

pipeline



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Commissioner opens new territorial headquarters



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Commissioner James Condon addresses guests at the official opening of the new Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters complex. For a full report of the opening and to see inside the new building, go to pages 8-11. Photo: Shairon Paterson



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otherwise stated.

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Staff have moved into the new Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters after the building was officially opened by Commissioner James Condon

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SHARING YOUR FAITH THROUGH PERSONAL STORY

SCOTT SIMPSON MANAGING EDITOR

I am a firm believer in the power of personal story. I also believe that every one of us has a tale that is worth telling. Put simply, your story, when used to glorify God and his phenomenal transformational work of in your life, has a power to impact others in ways that are beyond your own understanding.

When it comes to the power of story, Jesus is a great model for us. He loved to tell stories. In fact, with a handful of exceptions, when he was instructing his disciples the Bible shows that storytelling was Jesus' preferred technique of teaching: "Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable" (Matthew 13:34).

It's a great reminder that when we share our faith with others or talk about what God is doing in our lives, we can simply start with our story. It allows us to connect with others at the heart level, providing a pathway to a relational connection that transcends intellect to effect life-change.

It's why in this issue of *Pipeline*, we are introducing a new regular column which we are calling "Salvation Stories" (see page 46). We simply want to encourage Salvationists, and others connected with The Salvation Army, to tell their stories in their own words. Our definition of a "salvation story" will be broad: we may feature a story of incredible

change in someone's life, or it might be someone sharing about an experience God allowed in their life which had the effect of deepening their relationship with him.

How many times has your faith been encouraged through hearing a story of God's power working in another person? We can be the voices that continue a long history of storytelling so that Christ will be glorified and made known.

AND ANOTHER THING ...

The Red Shield Appeal is one of the most important dates on The Salvation Army calendar, the success of the campaign having a major influence on the Army's potential for ministry. The doorknock component of the appeal will this year be on 28-29 May.

It's a time when thousands of Salvationists, complemented by a huge number of volunteer collectors, hit the streets to raise money for the Army's vast network of social and community services in Australia. The national doorknock target this year is almost \$8 million. Whether that target is met depends on the willingness of Salvationists to get out there and do their bit.

The equation is simple: more people collecting equals more donations. So let's get out and knock on some doors. 📣



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Surname _____

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TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND FINISH WELL

Mission statement ready for a new beginning



Commissioner James Condon is Territorial Commander of the Australia Eastern Territory

As I look back on my life, I can't recall having ever won a race. I remember participating in the cross country runs as a student at Nowra High School, and while I never won a race I certainly ensured that I crossed the finish line.

Some years ago now, I was attending a conference and sat in a session which dealt with the topic of developing your own mission statements; something that I had often thought about but had never done. During the conference workshop, I compiled my personal mission statement: "To make a difference and to finish well."

I well remember the time when I was installed as the Chief Secretary in Papua New Guinea. Major Araga Rawali, who was one of the speakers, said to my wife Jan and I: "We want you to make a difference." I thought to myself: "Can I make a difference in a country where there is so much need?" However, as I reflect on 45 years of officership, by the grace of God I believe I've made a difference.

Some people have never quite understood the second part of my personal mission statement – "finishing well". It really comes out of years of pastoring and listening to people tell their story and I am particularly referring to people who come towards the end with regrets, envy, jealousy, bitterness and it eats away at them. I used to listen to their stories and I would say to myself, "I want to finish well".

Of course, approaching my retirement on 1 June, I fully realise it's not the finish. On a recent visit to Australia by leaders of the Arrow Leadership Program, I was sharing with one of them and he said to me that retirement is not in the Bible. And it's not. He suggested to me that I should consider thinking not so much about "finishing well" but "living well". I've processed that over recent weeks and, yes, I certainly want to continue to live well and to finish well when the end comes. As I face retirement now, it's not the end but a new beginning. New ministry opportunities await me. I will continue to serve until the day the Lord calls me home.

I call to mind the words of the Apostle Paul, in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Oh, to be able to say that at the end. That will only be possible by the grace of God.

In my Sunday school days, I remember singing the song, "O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end".

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end
Oh, give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

By his grace, I will fulfil that promise.

I sign off as the territorial commander of the Australia Eastern Territory, grateful to God for the past five years and the privilege of leading the territory at a significant time in its history. I pay tribute to those with whom I have served at territorial headquarters and particularly members of the territorial leadership team over those years. And I pay tribute to all officers, soldiers and friends of The Salvation Army with whom I have had the privilege of serving. You will not be forgotten. Obviously we will watch from a distance and continue to pray for the territory as you move Forward Together.

I commend to you Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd as the National Commander and National President of Women's Ministries; and Colonels Mark and Julie Campbell, Chief Secretary-in-charge and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries; as they take on their respective leadership responsibilities at this exciting time. I will be praying for them daily and encourage you to do the same and give them your support and encouragement as I will be doing. ¶

BANG THE PENTECOST DRUM FOR REVIVAL

The spiritual outpouring during Pentecost is the fulfilment of the original Jewish feast in which the hallmarks of a great harvest of souls and a new era for the Holy Spirit establish this as the original “revival”. This event is still the birthright of The Salvation Army today

WORDS COLONEL RICHARD MUNN

—
Beloved Aussie poet Henry Lawson understood The Salvation Army. He saw us in action in both the outback and the city, even recalling London East End roots in his poem *Booth's Drum*:

*They were ratty, they were hooted
 by the meanest and the least,
 When they woke the Drum of Glory
 long ago in London East.
 They were often mobbed by hoodlums;
 they were few, but unafraid;
 And their Lassies were insulted,
 but they banged the drum, and prayed;
 Prayed in public for the sinners,
 prayed in private for release,
 Till they saved some brawny lumpers;
 then they banged the drum in peace.*

Like many fellow Australians in those early days, the poet captures that mix of bewilderment, wariness, misapprehension and respect the Army generated. What appears to be a travelling circus is the beginning of a much-loved and respected movement that will soon endear itself to a nation. What appears buffoonery is, in actuality, profoundly significant, a new spiritual initiative that will reap a great harvest of souls.

Likewise, apparent clowning that masks deep spirituality is present in the Acts chapter 2 story of Pentecost. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit with the miraculous speaking in other languages appears to the curious onlooker as drunken comedy, so it takes Peter to stand up and speak forcefully, pointing all the way back to the old

prophecy of Joel, and under the anointing of God to say: “This is that!” In other words, the Joel passage has been fulfilled – it is not one of those prophecies that can even be thought of as “maybe” happening one day in the future. “This is that”, says Peter without flinching.

It is worth noting because the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is richly precise and significant. There is nothing haphazard here. The feast of Pentecost is a pilgrimage kind of a feast. That would explain the cosmopolitan gathering of Mediterranean types.

Pentecost literally means “fiftieth”. Designated all the way back in Leviticus (chapter 23) is the ordinance to bring a grain offering seven weeks and one day after the Passover Sabbath. Also called the “feast of weeks”, it marks the symbolic beginning of the harvest for a richly arable people. And so the Joel passage: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved ...” is a true harvest of souls, the greatest revival in the history of the church. “... about 3000 were added to their number that day.” (Acts 2:41).

There is something else significant about the choice of Pentecost for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, however, because over the centuries it becomes a celebration of the giving of the law, the 10 commandments, to Moses on Mount Sinai. Tradition has it 50 days after escaping from the slavery of Egypt, the first night of Passover.

And so the Joel passage, once again, is richly significant: “I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”
 – If the “law” was given on Mount Sinai, at Pentecost, it

Holy Spirit Pentecost marks a new era for the third member of the Trinity. It is the first birthday of the church, an explosion of the presence of Christ around the world, an unusual visitation of God pouring out new life, invading human beings in a way that shatters old expectations.

is an “advocate” (lawyer) who is poured out at Pentecost.

