one of its key spiritual lessons.

Based on the novel by Emma Donoghue, *Room* is the story of Joy, a woman who is kidnapped at the age of 17 and imprisoned in a 3.5sqm room for seven years. During that time she gives birth to her kidnapper’s son, Jack. Joy, known only to her boy as “Ma”, strives to give him the best experience of life possible in the squalid, soundproofed shed they occupy. However, even her tenderness can’t protect him from the realities of their gaoler “Old Nick”. Yet for all of his deprivation, Jack lives a happy life, secure in the company of his loving mother. That is, until one day Joy decides he is old enough to learn that Room is not the

sum total of the universe, and they must do what they can to escape. *Room* would sound like bizarre fiction were it not for the numerous real-life cases of women being imprisoned at the whim of a man. Yet what *Room* suggests is that the powerful bond between mother and son can rise above even this sort of terrifying tragedy. Jack’s world might be limited, but it is lit up by his mother’s love as she turns everything from essential exercises to used egg shells into sources of joy. When Jack finally musters the courage to confront the outside world, he takes comfort in the fact that he is at least able to take the foundation of his world with him: “There are so many things out here and sometimes it’s scary. But that’s okay because it’s still just you and me.”

However, if there is a tragedy associated with the production, it is the careful way producers have clipped Christian content during the transition from book to film. Ma’s lessons about the enduring presence of God through the sun and the moon feature strongly in the novel, as do Jack’s constant thanks to “Baby Jesus” for every small thing he enjoys. Yet all these instances of grace have hit the cutting room floor.

Room is an excellent film with real heart and lessons to learn about the sort of love that makes any life bearable. Yet I’d recommend also adding the book to your reading list if you’d like to include the even more essential love from above that helps people get outside this world’s worst tragedies.

– Mark Hadley

Living with the Booths

General John Larsson, a former world leader of The Salvation Army, writes about the experience of authoring his latest book



Three years ago, I moved in with the Booths. And what a family I joined! William and Catherine brought into the world a happy, boisterous crew of eight originals – as gifted and headstrong as their parents – and their life together was quite extraordinary. Well did Harold Begbie, William Booth's biographer, write that "outside the pages of Charles Dickens no such household ever existed, nor in any suburb of London has a more remarkable family ever been gathered under one roof".

It would actually be more accurate to say that three years ago the Booths moved in with me. I surrounded myself in my small study with every book about the Booths we had in our home. It was a large collection, for on entering training at the age of 18 I had inherited all the Army books that my then recently deceased grandfather, Commissioner Karl Larsson, had amassed. And to this treasure trove I have added extensively over the years.

The Booths also began to arrive in my study through the internet and by email contact with the Army's heritage centres around the world. No longer do researchers have to pack their bags and travel the world. In the writing of *Those Incredible Booths* I was in frequent electronic contact not only with The Salvation Army's International Heritage Centre at Demark Hill in London, but also with its archival centres in Washington, Melbourne, Paris, Berne, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo and Buenos Aires.

Then came the task of sifting from this vast array of information all references to William and Catherine as parents. There have been many different biographical takes on the Booths over the years, but none specifically about them as parents, so in this I was treading new ground. As the children reached adulthood they began to play hugely significant roles in the expansion of the early Army across the continents, so here was another field to be explored. Of material there was no shortage. If anything, there was too much.

Parameters had, therefore, to be set. The book must not be too long, and most important of all, it had to be based on that excellent writers' maxim: Show, Don't Tell. Stories and first-person quotes are the gold nuggets that bring persons and situations to life. They are, therefore, sought as keenly by biographers as good illustrations are by preachers. Such nuggets come in all shapes and sizes. Here are a few examples, drawn from hundreds, in which we glimpse moments in the lives of the parents and the four older children.

- Twenty-three-year-old Catherine Mumford writes to her fiancé William Booth: "If I did not fully intend to train my own children differently to the way in which most are, I would pray every day that I might never have any."
- After playing a riotous game of Fox and Geese with his children, William sits reading contentedly in an armchair as six-year-old daughter Emma amuses herself by putting his long hair into curling papers. When his whole head is covered with little twists of paper, the maid announces a visitor. William Booth springs to his feet and moves towards the hall. As the children drag him back they scream with laughter – laughter with which William joins when he looks in the mirror.
- "I was born a duffer and I can plainly see I shall die one," writes a despondent Bramwell at the age of 30 to his sister Eva. No assessment could have been more wrong. But the brilliant Bramwell was to battle with self-deprecation throughout his life.
- The much-loved and charismatic Ballington, former Marshal of The Salvation Army for Australia and New Zealand and now National Commander of the Army in the United States, resigns from the Army at the age of 38. He founds and becomes General of "Volunteers of America". William Booth hopes to rescue the situation and the two generals meet in a hotel in Montclair, New Jersey. But it is too late. The meeting lasts only 30 minutes. Records William Booth laconically in *The War Cry*: "We met and prayed and parted – forever."
- Kate has successfully pioneered the Army in France despite strong opposition and the press is fascinated by la Maréchale, this woman field marshal. She is approached one evening in a dark Paris avenue by

a finely dressed gentleman who wants a "rendezvous" with her. He asks where they can meet. "Before the throne of God", comes her devastating reply. The man runs away – but the remark goes all over France.

- Emma lies dead at the age of 43, the only fatality in a rail accident in the United States in 1903. Her grief-stricken husband, Frederick Booth-Tucker, stands by her open coffin at the funeral in New York and sings: "Ask what thou wilt my devotion to test, I will surrender the dearest and best." There is not a dry eye in the hall.