– If it was the law given at Sinai – written on tablets of stone and impossible to keep – at Pentecost, it is the Holy Spirit searing God into the hearts of people given at Pentecost.

– If it was cloud, fire and God’s voice on Mount Sinai, at Pentecost, it is rushing wind, tongues of fire and miraculous languages.

Holy Spirit Pentecost stands as both contrast and continuation of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, an extension of the great saving ministry of Jesus Christ, his ascension preparing the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit Pentecost brings unparalleled power to the disciples. It is for this that Jesus instructs them to wait in Jerusalem.

Holy Spirit Pentecost marks a new era for the third member of the Trinity. It is the first birthday of the church, an explosion of the presence of Christ around the world, an unusual visitation of God pouring out new life, invading human beings in a way that shatters old expectations.

Joel twice describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as a “pouring out”. The image is that associated with a heavy tropical rainstorm – not a drizzle or a shower here. “Pouring out” has a finality to it. What is poured out cannot be gathered again. And so it is at Pentecost, a Holy Spirit typhoon, and the recipients will never be the same again.

This pouring out is for “all people”. Just in case we don’t believe it Joel articulates it for us: regardless of gender, age or social status the Holy Spirit is for you. While there

is specific reference to “prophesying” – and that certainly is accurate – this is not just for the preacher types.

The universal outpouring of the spirit empowers us to communicate Christ in manifold creative ways, academic, artistic, aesthetic and more.

The outpouring and empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential for mission and discipleship, whatever your field – home, school, factory floor, office complex – add your world to the list.

And so, just as Christ was baptised by the Holy Spirit in the River Jordan at the commencement of his public ministry, so, too, the disciples receive a baptism before their public ministry can begin. If Christ relied on this Holy Spirit empowerment, how much more must we depend upon such a Holy Spirit commission for our day.

Pentecost is perfect for The Salvation Army. Our founder writes: “We want another Pentecost”. We identify with the holiness movement and were birthed in revival. Male or female; young or old; clever or simple is part of who we are.

General Eva Burrows once pronounced to a congress of Salvationists, with thunderous applause: “The Salvation Army doesn’t need any more programs, what we need is more of the Holy Spirit”

So, come on beloved Australia Eastern, this Pentecost bang Booth’s drum with confidence, and see some “brawny lumpers” saved. The Salvos and Pentecost – perfect together. ¶

BUILDING USHERS IN NEW SEASON OF UNITY

“It’s a new beginning, a new season of moving forward together ... to transform and equip generations for Christ – that’s what we’re here for.”

WORDS ESTHER PINN PHOTOS SHAIRON PATERSON

It was a historic day for The Salvation Army on 2 April as the new Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters was officially opened. Salvationists, officers, employees and volunteers gathered at the newly renovated building at 261-265 Chalmers St in Sydney’s inner-city suburb of Redfern to celebrate this milestone. Australia’s recently announced national leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, and Chairman of The Salvation Army Advisory Board, Roger Corbett, were some of the guests who attended the opening.

Australia Eastern Chief Secretary, Colonel Mark Campbell, made some opening remarks before a Welcome to Country acknowledgement was given by Indigenous elder, Uncle Allen Madden. The Sydney Youth Band and vocal soloist Madeline Muir led the congregation in the national anthem and hymn, *To Worship, Work and Witness*. Territorial General Property Manager, Peter Alward, delivered a building report to celebrate the 10-year journey, which encompassed reviewing multiple new headquarters options, the Redfern building purchase in early 2014, and the refurbishment of the complex.

About 410 tonnes of concrete was removed during the renovation process and 110,000 hours has been put into preparing the former South Sydney Leagues Club site to be the Army’s new headquarters. As well as being a leagues club, the 50-year-old building has previously been a paint factory and has even hosted boxing matches during its lifetime. The new territorial headquarters occupies three floors of the building

while South Sydney Leagues Club and Woolworths will continue their tenancy of the other two floors in the complex.

“This is a real historical milestone for the Army of the refurbishment of this building,” said Peter. “It’s a new beginning, a new season of moving forward together in this new community of Redfern. It’s our community. It isn’t about this building, it’s about coming together in unity as teams come together, to work together, to transform and equip generations for Christ – that’s what we’re here for.”

Peter then thanked the architect firm Bates Smart and construction group Grindley for their work in building the Army’s new office space. Salvation Army Property Manager, Craig Redfern, was honoured for his involvement in the building process and Commissioner Jan Condon was presented with flowers for her role as Chair of the Relocation Steering Committee.

A video was played revealing a snapshot of the work of the Army throughout the territory. School For Officer Training Principal, Colonel Julie Campbell, then gave a scripture reading from Psalm 127, followed by a message from Territorial Commander, Commissioner James Condon. He reflected on the importance of building the Army’s new house for transformation, with God at the head.

“In case you didn’t realise it, The Salvation Army is into building, rebuilding and transformation,” he said. “This building, the former South Sydney Leagues Club, has been transformed to fulfil a very different

Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters timeline

1882 – Captain Sutherland acquires the lease of a building at 260 Castlereagh St to act as a headquarters of The Salvation Army’s work. It was called The Colony War Office.

1890 – Commissioner Thomas Coombs opens a newly built Colony War Office at 29 Goulburn St (Edward Saunders architect).

1911 – Now called the Provincial War Office, a new headquarters begins construction at 73 Goulburn St, (Edward Saunders architect).

1912 – The new headquarters building, incorporating the newly named Sydney Congress Hall Corps, is opened on 3 February.

1921 – Two territories are formed with their own headquarters – Southern Territory based in Melbourne and Eastern Territory based in Sydney. Headquarters in Sydney moves to a larger building at 63-69 Goulburn St.

1926 – Building at 140



01



02



03



04



05

01. Commissioner Jan Condon and Southern Territory leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, at the opening.

02. Colonel Julie Campbell (centre) with two cadet families at the opening – Paulos Anastasiou and Rachel Mina (left) and Rong Fu and Dillon Wu.

03. Territorial General Property Manager, Peter Alward, and Commissioner James Condon.

04. Indigenous Elder, Uncle Allen Madden, gives the Welcome to Country acknowledgement.

05. The entrance to the new territorial headquarters on Chalmers St.

purpose. Unless God is in this, we will fail. That's simply what God said to me by his spirit as I reflected upon that one verse of scripture ... I see a God-raised, spirit-filled Army of the 21st century, convinced of its calling, moving forward together into the world of the hurting, the broken, the lonely, the dispossessed and the lost, reaching them by all means of the transforming message of Jesus."

Commissioner James Condon then officially opened the new territorial headquarters by unveiling a plaque. Commissioner Jan Condon concluded the service with a prayer of dedication. Guests were then taken on tours of the new building, led by members of the Army's property team. Those present were also invited to write their names on stones that were placed inside a wooden cross, which will hang in the new territorial headquarters chapel.

About 400 employees and officers moved into the new complex on 11 April. ¶

Elizabeth St purchased and territorial headquarters moves to this location, although several floors are leased to tenants.

1928 – Major renovations are completed and Sydney Congress Hall moves into 140 Elizabeth St and is officially opened by Commissioner Charles Sowton on 5 May.

1990 – Major renovations completed and officially opened on 20 October.

2014 – Relocation to Redfern announced on 3 July.

2016 – The new territorial headquarters at 261-265 Chalmers Street, Redfern, is opened on 2 April.

INSIDE THE NEW COMPLEX

WORDS ESTHER PINN PHOTOS SHAIRON PATERSON

Accommodating 400 staff, the new Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters has been fitted-out with modern furnishings and cutting-edge technology. In addition to assigned desks, there a number of “hot desks” available for employees and officers, with some located in quieter areas. There are 23 meeting and focus rooms, eight large boardrooms, three conference rooms and numerous breakout-areas where people can meet. Wireless internet is accessible across the building and other modern technologies, such as interactive walls, are located in meeting areas.

There are two “tea-point” areas on each floor fitted with microwaves and fridges. There are a number of areas, including multiple balconies, where individuals can sit during their lunch breaks. People will be able to purchase a coffee or meal at the level-two café, run by Freedom Catering. A chapel is located on level one and the building has 112 underground car-parking spaces.





PERSONAL TOUCH STILL A VITAL ASPECT OF COLLECTION

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

Salvationists are being challenged to be selfless in their giving during this month's annual Red Shield Appeal community collection. They are being encouraged to offer hope not only to those who will benefit from funds raised but also to their community who do not yet know Christ. "Yes, the Red Shield Appeal is about raising much-needed funds for people in need; people without hope," Australia Eastern Territory Communications and Fundraising Secretary, Major Bruce Harmer, told *Pipeline*. "But it's also an opportunity to share with people about the hope that Jesus offers to a hurting world."

The slogan for this year's appeal is: You can give HOPE where it's needed most. That slogan, Major Harmer says, underlines everything The Salvation Army does in offering hope. "We offer hope to the homeless; to people in addiction. We offer hope to the elderly and lonely, to the unemployed, the victims of domestic violence, those who cannot afford food for their families and those who struggle with paying bills. We offer hope to people in all sorts of difficult and seemingly hopeless situations.

"The Red Shield Appeal's goal is to offer and provide hope for everyone who comes to us for support. Hope is in everything we do as The Salvation Army – hope for today and for tomorrow. For the Salvationist, offering hope is integral to our spiritual life. The Red Shield Appeal is one vehicle that provides us an opportunity to have meaningful connections with members of the communities in which we live.

"We can raise funds, yes, but we also need to show our community the hope that is in Jesus Christ. We are called to be a source of encouragement and hope to those around us. Robyn Lewis' story that accompanies this article (see overleaf) is an example of the hope that we have to offer as Salvationists.

"The Salvation Army is a body with many parts and functions. To work successfully, we need to work together, as a unified team. Many of our people may not have an expression of Salvation Army social work in their community. Many may never see those who are assisted with the funds they raise, yet they can play an important part in the raising of funds that will help somebody in need many miles away."

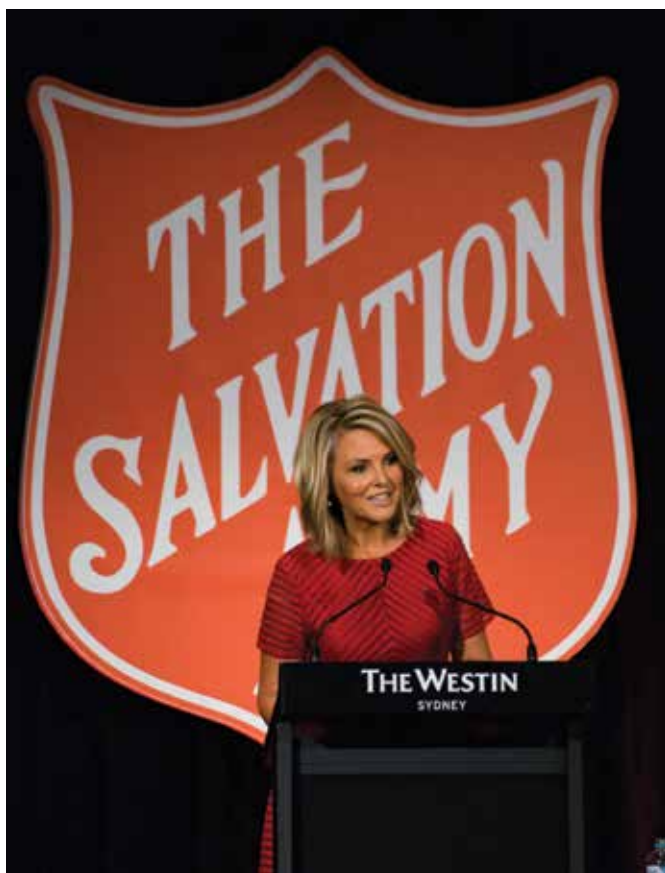
Major Harmer said he hoped Salvationists would continue to be part of a doorknock collection, even though there

was an increasing trend toward other forms of raising funds through the Red Shield Appeal. "Members of the community have shown overwhelmingly that they are prepared to give at shopping centres, sporting events and other community events as well as at their front door. There has also been an increase in online donations over the past years. But there remains real benefit to us in maintaining our face-to-face collections at a person's front door.

"We also encourage Salvationists to get their friends involved in raising funds to give hope where it's needed most. There are many tasks to be done in a Red Shield Appeal. If people find collecting difficult, they can help driving collectors to their collection area, be a counter of the money collected or assist with providing food and drinks when the collectors return. In Robyn Lewis' story, you will see that the welcome she received when she returned from her first Red Shield Appeal as a volunteer collector so impressed her that she returned to The Salvation Army over the following weeks and found Christ."

The Salvation Army will seek to raise \$8 million nationally from this year's community collection toward a national Red Shield Appeal target of \$74 million. Other donations will be raised through the corporate sector and mail appeals. The community doorknock will take place on the weekend of 28-29 May. For more information, go to: salvos.org.au/redshield





02



03

01. Lucy Turnbull, Australia's First Lady, announced a \$50,000 donation during her speech at the Red Shield Appeal launch.

02. Media personality Georgie Gardner compered the appeal launch.

03. Commissioner James Condon with special guests (from left) Gabrielle Upton (NSW Attorney General), Belinda Hutchinson (Sydney University Chancellor) and Stephen Conry (Jones Lang LaSalle CEO).

BUSINESS COMMUNITY SETS GENEROUS EXAMPLE AT LAUNCH

WORDS ESTHER PINN PHOTOS LENA POBJIE

Sydney's business community dug deep at The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal launch at The Westin Hotel on 6 April, with more than \$1.4 million either donated or pledged on the day. Television presenter Georgie Gardner compered the Sydney launch, encouraging the more than 500 guests to give generously. "For whatever reasons, many of our precious young people are hurting," she said. "We're talking about tomorrow's leaders, tomorrow's carers, tomorrow's parents, tomorrow's decision-makers, teachers and innovators and they're just one troubled sector of the community turning to The Salvation Army every day for help. So for the Salvos to render assistance, it's our duty to assist the Salvos."

Territorial Commander, Commissioner James Condon, welcomed the guests before the new Chair of The Salvation Army Territorial Appeal and Fund Development Committee, Frank O'Halloran, announced donations totalling \$600,000 from a number of individuals in the room, including his own donation of \$200,000. NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton then spoke on behalf of Premier Mike Baird and announced the State Government's donation of \$200,000 to the appeal.

Margaret, a victim of domestic slavery before being helped by The Salvation Army's Trafficking and Slavery Safe House, then gave a moving testimony. "Today you can give a new hope to ending slavery in Australia," she said. "Your support will ensure that The Salvation Army can continue its commitment to protecting the most basic right of human rights – the right to be free."

Guest speaker, Australia's First Lady and Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner, Lucy Turnbull, in announcing a \$50,000 donation from the Turnbull Foundation, spoke of the importance of creating a resilient nation and praised the Army for paving the way in this area. "I think the Salvos represent the idea of resilience in a very special way," she said. "I think the Salvos are really one important piece in the great fortress of resilience in Australian society and great exemplars of resilience in action."

More than 20 Red Shield Appeal launches have either taken place or will be held, across the Australia Eastern Territory during April and May.

DVD SERIES TO INSPIRE COLLECTORS

This month, in the lead-up to the Red Shield Appeal doorknock weekend on 28-29 May, Salvation Army corps and centres will be encouraged to show, as part of their Sunday services, a series of videos about the annual campaign. Titled “Why I Love Doorknock”, the videos will be made available online for Salvation Army corps and centres to download. They will feature stories shared by Salvationists about their experiences of the Red Shield Appeal; some heartwarming, others a poignant reflection. Here, *Pipeline* brings you a preview of what to expect from the series.