Sparkling nuggets from the lives of the four younger children, Herbert, Marian, Eva and Lucy, could easily be added, but they are not for this occasion.

The Booths have now moved away from my study. With the publication of *Those Incredible Booths* the source books have been returned to their usual shelves around our apartment. The screen no longer brings information about them from distant heritage centres. I miss them. They have been good company for the past three years. Fortunately, they still are when I dip into my book. And it pleases me to think that with all the members of the family now gathered for the first time between two covers, others too will have the chance to meet those incredible Booths – for that is what they were.

Those Incredible Booths is available from The Trade (thetrade.salvos.org.au) for \$35 and as a Kindle book from Amazon.

The Offering: An Act of Worship



Third-generation Salvationist Margaret E. Doughty, from the United States, has released a prayer book to assist corps with developing the Sunday service offering time as an act of worship. Margaret writes in the book that the offering time is an important part of the Sunday worship service and our giving reflects our relationship with God.

"The giving of our tithes and our offerings is a part of our worship service, not just a weekly routine to support the corps budget. I strongly feel that thought and prayer should be part of the treasurer's planning for this act of worship," writes Margaret.

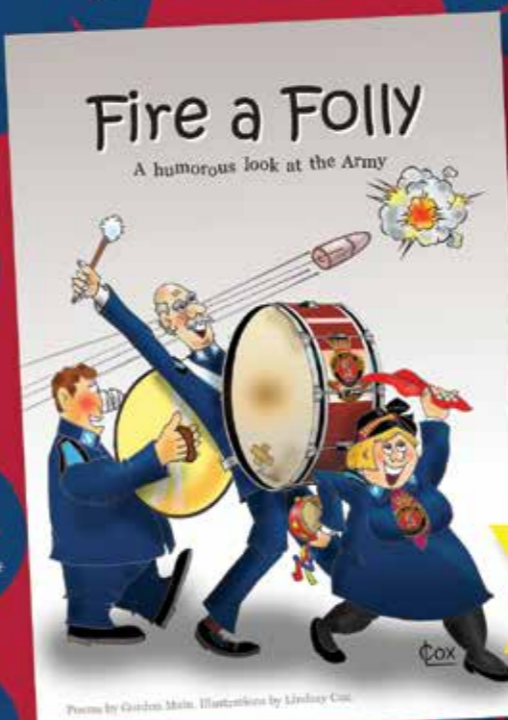
She is the corps treasurer at St Petersburg Corps in Florida, has written over 100 readings designed as a resource for developing the offering as an act of worship. Also included are a number of specialised readings for occasions such as Mother's Day, Easter, Christmas and more.

The Offering: An Act of Worship has been produced by The Salvation Army National Headquarters in the US and is available at www.crestbooks.com for \$US14.99.

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Sowing seeds in a barren land

THE PIONEERING WORK OF TWO COURAGEOUS SALVATION ARMY OFFICERS AT MT ISA

WORDS • LAUREN MARTIN



Captains Thelma Leech (left) and Olive Devlin, who endured numerous hardships to establish the work of The Salvation Army at Mt Isa.

There are always mixed feelings at change of appointment time for Salvation Army officers. Some are excited at the prospect of a new appointment that matches their calling, while others are left a little uncertain at taking up a role that would appear removed from their God-given passions. What we can learn from our history though, is that God can use us anywhere, even if the soil appears hard and rocky.

Consider Captain Thelma Leech and her assistant, Captain Olive Devlin, who were appointed to begin the work of The Salvation Army at Mt Isa in 1936. In their case the ground really was rocky – shale, in fact. So sharp that it regularly ripped their shoes to pieces.

Despite facing resistance not just from the secular townfolk but within their own ranks (“Div. H.Q thought mere women could not do it alone,” Captain Devlin later wrote of the male officer sent to “help them”), the two captains tore through who knows how many pairs of shoes door-knocking every home in the town before the official opening.

Living in “The Shack”, as they called it (a one-room, earthen floor, square box made from flattened-out water

tanks with galvanised iron walls) they got used to the resident tree snakes and cooking on a fuel stove. Meetings were held in the Country Women’s Hall, after the regular Saturday night dance. “On Sunday mornings we would sweep out the hall,” remembered Olive Devlin in 2000, “we could not eradicate the beer smell!”

After Sunday school, meetings, open-air and the like, they would trudge back along the narrow track to “The Shack” on Tipperary Flats, without so much as a candle to light their way. “The Captain would go first single file and the Assistant (Captain Devlin) would follow – if she struck the stump in the dark the one behind would know to dodge it!”

“Groundwork was done – Sunday School and meetings and open-air held, house and hospital visitation, Gospel preached, seeds sown – a few faithful soldiers. If no great results shown, at least seeds were sown,” Captain Devlin wrote many years later.

Indeed, those “results” seemed non-existent. Salvation Army officer, author and historian, Lily K Sampson, in a book that mentioned the opening of Mt Isa Corps, noted that no souls were recorded in the first year. Yet years later, Captain Leech wrote that she had received a letter from a woman who was a soldier at Mt Isa in 1936. The woman described attending a meeting at Hermit Park in Townsville where two bandsmen testified that they had been converted at an open air-meeting in Mt Isa in that first year, yet were too shy to go into the ring so knelt beside their truck.

What a thrill to receive such a letter! After such toil and hardship, Captains Leech and Devlin received validation that their labours, conducted in such challenging circumstances, were not in vain.

The story of The Salvation Army’s early days at Mt Isa is a reminder that, no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in, we can trust that “... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). As Captain Devlin wrote: “If no great results shown, at least seeds were sown.” ¶

Lauren Martin is a freelance journalist and a board member of the Sydney Chapter of the Australia Eastern Territory’s Historical Society.



Retirement Meeting for *Commissioners James and Jan Condon*

Saturday 14 May 2016
2:00 pm

Sydney Congress Hall

Retirement conducted by
General Linda Bond (Rtd)



Messages to be sent to: joy.johns@ae.salvationarmy.org

MOONYAH HOSTS RECONCILIATION EVENT ▼



01



02

01. Representatives of the Aboriginal community with Majors Chris and Graham Tamsett at Moonyah's Reconciliation celebration.

02. Traditional clan man and Moonyah participant, Eric, presents his painting to Major Graham Tamsett.

Reconciliation was the focus of a flag presentation event at Brisbane Recovery Services (Moonyah) late last year. Members of the Aboriginal community, as well as Moonyah staff and residents, attended the event.

Auntie Raelene Baker, Queensland Divisional Coordinator, Indigenous Engagement, who comes from the Yuggera and Birri Gubba peoples and is a senior clan woman, opened the evening with a welcome and acknowledgement of country. Traditional clan man and Moonyah resident, Eric, with the help of his Uncle on didgeridoo, performed a traditional welcome dance and language song.

Major Chris Tamsett, Moonyah Manager, explained that the three new flags being presented to Moonyah – The Salvation Army, Australian and Aboriginal Australian flags – marked the Army's commitment to moving forward in reconciliation. The flags were raised in front of the main building as the crowd sang *Advance Australia Fair*, together. "The flags fly

as a marker that all people are recognised and welcome in Moonyah, and particularly acknowledges our First Nation peoples," said Raelene.

Eric also presented Major Graham Tamsett, Moonyah Manager, an original painted artwork depicting a story based on the theme of reconciliation, which will be hung at Moonyah. Meaning "safe house" in Aboriginal, Moonyah continues to be exactly that for people of all cultures and backgrounds.

This event reflected the focus of the territory's Reconciliation Action Plan, launched in August. "The document is the endorsed framework for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and for becoming more culturally competent across the full spectrum of services and ministries with communities and individuals," said Shirli Congoo, Territorial Indigenous Ministry Coordinator. – Simone Worthing

SELFLESS VOLUNTEER 'GIVES BACK' IN INALA COMMUNITY ▼



Eighty-six-year-old Thelma Worldon gets into the spirit of Christmas at Inala Salvation Army, where she has volunteered for the past 12 years.

For the past 12 years, Thelma Worldon has been a volunteer with the Inala Salvation Army in Brisbane, giving her time all-year round, five days a week. She is a regular at local shopping centres and train stations, collecting donations and spreading the love of Jesus.

In the lead-up to Christmas, she was an invaluable help to Inala, packing and distributing toy and food hampers for families who were in need. Thelma said Christmas is the

busiest time of the year for Inala Salvation Army, but it's also hugely rewarding. "I love the festival season about the birth of Jesus and about the carols and the giving gifts and helping people.

"They're thrilled," she said of those who come to receive donated Christmas gifts for their children and loved ones, as well as overflowing hampers of food. "The smiles on their faces ... they're so thrilled to get them, they really are."

Thelma says she volunteers for The Salvation Army because they first helped her. "I just like to help because Jesus first helped me through the love and care of the Salvos at Inala Salvation Army," she said. "I want to be able to give back and in turn help others in our community and give them hope.

"I have collected for the Salvos, and still do at our local shopping centre, local pubs, and also at train stations in Brisbane for many years, and I love it. I also volunteer at our 'Breakfast Connections' that we do every Sunday where we provide a good hearty breakfast, good conversation, good friendships and, of course, the love of Jesus. I've got so much, and I want to pay back all the things that God has given to me." – Lauren Martin

OLIVER ON PAR WITH NEW HOBBY ▼



Commissioner James Condon meets young Oliver and his mother Fiona, to congratulate him on his golf ball fundraising initiative.

Eight-year-old Oliver has recently picked up a new but unusual hobby. In addition to his chess, tennis and soccer interests, one of Oliver's favourite activities is to raise money for The Salvation Army.

While eating breakfast with his family one morning, Oliver read The Salvation Army's *Wishes* catalogue – a gift catalogue that raises funds for those in need at Christmas – and discovered that not all children enjoyed the same morning ritual. "I felt touched that some people don't get breakfast before school," he said.

Oliver was initially saddened, but then decided to take action with a novel idea. He enlisted the help of his family to search for "lost" golf balls in a parkland area near Manly Dam on Sydney's northern beaches. Wakehurst Golf Course is close by. Oliver's plan is to purchase "School-Day Breakfast" packages in the *Wishes* catalogue, which sell for \$16 each.

Oliver has collected about 200 golfs balls so far. He cleans each ball and sells them for \$2 each. So far he has raised \$50 and his intention is keep raising funds. "I was touched how he connected to people his own age and wanted to help," said Oliver's mum, Fiona.

A "School-Day Breakfast" package for kids was just one of the many items available in *Wishes* catalogue. If you are inspired by Oliver's actions and would like to help disadvantaged children, families and individuals at Christmas, go to salvos.org.au/wishes to donate. – Esther Pinn

RETIRED OFFICER PRESENTS BOOK TO BOOTH COLLEGE ▼



Major Gates presents his book to Samantha Leung at the Booth College library.