WORDS BILL SIMPSON PHOTOS STEPHEN MEJORADA



↑ The sight of an African refugee kneeling and giving thanks to God for the money they collected has changed Major Craig Todd’s approach to the Red Shield Appeal.

ACT OF THANKFULNESS INSPIRES ‘SHIFT CHANGE’ IN CORPS OFFICER

“Her actions changed my perspective from the Red Shield Appeal being mostly about fundraising to see there is a deeply spiritual side to the appeal”

A refugee woman from Africa knelt at the mercy seat at North Brisbane Corps with a distinctive white bag in front of her. The bag contained the proceeds of her collection during last year’s Red Shield Appeal residential doorknock. She didn’t know how much she had collected, but she did thank God for it. And she asked God to bless the money and use it for his purpose.

The sight of the woman kneeling at the mercy seat stunned Corps Officer Major Craig Todd. He had not seen this before – and he has participated in many annual Red Shield Appeals. It changed his perspective of the Red Shield Appeal. “I think I have always had a good attitude toward the Red Shield Appeal,” he told *Pipeline*. “I am a supporter and I like to think I encourage a good attitude toward collecting. But I think the lady’s approach has produced a shift change in me. Seeing her giving thanks to God for whatever she collected was a very pleasant surprise.

“We have a counting house at North Brisbane Corps. We usually rustle collectors through when they return with their collections. But, this lady said she would like to go to the mercy seat before handing over her collections and thank God for what he had provided. It reminded me that this woman was from a background where every dollar is sacred; where every dollar is a blessing from God. Her actions changed my perspective from the Red Shield Appeal being mostly about fundraising to see there is a deeply spiritual side to the appeal. She has taught us a valuable lesson.”

Major Todd said he would be reminding his corps members of the woman’s story as this year’s appeal approaches. “I think we will make the hall available if people want to come to the mercy seat after collecting and offer thanks to God for the money and ask him to use it. We won’t force people to do that. But I think it would be a nice thing to do; to remind ourselves that the Red Shield Appeal is a spiritual exercise as well as fundraising.”



An invitation to help collect for the Red Shield Appeal led Robyn Lewis to faith in Christ.

Have you got a Red Shield Appeal story? We'd love to hear it. Post it on your Facebook page and include the words #RedShieldReasons

WARM WELCOME LED YOUNG COLLECTOR TO CHRIST

“We can [by collecting] say to people that we are here when you need help. We can also give someone the chance to come to know Christ”

Robyn Lewis discovered Jesus after her first experience as a volunteer collector for the Red Shield Appeal. She was 12 years old and, at the time, a recent recruit to the then-Townsville Corps junior band. She had been invited, along with fellow students, by a school music teacher (a Salvationist) to play in the band. Until then, she had not had any contact with The Salvation Army.

Her band leader asked his players if they would like to be volunteer collectors for the Red Shield Appeal that year. She was among those who accepted the opportunity. It opened a whole new lifestyle for the young Robyn. She got to know people in the local corps, who invited her to other activities, including Sunday services. She became involved. As she heard more about God and his plan of salvation, she accepted Jesus Christ as her saviour and was enrolled as a senior soldier at 15.

Twenty-seven years later, Robyn is still a member of the now-Townsville Riverway Corps and is The Salvation Army's Fundraising and Public Relations Manager in Townsville. She is married with two children. “I remember my first doorknock as if it was yesterday,” she says. “It

was very hot. The church people wore white. So we [junior band members] wore white as well. There was so much activity. It was so exciting to be part of it. It was exhausting. We were tired and hungry, but back at the corps there were all these people with food and drinks. They were so welcoming. I felt like one of the most important people in the world.”

In her fundraising and public relations role, Robyn, this year, is offering the same opportunity she received many years ago to others in the community. “If I met someone with no exposure to The Salvation Army, the first thing I would say is: ‘Do you want to help somebody. If so, I can give you the opportunity.’”

To Salvationists, she would say: “The doorknock is an opportunity to show the community who The Salvation Army is. We [collectors] are the feet on the ground – not only to raise money, but to invite them to our corps. We can [by collecting] say to people that we are here when you need help. We can also give someone the chance to come to know Christ. That's what happened to a little 12-year-old girl.”

TO WATCH THE VIDEOS, GO TO [MYSALVOS.ORG.AU/REDSHIELDVIDEOS](https://mysalvos.org.au/redshieldvideos)

National Reconciliation Week 2016

27 May to 3 June

OUR HISTORY, OUR STORY, OUR FUTURE

As Australians, we are all here, woven into this country

As part of our reconciliation journey, there are truths to tell, stories to celebrate, and relationships to grow

Reconciliation is at the heart of our nation's future

Join us on our nation's journey at www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw and make reconciliation part of your future.



History Snapshot

In late 2004, half an hour before his 19th wedding anniversary, Salvation Army Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Development Worker, Allen Minniecon, had to make the heartbreaking decision to turn off his wife's life support. Read Allen's story on salvos.org.au (Go to: About Us - Our History - Local History - Central and North Queensland - Cairns).

RECONCILIATION WEEK FOCUSES ON SHARED HISTORY AND FUTURE

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated across Australia each year from 27 May to 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

“It is a challenge to take some fresh action in your workplaces, in your families, in your ministry, in your youth groups or as an individual and to bring about an awareness of these national events in your areas of influence,” says Shirli Congoo, The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territorial Indigenous Ministry Coordinator. “It is about sharing culture, connecting with your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and stopping racism.”

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2016 is Our History, Our Story, Our Future. This theme is taken from the State of Reconciliation in Australia report, which asks all Australians to reflect on our national identity and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation’s story. The week is an opportunity for every Australian to spark a renewed conversation in our schools, workplaces and communities.

A number of Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week (see separate story) activities have been planned across the Australia Eastern Territory, either as Salvation Army activities or in support of community activities. These include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag-raising ceremonies
- Elders lunches
- Traditional foods and dances
- Participating in sports carnivals
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chapel night focus
- Reconciliation concert to fundraise for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men’s group
- Junior Soldier diversity activities with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Cultural appreciation sessions
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pastors leading Sunday services.

If corps and centres are looking for additional Reconciliation Week activities, Shirli has a few suggestions. These include: screening an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander film; running an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awareness and information booth at a local Reconciliation Week community event; or hosting a reconciliation lunch and learn circle (“Shared Stories – Telling it the Proper Way”).

The Salvation Army launched its Reconciliation Action Plan last September, which provides a framework for corps, programs and ministries throughout the Australia Eastern Territory to help build closer relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, focusing on three key areas: respect, relationships and opportunities. The plan gives a firm commitment to discover ongoing ways of positive involvement in the journey of reconciliation and to act upon it in inclusive action. “It’s all about how to put our good intentions into practice,” Shirli says.

For more information on National Reconciliation Week, ideas on how to get involved, details on local events, and a wide range of relevant resources, go to www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/ or email Shirli Congoo shirli.congoo@aue.salvationarmy

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community regarding the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July, with this year being 5-12 July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

For more information and how you can participate, go to www.naidoc.org.au/



01

SPRINGWOOD CORPS TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF LIGHTHOUSE BIG BAND

“Lots of kids have been held in the church because of their commitment to Lighthouse and eight of our members have become officers”

WORDS ANNE HALLIDAY

Lighthouse Big Band has been turning out jazz and big-band tunes for a quarter of a century, with two clear purposes – to attract outsiders to the gospel and hold young people to the church. “The band was started as a young people’s band,” remembers Keith Greenaway, who founded the band in 1990 when Springwood Corps, near the Blue Mountains in NSW, visited Denpasar Corps in Bali, Indonesia. “It was a time when The Salvation Army was looking at new styles of music and that’s what we started to do. We incorporated other instruments that people could play – keyboards and guitars and it just evolved.”