Major Donald Gates recently visited Booth College library to present two copies of his book, *Spiritual Formation: A History of Mysticism*. Senior Librarian Samantha Leung was delighted to accept the books into the library's ever-expanding collection.

After a lifetime of officer service, Major Gates studied for his PhD, achieving that demanding honour at the age of 76. Not one for resting on his laurels, he then started work on this new book. In it, he explores the history of mysticism from earliest pre-Christian experiences through the development of the Church to the present day. He shows how mysticism can be an expression of faith, demonstrating a desire to stand in the holy place before God.

Spiritual Formation: A History of Mysticism is available from The Trade (thetrade.salvos.org.au).

HISTORY SNAPSHOT

After World War Two, two Salvationist women were given a van and told to win "the west" for God. Thus began the enduring friendship and dynamic partnership of Brigadiers Florence Whittaker and Ruth Smith. Read about their adventures at "Local History" (The Greater West – Auburn) link at salvos.org.au

“SALLYMAN” DEPLOYED TO THE MIDDLE EAST ▼



Captain Lyndley Fabre (third from left) with ADF personnel in the Middle East.

Captain Lyndley Fabre, Chief Commissioner of The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) has been deployed to provide welfare services to Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel at Camp Baird - Australia's main logistics base in the Middle East region. Captain Fabre is the first RSDS representative (known as the “Sallyman”) to be deployed overseas since 2009. He is also the first

Australian philanthropic support representative to deploy to the Middle East region since World War II.

The deployment of a non-Defence Christian support officer at Australia's main command and support base will be on a four-month rotational basis, alternating with the Everyman's Welfare Service.

Captain Fabre explained that the main role of the ADF philanthropic organisations is to provide commanders with another option for welfare services to improve the troops' morale and well-being. “The Sallyman and Everyman have always provided a listening ear,” he said. “We work closely with the ADF chaplains, but we are also outside of the military system, which is unique and can be a drawcard for some people. The challenge for me is that RSDS have mainly worked with the Army, so the Air Force and Navy personnel don't really know us, or what we can provide. Part of my role will be to break new ground with the airmen, sailors and Defence civilians and hopefully the soldiers here will back me up based on their experiences with the Sallyman.”

For more information, see [facebook.com/hqjoc](https://www.facebook.com/hqjoc)
 Story and photo courtesy of the ADF Public Affairs Department, Middle East Region.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM EMPOWERS KIDS WITH LIFE SKILLS ▼



Children and staff enjoy an activity at the holiday program.

to connect with children, build relationships, teach them life skills and share the love of Christ with them.

“Our program is aimed at children with low attention spans or high needs. We create opportunities for them to connect. We can give them a lot more quality time than they'll receive in the school classroom,” explained Jason.

From 11-15 January, the mission teams ran games, sport, drama, craft and cooking activities for approximately 300 children across the five locations. The leaders also taught kids life skills that complemented each practical activity, such as nutrition. Each day, a Bible message was given which connected to the activities and life skills they were taught that day.

Families were invited one evening during the week to participate in the Summer Holiday Program with their kids. Jason said this evening was also an opportunity to develop relationships with parents with the hope to connect these families to corps and other Salvos programs such as SAGALA or Street Dreams.

The holiday programs were a combined effort between corps and the mission volunteers. Jason hopes these programs will inspire corps with fresh ministry ideas for 2016. If you would like to get involved with the Summer Holiday Program next year, email Jason Poutawa at jason.poutawa@aeu.salvationarmy.org
 – Esther Pinn

Whether cooking sweet treats, playing football or completing craft, the children at the Salvos Summer Holiday Program were offered more than just fun activities – they were taught life skills and shown the love of Christ. “I believe in this program that it will [have] a kingdom building affect,” said Summer Holiday Program leader, Sarah-Jane Alley.

About 50 leaders aged 14 and up spent a week during the January school holidays running a program for children in western Sydney and along the Central Coast of NSW. Five separate mission teams were sent to Penrith, Mount Druitt, Blacktown, Wyong and Maitland, to run holiday programs for kids aged seven to 13.

Jason Poutawa, Salvos Youth Foundation Coordinator, explained that January was a time when kids can be bored or distracted, often because their parents are working or can't afford to go on a holiday. He said their program aims

SALVOS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO PALM ISLAND ▼



Children on Palm Island receive gifts from Santa.

meet the many incoming requests for food, water, Christmas gifts and transport. “The Salvation Army supplied the toys; SecondBite, through Coles, its national corporate partner, donated food and water; and Dreamtime Training arranged the transporting of the palettes,” said Raelene. “The combined giftings contributed to the Palm Island community's cheerful Christmas celebration.”

Raelene worked with Cheryl Tollis, Divisional Community Fundraising Manager, to coordinate the gift collections for Indigenous communities. A truckload of toys was also delivered to the Cherbourg community, 250km north-west of Brisbane. Raelene and her son, Murray, joined Streetlevel's Deadly Salvos group, that aims to increase engagement with Indigenous people, and Centacare's Murri Ministry to deliver hampers to Indigenous hostels and the Aboriginal Medical Service in Brisbane.

Pinyali has also developed a partnership with Brisbane Streetlevel Mission, and several Brisbane corps, to help supply food for their breakfast and lunch programs.

“We will continue to work in partnership with organisations and corporations like Pinyali to create real social change and add value to a vision of building relationships, while mutually respecting culture and developing inclusive opportunities across Indigenous communities,” said Raelene. “We put smiles on faces.”

The South Queensland Division of The Salvation Army, with its partners, delighted the Indigenous children and communities on Palm Island at Christmas, with a special delivery of toys and hampers.

The Army, together with the Brisbane Pinyali Indigenous Corporation (Pinyali), joined the SecondBite Program and Dreamtime Training to send 17 palettes of water, gifts and food to the island, located 65km north-west of Townsville.

Late last year, Pinyali representatives met with Raelene Baker, Divisional Co-ordinator Indigenous Engagement, to share ideas and develop a partnership and a process to

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Contact your Corps Officer, Divisional Officer Recruitment Representative or call Majors David and Shelley Soper on 0434 751 070. Visit salvos.org.au/MakeYourMark for more information.



ST MARYS CORPS ▼



Pictured with Major DeTommaso are the adherents, Patricia Nelson (centre) and Emily Reynolds.

Major Tony DeTommaso, Corps Officer, accepted two new adherents, Patricia Nelson and Emily Reynolds, during the advent service on Sunday, 20 December. "Our 'advent adherents' have been part of the corps for a few years and have become more and more involved with the corps over time, each in their own special way," said Major DeTommaso. "They both assist in street ministry, and were part of our Christmas activities as well. Pat joined the choir and just loved singing carols in the shopping centres. Emily helps out wherever there is a need, from morning teas to welcoming people as they come into the corps."

WAGGA WAGGA CORPS ▼



Front row, left to right: Alexander Yongai, Carneh Yongai, Natalia Shimpf, and Thomas Yongai with big buds, back row, left to right: Sharon Jones, Margaret Plowman, Miranda Lawson-Rossow, and Ned Jones. Ron Passlow is holding the flag.

Captain Bindy Lupis, Corps Officer, enrolled four junior soldiers - Alexander, Carneh and Thomas Yongai, and Natalie Shimpf - on 13 December.

"Over the last year it has been a privilege to journey with these amazing young disciples and witness their relationships with God and each other grow," said Captain Lupis. "A highlight has been the many discussions about social justice. One week after the junior soldier lesson on International Day of the Girl, the boys in particular were quite bothered about how unfairly girls are treated in some countries and wanted to do something. Another week, an unplanned discussion happened about refugees and the junior soldiers came up with many ideas of ways they could help. For these junior soldiers, their faith is about so much more than weekly lessons - it is how they do life each and every day. Both the present and the future of Wagga Corps is exciting!"

HAWKESBURY CITY CORPS ▼



MISSION PRIORITY
SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF
NEW SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS

Lieutenant Nicola Poore with new adherent Darryl MacLeod and new senior soldiers Elizabeth Archer and Pat Mitchell.

The Hawkesbury City Corps celebrated the end of 2015 with the acceptance of one adherent and two senior soldiers. Darryl MacLeod, Elizabeth Archer and Pat Mitchell each made a personal commitment to serve God through The Salvation Army. "In Luke's Gospel we read that, 'the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few,'" said Corps Officer, Lieutenant Nicola Poore. "Here we have three disciples, in different seasons of life, who are passionate about following Jesus and doing his mission work. These are exciting days."

LONG JETTY CORPS ▼



Major Andrew Humphreys enrolls the new soldiers at Long Jetty Corps (left to right) Sandy Reid, Guy Hart, Rebecca Wiche, and Jo Cockle. Katherine Mills is hold the flag.

Majors Andrew Humphreys, corps officer and director of the Salvos Discipleship School, enrolled four new senior soldiers on 27 December. Two of the soldiers, Jo Cockle and Rebecca Wiche, are graduates of the nearby Salvation Army Dooralong Transformation Centre. The two other new soldiers, Guy Hart and Sandy Reid, both graduated last year from the Salvos Discipleship School. All four attend Long Jetty Corps.

"Jo partnered with one of our other congregation members last year to birth and grow their own children's ministry which is incorporated into our community dinners on a Wednesday night," said Haylee Jagger, a case worker at Dooralong who also attends Long Jetty Corps. "She is a valued humble servant of the corps who serves with compassion for and understanding of others." Rebecca serves in the corps worship team each week, running the audio-visual equipment. Guy Hart and Sandy Reid have both been part of Long Jetty Corps for the last few years. They are both active in the corps, with Sandy also serving as administrative assistant.

GENERAL URGES THE WORLD TO KEEP READING ▼

With the year-long Bible Challenge having ended, General André Cox has encouraged participants to maintain the "regular rhythm" of daily readings. Bible reading and prayer had been prioritised for Salvationists and friends around the world during 2015, The Salvation Army's 150th anniversary year. Tens of thousands of people took part in Boundless - The Whole World Reading, a year-long initiative to study the whole New Testament together, from Matthew to Revelation.

With printed booklets, small discussion groups, children's activities and a special website and smartphone app, there has rarely been so many ways to engage with the holy texts. Technology ensured that participation in the challenge was possible well beyond the 127 countries in which The Salvation Army has a physical presence. In a personal email to online participants, General Cox told of the "fascinating and stimulating journey this has been" and prayed that participants have "felt renewed, inspired and strengthened" in their faith. "We would like to encourage you to continue reading and meditating on the Word of God," he wrote, "and hope that the discipline and regular rhythm that you have picked up over these past 12 months will remain with you." Reflecting on the importance



of reading the Bible, the General continued: "We need to create space and time to pause, listen and reflect. It is about setting priorities and good time management."