The band is holding a 25th anniversary celebration on the weekend of 10-12 June at Springwood Corps, inviting past members and big-band music lovers to join in a festival of swing, rock and jazz music. “Music itself doesn’t communicate the gospel,” says Keith. “Words introduced with music can. But if you play music that people are familiar with, you are likely to get people’s attention. We

take contemporary music and introduce it in a way that creates a spiritual bridge.”

WELCOMING SPIRIT

Over the past 25 years, Lighthouse Big Band has done just that, having performed its brand of swing, rock and jazz music extensively through eastern Australia, completed a return visit to Indonesia and toured New Zealand twice. Keith says one of his highlights has been the privilege of playing twice in the Great Hall at Parliament House as part of the National Prayer Breakfast.

Evolution has been a key part of the band’s longevity and energy. When Major David Terracini, a former music teacher, was appointed to Springwood Corps in 1993, he introduced the band to woodwind instruments. “In David’s time, it evolved from a brass-based music ensemble to a standard jazz ensemble,” says Keith. “No one knew how to play woodwinds. In fact, we went and bought

three saxophones and started playing them with the mouthpieces upside down! They were all good musicians but there was a bit of learning on the job!" he laughs. "We use different instruments to get a different feel. If people come into our church who play a different instrument and it fits, we welcome them in. At the moment we have two French horn players, which are neither jazz nor brass band instruments, but it works."

The contemporary music focus of the band has only strengthened Springwood Corps' musical sections. Most of the 14 band members are also part of the Springwood Corps brass band. "We don't have the divide between the brass band and the contemporary group," explains Keith. "They are just two different expressions. One of my primary aims in the early days was to hold my boys [at church] and their mates and we've achieved that. They used to talk negatively about kids being 'band saved'. I don't care, if that's what holds them until they really find Jesus for themselves. It doesn't matter if that's a bible study or youth group – it's something that gets them over the hump between childhood and adulthood. Lots of kids have been held in the church because of their commitment to Lighthouse and eight of our members have become officers."

NEXT GENERATION

Keith estimates up to 90 people have played with the band, with current members ranging in age from 14 to 68. Keith has intentionally developed the next generation of band members. His son Ryan takes the practices and leads on a Sunday. Keith still does plenty of work behind the scenes but works alongside other younger members selecting and arranging music, joking that his main role now is as the "Lighthouse keeper".

The band's 25th anniversary weekend is looking for former members as well as keen musicians to join with the group for the weekend. All are welcome to rehearse with the band, participate in a workshop and play for Sunday worship. Majors David and Michelle Terracini, now corps officers at Carindale in Brisbane, will be special guests during the anniversary weekend. Contact Keith for more details: bigband@iprimus.com.au



02



03



04

01. The Lighthouse Big Band group, under the leadership of then-Corps Officers Captains John and Allison Wiseman, which toured New Zealand in 1997.

02. The group, with a front row of saxophone players, performs on the waterfront in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1999.

03. French horn players Stuart Mallen and his father Colin, who have been part of the Lighthouse Big Band for about five years.

04. The band share a lighter moment with the audience during a "Bob the Builder" segment.



MAN'S GREATEST STRUGGLE

Education the key to restoring sexual integrity

Special guest at this year's Just Men Conferences, Allan Meyer (pictured) is the author of the Careforce LifeKeys program. Along with wife Helen, the couple led Careforce Church Mt Evelyn in Melbourne's east for 26 years until 2003. During that time they came to be passionately convinced that the good news of the gospel was not just about salvation but whole-of-life restoration. They now spend their time working solely on the LifeKeys programs, which have been embraced by thousands of churches of all denominations around the world. Allan spoke to *Pipeline's* Anne Halliday about why men's sexual integrity is a critical issue in our churches and our world.

Anne: Men's sexual integrity has been a key part of your work over the past 10 years. What prompted your focus in this area?

Allan: Careforce Lifekeys grew out of an understanding of why things hold people back from restoration. I was constantly bumping into the extraordinary pressure that people live under. One of those areas of pressure is sex. It is one of the most powerful dynamics in a person's life.

You think when you are a teenager and in your early 20s and you feel the pressure of your own sex life, "oh well, I'll just get a bit older and it will all settle down". But then you see someone destroy their ministry in their 70s because of that pressure and you realise that you are going to have to deal with for the rest of your life. I knew I would build a lifekeys course out of my PhD project in the early 2000s and initially I intended to build something that related to sexual addiction. However, when I got into my research, I found out so much that I had never heard or been told which were such valuable insights, for men in particular. Sex is more problematic for men than for women. The biggest problem women have with sex, is men. Men have a significant challenge with sex and it's why 96 per cent of all sex crimes are committed by men against women and children. So you have to focus on men if you want to see the community functioning better.

What is the most difficult barrier to Aussie men engaging with their own sexual integrity?

The biggest barrier is seeing the issue of sexuality integrity as being about shame rather than education. Rather than

addressing issues of sexual integrity by calling men sinners and reprobates, the church needs to teach them the skills that will help them cope in a highly sexualised world. We need to help them understand why they are so pressured in this area. It's about recognising that this is a very normal way that God has wired them and by understanding the issues and putting some steps in place, they can be decent men and honourable men, and women and children can be safe in their circle of influence. From the first time we did the pilot Valiant Man project, it was stunning how quickly those men engaged and opened their hearts and talked like they have been talking about these issues all their life. Right from the start, it was not just something they needed but that they embraced.

Are the factors that impact male sexual integrity the same for every generation or are there factors in this generation that have increased pressure on men?

There's no question that men are much more impacted sexually by sight than women are; they are living with libido as their primary hormonal orientation, which means that environment matters a lot for men. You put men in a highly moral environment, where the role models and conversations are positive, that elevates women and encourages healthy behaviour, then it's not so hard for men to deal with those pressures. But you put them in a highly sexualised environment, where women are used to get men's attention and it's a different matter. In our world, from advertising to pornography, the use of women to get men's attention is normalised and that raises the temperature for men.

Some Christians would say that you just need the healing work of the Holy Spirit. What do you believe that the scientific disciplines of biology, psychology and neurological science have to contribute to the healing of inner wounds?

Jesus adopted Isaiah 61:1-2 to explain his ministry. It is a fascinating insight into the reality that God is interested in much more than salvation for humankind. He is passionate for their restoration. This passage asserts that it begins with the Spirit. The best healing environment is a spirit-filled environment –but that's not where it stops. The

passage mentions preaching the good news to the poor. One of the reasons Jesus preached so much was because in restoration a person needs to understand that they are not just a spiritual being, but a spiritual being in which God has located their personality in a brain. The brain is the hardware of a soul. The way they process life as a spiritual being is through the cognitive realm. When humans get insight and connect the dots, when they understand, that's when change becomes possible. The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means a change of mind. Repentance is a changing of the way you think. Isaiah goes on to talk about binding up the brokenhearted. Emotions go to the core of restoring relationships. You have to understand the role that emotions play in the way people hear and respond to others. Then there is the release of the captives – you have to understand the role that behaviour plays. All of scripture talks about people making choices and those choices have an impact on their spiritual health. Some Christians will say all you need is the Spirit, but I believe scripture reveals that there are more elements required for restoration than just the Spirit.

What do you wish every man could know or understand about themselves?

Firstly, at some point you have got to come to grips with the fact that you were created for God, by God. That you are not the product of a mindless, mechanistic universe. You are created by a Father and for a Father. Until you connect with him you will never come to grips with the things that you struggle with as a man. Secondly, you were made for heaven. You were made for an environment in which you aren't currently living and, as a result, you are going to experience stress and you have to understand how you manage that. You have to live defensively for the sake of yourself and your family. Thirdly, your struggles are not unique.