A PDF sample of the January readings (sar.my/wolbcsample) from The Salvation Army's daily devotional *Words of Life* has been made available to encourage ongoing regular Bible reading into 2016. The complete January-April issue is on sale now through bookshops or as a subscription from sar.my/wolsubu. Meanwhile, for those who have enjoyed the interactive elements of the Bible Challenge, participation in the One Army teaching program has been bolstered by live online sessions which began on 13 January (sar.my/onearmylive).

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR SPORTS MINISTRY AT OLYMPICS ▼



Mission teams are being assembled to engage in outreach and sports ministry alongside the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August. Applicants have by the end of the month to complete their registration to be part of The Salvation Army's ministry at the first Olympics to be held in South America. Millions of spectators are expected to travel to Brazil, where The Salvation Army has been at work since 1922.

Major Dan Ford is the divisional commander in Rio. He spoke warmly of local Salvationists' profound desire to serve on mission teams while their city is in the spotlight of the world's media. "It's not so much what they are going to do, but the fact that they are prepared to do something," he said. "In particular, we're aware of estimates that up to 40,000 sex workers will ply their trade in Rio during the event. Salvationists here have a real heart for those trapped in the sex trade, and are campaigning against human trafficking." An initiative in the suburb of Niterói is already ministering to local women engaged in prostitution, offering non-judgmental counselling, refreshments and care packages.

The Salvation Army is also recruiting volunteer team members from around the world. In partnership with Brazilian para-church movement Braços Abertos (Open Arms), these teams are being brought together by Lieut-Colonel David Bowles, Europe Zone Sports Ministry Coordinator. He aims to build on similar initiatives undertaken in Brazil during the 2014 football World Cup and in the UK during the London 2012 Games. "Sports ministry is important because it builds bridges and transcends language and culture - a shared passion that can be the first steps to forming real relationships," said Lieut-Colonel Bowles. "It's a great leveller; people can participate in sport regardless of social status, background or ability. The fun, excitement and discipline of sport has much in common with our faith experience - it's a natural springboard to meaningful and life-changing conversations about Jesus."

Several of The Salvation Army's corps and centres in Rio are already using sport and other forms of recreation as a way to cement meaningful relationships in the community.

Two delegations of international volunteers will be needed to bolster the local team. Block A runs from 3-13 August, with Block B from 13-23 August. Prospective volunteers are encouraged to visit the international sports ministry website at sar.my/rio2016 to find out more about the financial, practical and spiritual commitments required. The deadline for receiving applications is 29 February.

- David Giles

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SNAPSHOT 2016 ▼

The structure of women's ministries in the Australia Eastern Territory has changed with the introduction of the two new divisions. However, the focus of ministering to and with women in the community, walking alongside them in their life journey, and showing them how Jesus can transform their lives and give meaning, purpose, and hope to individuals, families and communities, has not altered. "Doors and keys" is the overall theme for women's ministries this year.

"My prayer is that you will look for doors of discovery and opportunity in ministry to women," said Commissioner Jan Condon, Territorial President of Women's Ministries. "Open some new doors and close doors that need to be shut. Our message does not change but our methods need to change and keep up with the needs of women today."



SALVOS WOMEN – FORWARD TOGETHER ▼

WORDS • COMMISSIONER JAN CONDON

These are exciting days for the territory as we embark on a new structure. Part of the structure includes ministry for women, by women, to women.

I encourage us all to see Salvos Women transforming communities through disciple making, serving others (mission projects, local corps/community projects, one-on-one support) and not only speaking out the message of Christ, but also speaking out against injustice against women and children (social justice involvement).

I would like to see all corps and centres taking a fresh approach to ministry to women. Perhaps it is time to undertake a survey and establish the needs of the women in your corps, centre or community. We are in the day of "new things" and maybe there is a new thing God wants to do with Salvos Women. Take time to dream and listen to God and see where he directs you.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, why not contact your divisional director of women's ministries (see articles on this page). They will be happy to hear from you. We tend to think of women's ministry as Home League, but that is only one small aspect of Salvos Women. There is so much potential for other needs-based groups in corps and centres and also service in the community and in the hubs. Area officers will also be constantly in touch with corps and centres, so share any ideas with them as well.

While we now only have two divisions, there is a Salvos Women team in each to serve and resource the territory. Our desire is to become more intentionally missional and to see more women actively involved in ministry. I recently carried out a survey to ascertain the number of women

involved in various types of ministry in the territory and this revealed that over 6000 are involved. This is only the tip of the iceberg. I believe women are waiting to serve and be involved.

There are many women in our corps and centres with amazing gifts and abilities who need to be raised up and involved in disciple making and mission. We are better together and my challenge to all women is to become who God intended you to be and use your gifts to serve God and the community.

Isaiah 43:19 says, "For I am about to do something new. Don't you see it?" (*New Living Translation*). Be alert, be creative, be enthusiastic, and be involved. God is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine. Go for it!



BRINGING IN THE KINGDOM ▼

WORDS • FAY FOSTER – TERRITORIAL SALVOS WOMEN DIRECTOR

I'm excited to have joined the Mission Support Team based at Territorial Headquarters. My role is to coordinate Salvos Women and Salvos Caring at the territorial level, and I'm looking forward to networking with other staff and officers to see how we can best work together in these areas.

I'm very keen to ensure that our Salvos Women work includes lots of ministry with women – not just to women – as we seek to enhance and transform our communities through worship, education, service and fellowship. These are the four pillars of women's ministries, and we can join together as women of God to ensure that these pillars are established, relevant and helpful in our own local settings. I'm also keen to see women of all ages coming together, having their needs met, and helping to meet the needs of others.