The Just Men conferences this year will be held at The Collaroy Centre, on Sydney's northern beaches, on 9-11 September, and at Mapleton, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, on 28-30 October. For more information, email just.men@aue.salvationarmy.org.au



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

ISLAND SEARCH FOR LOST SOULS

New Salvos inspired by Jesus' example

WORDS KEVIN ELSLEY

A modern-day take on how Jesus called disciples to him is being enacted by a small band of recently enrolled Salvationists on an island in the South Pacific. In 2014, four residents of Vanuatu's southernmost island, Aneityum, became its first Salvationists when they were enrolled by Tweed Heads Corps Officer, Major Darren Elsley, who is overseeing the Army's pioneering work in that country.

As Jesus walked the shores of Galilee calling disciples, this quartet is trekking around Aneityum (population 1700), sharing the Gospel message with whomever will listen. Their desire to respond to Jesus' command to go and make disciples was inspired by a Salvationist couple with a group of children in their care when they visited Aneityum from the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila where the Army "opened fire" a year earlier (2013).

"What they shared with us touched our hearts," said June, one of the four. In between being a tour guide, June helps run a gift and souvenir stall on nearby Mystery Island, which is part of Aneityum and a mecca for visiting cruise ships. The tiny island is uninhabited but boasts a grass airstrip.

A small hut at Nicole's house (one of the four Salvos) in the village of Iyatalau in the foothills of the mountains, serves for Sunday worship services. At first the congregation was just the four of them but now boasts 20-plus and even a Sunday school. They have had to renovate their worship area to cater for the increase.

As they set out with God's message, June says they carry with them a book about The Salvation Army and Founder William Booth, a book she describes as ammunition "in case someone wants to take aim at us." But on an island where there are five other faiths, explaining what The Salvation Army is all about is tough going. "We tell people it's a movement raised to help those in need. There are differences between the denominations here, but we let it be known that on this island we have many streams that all run down to the one sea and while the faiths may worship differently all prayers go to the one God," June said.

While Mystery Island tourists are greeted by rows of stalls



Nicole, June and Reuben with a Salvo donation box outside their stall on Mystery Island.

offering similar wares, there's something different about June and her team's stall – stall number five – because it's where you will also find a Salvation Army donation box. June explains: "From what we sell and what is put in the box we can help the sick, the elderly and prisoners. Many who are in jail on Vila have been disowned by relatives, but we are called to show everyone God's love. Some of the money also goes towards helping the children on Vila in the care of Lilyrose and William (the first-ever Salvation Army soldiers to be enrolled on Vanuatu)."

Firstly praying for more souls and then going out with God's Word, the Aneityum Salvos are putting their faith into action by sowing seeds for the Lord to water, and there's evidence of that happening. Their prayer also is that more tourists will become aware of The Salvation Army's presence when they set foot on Mystery Island, a jewel of the South Pacific. As one visiting Australian Salvationist told June, if more people were aware of the Army being there more people could help their efforts for the Kingdom.

For more information about the Army's work in Vanuatu, contact Major Darren Elsley at the Tweed Heads Salvation Army. ¶

HISTORY RECORDS 'HARD YAKKA' OF OFFICERSHIP

Army's mission the one constant in ever-changing world

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

Salvation Army history books are overflowing with tales of hardship and heroic acts by its officers. A century ago, being a Salvation Army officer was often "hard yakka", and despite today's officers facing different challenges, their missional heart has stood the test of time.

An excerpt from an 1893 *War Cry* report by two young Salvation Army officers – Captain E. A. Sincock and Lieutenant George Haycraft – seems to read right out of an old-fashioned adventure book. This duo were the hallowed "Salvation Riders", their commission to go forth on horseback and carry salvation to the back-block settlers and farmers throughout Queensland:

We passed through Landsborough on Thursday evening and camped about three miles out of town until the moon rose and then, saddling up again, pushed towards Caboolture, travelling from 10 o'clock on Thursday night until seven on Friday morning and having to wade through water in several places. I can assure you it was pretty cold. We passed close by Crooked Neck mountain and the Glasshouse. Crooked Neck looked as though it would come over top of us and grind us to powder, but it didn't ... We had to walk up some of the ridges; it was like creeping up the steeple of a church ...

Not all officers forged new territory, however. There were those who didn't travel further than their own district, such as the officers of Taree, on the mid-north NSW coast, who filed this report to *War Cry* in 1891: ... *despite the rain and the mud we are still marching on, and have had some good meetings, both at Taree and*

the outposts. We have also had some lively experiences while out on visits, bareback riding especially gave us cause to remember it, and on another occasion while we were crossing a creek on a log, the captain had the misfortune to make a slip and fall in, and then had to do the meeting at night in his wet clothes!

Then there was The Salvation Army officer in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, who inspired the naming of the arduous "Golden Staircase" (which climbs steeply up from the valley floor). It is said that the stairway got its name by way of the officer who would walk down the stairway to hold services for the shale miners in the Jamieson Valley. On the way back, the officer would sing the song, written by Emma Booth, *O' I'm Climbing up the Golden Stairs to Glory*. Such was the mettle of those early Salvationists!

So what of today's Salvation Army officers? Surely life is easier nowadays with modern transport and the 21st century comforts. "Yes, life is easier with 21st comforts, etc," says Salvation Army Secretary for Personnel, Lieut-Colonel Chris Reid. "But today there are different expectations making officership just as hard. Everybody seems to want everything instantly and many of our officers are telling us that the email and administration responsibilities are drowning them, leaving little time for mission".

Lieut-Colonel Reid says that part of the Australia Eastern Territory restructure, which took effect in January this year, is to free up officers from the burdens of administration, property management and red-tape



An artist's depiction of the Army's first "Salvation Riders" – Captain Edward A. Sincock and Lieutenant George Haycraft – who brought the gospel to people living in remote regions of NSW and Queensland.

so that mission is where energies are focused.

Officers today are dealing with many complex people issues, which require high levels of training and skills. "The big difference is that Australia is no longer classed as a Christian country and we are now seeing third and fourth generations of the unchurched," she says, referring to the challenges officers face in determining what "church" actually looks like in their unique appointments. "Back in the early days, nearly everyone went to church. Now, the 'cookie-cutter' approach to church no longer works, especially in our ever-changing multicultural society."

So while modern technology has removed many of the physical hardships of officership-of-old, it has also brought with it huge mental strain due to its instantaneity and the pressure to "perform" in an entertainment-driven culture where every phone is a camera and every move in ministry can be "shared", uploaded and critiqued each step of the way. ¶

TREASURES IN THE HEART

Mary's wisdom an example for mothers of adult children

WORDS BRONWYN WILLIAMS

After the visit of the shepherds at Jesus' birth, Luke records that "Mary treasured all these things and pondered on them in her heart" (Luke 2: 19). Mothers do that – they reflect on the events that shape the lives of their children.

For Mary, as for many mothers, the adult life of her son wasn't smooth. I wonder what she was pondering when she stood with her friends at the foot of the cross and saw her beloved eldest son hanging far above her. In her grief, was she remembering the baby gifted by kings, the boy playing in the sawdust of his father's workshop, and the son who must be about his Father's business in the temple (Luke 2:49)?

Being a mother to adult children is not easy. The days of differentiating between cries for food and cries of pain, of holding the bike seat while they get their balance, of making everything better with a Band-Aid and a kiss seem simple and straightforward. Broken hearts, damaged friendships, bullying – we know our children will recover but, for now, nothing we can do or say will mend them.

I have three sons, two of whom are married with families of their own. My eldest son married at 19, and six months later my middle son left home to take up a job at some racing stables more than 60km away. In less than a year I went from having three sons at home to just one. I was determined to let my boys leave and grow into the men they wanted to be. But letting go isn't easy.

My sons have made decisions that I wouldn't have – as no doubt I've made decisions that my mother wouldn't have. And my sons have, in turn, questioned some of the decisions I have made.

Did Mary feel rejected when Jesus said to an assembled crowd that his true family consisted of those who did the will of his heavenly father (Mark 3:32-35)? Did she feel rejected when the 12-year-old Jesus rebuked his parents because they just didn't get what he was about (Luke 2:49-50)? What did Mary think when Jesus' brothers went to fetch him home because they thought he was going slightly crazy (Mark 3:20-21)?

Being a mother in first-century Israel is different to being a mother in 21st-century Australia, but I think Mary can show us something about mothering adult children.

Firstly, Mary understood the place she held in her son's life. She had carried him, birthed him, nurtured him, watched him grow, and then let him go. At some point, mothers must let their children go to be the people God made them to be, to make decisions on their own, and to make their own mistakes.

Second, Mary understood that she could no longer hold first place in her son's life. Jesus' life took its own shape and carried him far away from Nazareth, and her life. Daughters often stay closer to their mothers than sons do, but even there a wise mother never comes between a son or daughter and their chosen life



partner. Rather, she honours the love an adult child has for their partner.

A third thing a mother of adult children must do is let them make the choices they want, despite the consequences. Adult children's decisions can place them in danger – I'm so glad I found out some of what my young adult sons had got up to after the event! I don't know whether Mary remonstrated with Jesus at any stage about the choices he was making, but in the end he made those choices and Mary found herself at the foot of his cross.

I take heart from Mary, a woman who became a mother at a very young age, who shared her son with the world and then lost him to a terrible death. But in the letting go, and even in the losing, Mary never stopped being a mother to Jesus. In the end, her son came back to her – and to the world. ¶

.....
Captain Bronwyn Williams is Editorial Assistant in The Salvation Army's National Editorial Department.

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



LIVING WITH SPIRITUAL COURAGE

Love and justice will win the battle



WORDS GRANT SANDERCOCK-BROWN

I've always admired courage; physical courage to be sure, but also spiritual courage. I visited Anzac Cove last year and I tried to imagine those young men landing at the beach, pressing forward into great danger. Physical courage. I walked up to Lone Pine and tried to read as many names as I could, just to honour their sacrifice.

I wonder what made them do it, these boys – and in the main they were boys – who died at Gallipoli. It wasn't just adventure. Perhaps that's why they'd signed up. But I doubt there was any sense of "fun" once they'd arrived on the steep slopes above the Dardanelles. Perhaps they pushed forward again and again out of loyalty, mateship. "My mate died doing his job yesterday, who am I not to follow his example." Whatever the reason, I'm proud of them.

However, I don't have much time for any notion of the adventure of war. There is no romance in violence and death. To paraphrase former US president Jimmy Carter: "War may be a necessary evil, but it is an evil all the same." But even in the midst of awful situations, by the grace of God, service and sacrifice give rise to courageous acts that can only be admired.

And that's why I despise the acts of violence perpetrated recently in Istanbul, Brussels, and Lahore. These acts are courage-less. And unlike the brave and naïve boys at Gallipoli, I cannot imagine these terrorists. Their actions are so inconceivable that they are thoroughly alien to me. At first glance a suicide mission might seem like an act of bravery. After all, the terrorists are going to their own deaths. But if taking one's own life as a means of killing unknown innocents and the defenceless is bravery, it's a version of bravery so distorted by sin that it is something else entirely.

To be honest, it seems to me that the world has in some way gone mad. And we in Australia are not immune. The ever-present mobile phone means we are too often seeing images of brawls, coward punches, and assaults. There is too often violence in homes and communities. But here we must not make the mistake of thinking that

sin wins! You see, perhaps we will never need to face up to a terrorist with physical courage, put our bodies on the line. But we can live with spiritual courage as people of conviction. Determined to take a stand, not against people but for the kingdom; determined and resolved to live righteously, peacefully, and joyfully (Romans 14:17). "Evil shall perish and righteousness shall reign," wrote former Salvation Army world leader General Albert Orsborn in 1914, and I believe him.

And if we believe that, we must live courageously. We must live determined to resist selfishness, self-pride, self-obsession, and all those "self" words that are such a foothold for sin. To welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, guard the innocent, and nurture hope in every situation. And perhaps that's where courage is most needed. Ordinary Christians like you and me need the courage to believe that God is still on his throne; that God will set things right; the courage to believe that "though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet" (*Song Book of The Salvation Army*, song 66).

Whatever else the book of Revelation is about, its pastoral purpose was to assure persecuted Christians that when God fights the devil, God wins. The book of Revelation reassured bewildered and questioning Jesus followers that in spite of the pervasive and powerful signs and symbols of a mighty Roman Empire, the real battle was the Lord's. That over and above all the evidence of their eyes was a spiritual truth that God himself would set things right. That is, in spite of the evidence that can sometimes overwhelm us, Almighty God is in control and the Kingdom comes.

And we need to be brave enough to live as heralds of the coming Kingdom. So that in word and deed we proclaim a greater truth, that love and justice, which is love expressed, will win. We must live as people of joy and hope. I think we make the world a better place when we do so.

Major Grant Sandercock-Brown is Corps Officer at Parramatta.



A Month of Sundays

RATING: PG

RELEASE DATE: 28 April



“You’ll never see anything like it in a month of Sundays,” was a favourite expression in the farming community I grew up in, and it serves for a suitable title for a new Australian drama starring Anthony Lapaglia. It’s an endearing tale about Frank, a real estate agent given an opportunity to resolve his greatest regret, which is certainly something that doesn’t come around every day.

A Month of Sundays is filmed in the picturesque suburbs of Adelaide. It makes good use of the dry wit of veteran funny man John Clarke as Frank’s boss, Phillip Lang, however, it is in essence a story about a man’s need to turn a corner in his life.

Lapaglia stars as Frank, a middle-aged man who has good reasons to feel remorse. Career-wise, Frank is in something of a slump. He’s a real estate agent in the midst of a property boom who struggles to make any house sound good. His marriage to Wendy (Justine Clarke) has faltered and ended in divorce, even though she still finds herself constantly returning to him for support. Yet his son, Frank jnr, treats his father with all the disappointment a teenage boy can muster and his disdain regularly defeats his father’s attempts to connect.

However, it’s Frank’s regrets over his mother that take centre stage. She died at a time when they were emotionally distant and her passing has left him feeling

as though he never had the opportunity to let her go. Consequently, when elderly Sarah (Julia Blake) makes a misdial and telephones his home one evening, Frank has no problem believing it’s his mother ringing for one last chat. Lapaglia and Blake’s on-screen interaction is pitch perfect, a combination of *Mother And Son* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. Their awkwardly begun friendship blossoms into a relationship that helps Frank discover the emotional release that drives the plot.

There’s something encouraging but equally peculiar about cinema’s penchant for second-chance stories like Frank’s. They trade on the fact that we have no trouble believing anyone can experience an opportunity for redemption. Most revolve around a key moment wherein the character makes a choice to follow a path different to the one that has characterised their failed years. *A Month of Sundays’* relentless call to Frank to improve himself eventually results in a similar rise from the sackcloth and ashes of his previous life. But how realistic is this sort of transformation? As my farming community used to say, how many men can really lift themselves up by their own boot laces?

In truth, most of us mistake moving on for the process of redemption. Audiences will warm to Sarah and Frank’s story but, even though he learns to get over his mother’s passing, there’s no real indication that he’s actually learnt from the experience – unless it’s the suggestion that the world is still a beautiful place despite its many tragedies. In Frank’s case, it’s not so much repentance or even change that takes place as a decision to no longer let the past worry him.

A Month of Sundays is a clever, warm-hearted Australian tale that is well worth seeking out at the cinemas. It underlines how strongly we can feel the everyday sadness of losing those most closely connected to us. Yet it doesn’t need God on any of its Sundays because the characters don’t require any real rescue.
– Mark Hadley



The Angry Birds Movie

RATING: G

RELEASE DATE: 12 May



Angry Birds wouldn't be the first video game to make the jump to the cinema screen, but its slapstick approach to a serious emotion might have a more profound effect than most. *Angry Birds* is joining a line-up of games-to-films productions releasing this year. *Ratchet and Clank* opened in April, *Warcraft* releases in June and *Assassin's Creed* will follow in December. However, it's easy to see why producers look at a "freemium" App like *Angry Birds* and want a piece of the franchise. The original game involving egg-napping pigs and exploding avians has hatched 14 more Apps, two cartoon series, theme parks and an avalanche of merchandise. By June last year the games alone had accounted for three billion downloads worldwide. But how do you turn a non-story-based game into a feature film? The answer is anger.