In both of these areas, Salvos Women and Salvos Caring, I'm looking forward to seeing lives changed, families strengthened and communities transformed as we work together to bring in God's Kingdom where we are.

EMBRACING LOCAL COMMUNITIES ▼

NSW AND ACT DIVISION

Divisional Director of Women's Ministries: Major Shelley Soper. Salvos Women Coordinators: Kym Briggs, Major Beatrice Kay, Major Karan Ross, Major Joanne Slater

The focus of the women's ministries team this year will be to reach out into local communities and work to make a difference in the lives of women of all ages as they go through both some of the most challenging times of their lives, as well as their everyday lives.

"The team is committed to personally visiting every centre and ministry within the division to hear the hearts and concerns of the leaders, to minister to and meet as many women as possible, and to assist us to identify and resource any needs as effectively as possible," explained Major Soper.

"As well as fulfilling the more 'traditional' women's ministries roles, the team is committed to increasing its awareness of women's needs in the community and embracing local communities. We will be focusing on the needs of women such as teenagers, young adult women, mothers, and the older generation. Some of the concerns we will be looking at include depression, self-esteem, grief and loss, domestic violence, and others."

This year, four women's retreats will take place throughout the state, as well as coffee mornings and additional events in different locations. The division will also host Major Beth Pearo, guest speaker for this year's Captivated by the Word conference, in Canberra on 16 February and at The Collaroy Centre in Sydney on 19-21 February.



OPENING NEW DOORS ▼

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

Divisional Director of Women's Ministries: Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Godkin. Divisional Salvos Women Director: Major Rowena Smith. Salvos Women Coordinators: Major Julia Metcher, Major Wendy-Sue Swan

Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Godkin, who also serves as the Cadet Training Coordinator for Brisbane and the Divisional Secretary for Officer Personnel, oversees the women's ministries in the division, although Major Rowena Smith and her team of coordinators are responsible for the daily running of this busy ministry. Major Swan is based in Brisbane and Major Metcher 1400km away in Townsville. "The divisional theme for women's ministries will be 'Doors and Keys', following the territorial theme," said Lieutenant-Colonel Godkin. This year, the division has planned three camps and five coffee mornings throughout the state, with guest speakers at each event.

"Wendy-Sue and I will be visiting extra corps up to Rockhampton and out to Longreach, and Julia will oversight the ministry in Far North Queensland," said Major Smith. "We are also planning two retreats for officer women, which hasn't happened for some time."

The division will also host Major Beth Pearo for the annual Captivated by the Word conference in Brisbane on 12-13 February. "Project 19:34", based on Leviticus 19:34, is the divisional project for the year. "This verse talks about treating 'foreigners' as we do the 'native born' and we are aiming to give as much practical support as we can to women refugees through special settlement packs," said Major Smith.

To download the women's ministries "Doors and Keys" manual, as well as other resources, go to toolkit.salvos.org.au/toolkit/contributors/mission-team/

ABOUT PEOPLE ▼

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Major Deborah **Robinson**, Corps Officer Earwood and Team Member Inner West Multi-Site, effective 7 January.

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 1 January: Major Jeff **Winterburn**, Corps Officer, Cardiff Canton Corps, United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

Effective 7 January: Major Christine **Unicomb**, Head of Christian Life and Ministry, Booth College; Captain Zane **Haupt**, Distance Education and Course Development Writer, Booth College; Lieutenant Vanessa **Hunt**, Course Development Writer, Booth College; Lieutenant Matt **Ryan**, Chaplain, William Booth House, Territorial Social Booth House; Lieutenant Katie **Ryan**, Family Support Services Officer, William Booth House; Major Christine **Martin**, Social Liaison Officer, NSW/ACT Division, Captain Belinda **Atherton-Northcott**, Salvos Caring, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Sandra **Edge** will remain in her appointment, Corps Officer, Deniliquin Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Lieut-Colonel Bert **Hill** on 30 December, 2015; Mrs Brigadier Florence Evelyn **Stockall** on 24 December, 2015; Brigadier Winifred Florence **Runcorn** on 1 January.

TIME TO PRAY ▼

31 January – 6 February

Sydney Staff Songsters; Strategic Disaster Response Services, Territorial Social Program Team – Corps; Generous Life, Territorial Mission and Resource Team – Recovery, all THQ.

7-13 February

Territorial Mission Support Team – Systems, Territorial Social Program Team – Social, Critical Incident Peer Support, Family Tracing Service, Freedom Partnership – To End Modern Slavery, Hope For Life – Suicide Prevention, Moneycare, all THQ.

14-20 February

Positive Lifestyles Programs, Young Out of Home Care, Salvos Counselling, Chaplains, Red Shield Defence Services, all THQ.

21-27 February

Aged Care Plus, THQ; Bethany Aged Care Plus Centre, Carpenter Court Aged Care Plus Centre, Elizabeth Jenkins Place Aged Care Plus Centre, all NSW; Bethesda Aged Care Plus Centre, Qld; Burrangiri Aged Care Plus Respite Centre, ACT.

28 February – 5 March

Gill Waminda Aged Care Plus Centre, Macquarie Lodge Aged Care Plus Centre, Maybanke Aged Care Plus Centre, Montrose Aged Care Plus Centre, Moyne Aged Care Plus Centre, all NSW; Mountain View Aged Care Plus Centre, ACT.

6-12 March

Pacific Lodge Aged Care Plus Centre, Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre, Shaftesbury Court Aged Care Plus Centre, Warringbah Place Retirement Village, all NSW; Riverview Gardens Aged Care Plus Centre, The Cairns Aged Care Plus Centre (Chapel Hill), both Qld.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR ▼

COMMISSIONERS JAMES (TERRITORIAL COMMANDER) AND JAN CONDON

Stanmore: Mon 1 Feb – Forward Together Strategic Planning Conference
 Stanmore: Mon 1-Tues 2 Feb – Salvos Women Training Days
 Bexley North: Wed 3 Feb – Private welcome to cadets
 Sydney: Thu 4 Feb – Cadets' Orientation
 *Canberra: Sun 7 Feb – National Day of Prayer and Fasting
 Campsie: Sun 7 Feb – Public Welcome to cadets
 #Stafford: Fri 12-Sun 13 Feb – Captivated
 #Brisbane City Temple: Sun 14 Feb – Meeting with Major Beth Pearo
 *Tuggeranong: Sun 14 Feb – am Public Installation of National Secretary
 Carindale: Sun 14 Feb – pm Retirement Salute to Majors Phillip and Nancy McLaren
 *Sydney: Tues 16 Feb – Australian Freedom Network Dialogue
 #Gungahlin: Tues 16 Feb – Captivated
 *Sydney: Thu 18 Feb – Territorial Advisory Board
 #Collaroy: Fri 19-Sun 21 Feb – Captivated
 Hunter Valley: Tues 23-Wed 24 Feb – NSW/ACT Divisional Officers Fellowship
 Bexley North: Thu 25 Feb – Spiritual Day, School For Officer Training
 Melbourne: Fri 26 Feb – National Professional Standards Council
 Sydney: Mon 29 Feb – Inter-Territorial Executive Consultation

* Commissioner James Condon only

Commissioner Jan Condon only

COLONEL MARK (CHIEF SECRETARY) CAMPBELL

Bexley North: Wed 3 Feb – Private welcome to cadets at School For Officer Training
 Campsie: Sun 7 Feb – Public welcome to cadets and installation of divisional commander
 Newcastle: Sat 13 Feb – Re-opening of Carpenter Court Aged Care Plus Centre

The same God?

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS HAVE A COMMON ANCESTOR,
 BUT NOT A COMMON FOUNDER



GRANT SANDERCOCK-BROWN

Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God? Your reply to that question can matter a great deal. Just ask Larycia Hawkins, a tenured professor at Wheaton College, an evangelical university in the United States, who answered, "they do". Wheaton College said, "they don't". Her employer is apparently working through proceedings to conclude her tenure at the college.

Perhaps it's a good question for us as well, living as we do in a multi-faith Australia. Do both religions worship the same God? Of course we know there are shared historic roots. Islam and Christianity are both connected to Abraham. But the God of Islam and the culture and practices of his followers seem so different to us Christians. Is it the same God?

Of course one might point to the differing ideas and practices of Catholics and Protestants, or even Calvinists and Arminians. "It's the same God nonetheless," we say, "it's just that we see him differently, talk about him differently, talk to him differently". Surely mistaken notions about God or inadequate ways of expressing what we believe about God don't negate the fact that it is the same God? Perhaps it's just more obvious with Islam?

I often stand at Parramatta Railway Station next to a bucket with a red shield on it accompanied by a little pile of *Warcrys*. When I do so,

people donate money to the Salvos. For years I was unable to say "God bless you" to those who gave. I tried, but I just couldn't, mainly because I didn't know what I meant when I said it. Did I only want God to bless those who donated? Surely I wanted everybody to be blessed? Did you have to be a believer for it to mean something? What was blessing anyway? Would God bless people at my request, as if it had never previously occurred to him to do so?

I say it often now, as a prayer. My prayer is that the living God will be with each person and that they will know him. And that is of course the ultimate blessing. And so I say it to those who wear a cross, to those who are probably Hindus, and yes, to those who wear a hijab. You see, I feel a spiritual affinity with theists, god believers; after all, I'm one also. My "blessings on you" is sincerely meant. But I'm not making that request of Shiva or Allah. No, I'm praying to my God because our gods are just not the same.

I know that some Christians more learned than I would disagree, but for me, while my Muslim friends and I are in some sense spiritual descendants of Abraham, he started neither of our religions. Yes, we have a common ancestor but we do not have a common founder. Islam is built on the teachings and example of Mohammed and guided by the Qur'an as the final revelation of God. Christianity is built on the life, death, and resurrection of

our Lord Jesus Christ who is himself the ultimate revelation of God; made known in scripture and through his Spirit, alive in our hearts today. Christianity is not a chronological and linear progression from Abraham to now, but a revelation of the eternal and living God that burst into life in Jesus. Yes, we were forewarned of his coming through a story a long time in the making; a story that began with Abraham and his obedience to God's command. But the heart of the story, and the beginning of the story, is Christianity's central figure – Jesus.

You see, Jesus was God's plan all along, not a later development after some hiccups with his previous salvation attempts. It's why John wanted to remind us that "in the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). It's why Paul would say we were chosen "in [Jesus] before the Creation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). "Jesus is the founder and finisher of our faith," said the writer of Hebrews (the first two scripture quotations are from the *NIV* but the latter is my translation of Hebrews 12:2).

No, we do not worship the same God, but I'm certain my God calls me to pray for those who don't know him; to earnestly ask for his blessing on them; to understand that all the people of the earth are his children. His love for each of us has never depended on our knowledge of him, it is unconditionally offered to the whole world. I know that for sure. I can see it in Jesus.¶

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