The plot-line of *The Angry Birds Movie* opens on a peaceful island populated by flightless birds where the temper-challenged "Red" is attending court-appointed anger management classes because he can't fit in. However, when the evil pigs arrive and make off with the island's eggs, Red is the one his feathered friends turn to for an appropriate response. Lead actor Jason Sudeikis says *The Angry Birds Movie* is about legitimising a forbidden emotion. He told entertainment site Fandango: "We've gotten better at acting like [anger] doesn't exist, but it clearly still does. Don't go too far – don't

let it all the way in and don't let it all the way out – but a little toot of anger every now and then is a nice thing."

But redeeming anger isn't a simple matter of allowing yourself permission to let off steam. Psychologists describe anger as a secondary emotion; it rises from other states buried deep in our hearts. An angry response that emerges from an offended sense of justice might have an appropriate context. However, outbursts that arise from guilt, anxiety and fear are much harder to justify. Giving voice to the anger that comes from seeing others endangered or injured could be applauded, but do we really want to encourage our children to make space for the anger that arises from offended pride or jealousy?

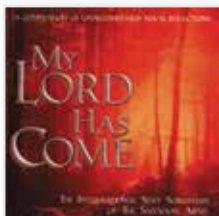
Before we let out even the littlest "toot" of anger we have to take a good look at our hearts. Jesus taught his disciples that what comes out of our mouths is only a measure of what's going on deeper down: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

So long as we remain in these bodies we have to teach our children to measure their motives carefully. The root that gives rise to our anger matters immensely. But even more importantly we need to show young ones how to gain good hearts by bringing them to Jesus. *The Angry Birds Movie* might suggest that allowing our anger a place is a healthy thing, in much the same way that *Inside Out* made room for sadness. But self-control is the mark of a godly life. I'm not sure there's any place in the Christian life for an angry reaction. We need to teach our kids to ask themselves harder questions, then respond accordingly.

- Mark Hadley

+ LISTEN

***My Lord Has Come*
– International Staff Songsters**



The International Staff Songsters (ISS) are the premier choir of The Salvation Army, with a mission to portray the gospel of Jesus Christ and communicate his love through song. The repertoire of the ISS spans a large range of Christian music, from classic to contemporary, spirituals and traditional songs. Their latest album, *My Lord Has Come*, is a compilation of unaccompanied vocal reflections, moving towards a more traditional, meditative genre.

My Lord Has Come is the perfect way to escape the busyness of life and pause to reflect on the love of Jesus Christ and God's faithfulness. As an a capella album, the ISS sing together in rich harmony to focus on the message of the words. A translation of "a capella" is in the manner of the chapel, and while listening one can imagine sitting in a magnificent cathedral, resting in the peace that the words and music invoke.

While the tracks on the album are similar in style, each is unique as they vary in words and form. A selection of the tracks' words are taken directly from scripture, such as *God So Loved the World* which is an arrangement of the well-known Bible verse, John 3:16. *Lux Aurumque* is sung in Latin. Other tracks are exclusively men's or women's voices, displaying the diversity of the ISS's capabilities. The album also includes well-known choral works by Samuel Barber and Eric Whitacre, alongside Salvation Army classics by George Marshal and Norman Bearcroft.

As a member of the Sydney Staff Songsters, I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the music of another staff songsters group that shares a passion for proclaiming the love of God through song. I have been blessed through their singing and the opportunity for spiritual reflection that *My Lord Has Come* offers.

- Kimberley Douglass

My Lord Has Come can be purchased at Salvationist Supplies for \$29.50. Go to thetrade.salvos.org.au

+ READ

The Ultimate Index 2nd Edition



The Ultimate Index 2nd Edition is a revised version of a complete song reference guide for those charged with leading church services. The indexes of song books, hymnals and tune books commonly used in Salvation Army meetings have been amalgamated to make this resource the only book required to locate chosen songs. Indexes from the following volumes, including the new Salvation Army song and tune book, with their abbreviations, have been included:

- The new *Song Book of The Salvation Army*
- The new *Tune Book of The Salvation Army*
- The *Song Book of The Salvation Army*
- *The Salvation Army Chorus Section*
- *The Tune Book of The Salvation Army with USA Supplement*
- *The Scripture Based Compilation Album*
- *Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices*
- *New Christmas Praise*
- *Magnify*
- *Happiness and Harmony*
- *Adult and Family Ministries Song Book*
- *Songs of Fellowship Books 1-5*
- *Mission Praise*

The Ultimate Index 2nd Edition can be purchased for \$15 at Salvationist Supplies. Go to thetrade.salvos.org.au

+ LISTEN

Have It All– Bethel Music



Have It All is Bethel Music's first live album since *For The Sake of the World* in 2012. There's something about listening to a live worship recording. Listeners are drawn into a moment in time where God's presence fell.

The chorus lyrics for title track *Have It All* sum up the essence of an album focused on surrender: "You can have it all Lord/ Every part of my world/ Take this life and breathe on/ This heart that is now yours." This album brings a refreshing atmosphere of worship through spontaneous moments of praise. *Colors* and *Sweet Praise* are two tracks solely devoted to spontaneous worship.

All of Bethel's albums are a community effort attempting to encapsulate the individual hearts of the whole Bethel church. They achieve this through numerous songwriters and worship leaders. This 16-track worship album features 13 worship leaders from the Bethel Music Collective including Brian and Jenn Johnson, Jeremy Riddle, Amanda Cook, William Matthews and Leeland.

"These songs testify that unhindered worship is our most natural response of love to our Creator. Written from a combination of personal journeys that carried a common thread, the vulnerability, honesty and resilience behind this project will encourage you and your community," the Bethel Music website says of the album.

Known for their powerful anthems and poetic lyrics, album standouts include *Shine On Us*, *Faithful To The End*, *Glory To Glory*, *Pieces* and *Be Enthroned*.

Have It All can be digitally purchased for \$24.99 on iTunes or a CD can be ordered for \$21.99 at www.koorong.com

+ READ

No Longer I? – Howard Webber



Often, when we long to do what is pleasing to God, it seems that there are insurmountable problems and difficulties that Satan throws at us in all manner of subtle ways. Living the Christian life can seem a uphill struggle with little of the joy Jesus promised and much heartache and disappointment. In despair we can well feel like giving up. Some of our worst attacks come from within the fellowship to which we belong.

Yet, we know that Jesus has been there. His worst experiences were not caused by those outside the fellowship of God's people, but from within, and his biggest disappointments were with his own disciples. Yet, living in that often hostile environment, he spoke of possessing a joy and peace and, amidst it all, he lived a perfect, victorious, holy life of love, the life to which he calls every one of us.

It took me years of struggle before I discovered and accepted that what he required was an impossibility. Only then did I begin to realise that it wasn't about what I could do with his help, but what he could do if only I would get out of the way! *No Longer I?* is about that struggle and that discovery. Half of the book, as with my first book, *Meeting Jesus: Inspiring stories of modern-day evangelism*, is stories, and the second half is a look at the discoveries I made in the light of scripture. My prayer is that some fellow struggler might also find release and liberty on reading this book, and find reading it an very enriching experience. - Howard Webber

No Longer I? can be purchased from Salvationist Supplies. Go to thetrade.salvos.org.au

Christian songwriter's tour to celebrate Army's work ▼



David Willersdorf is embarking on a tour that celebrates the work of The Salvation Army.
Photo: Karen Woo

David Willersdorf, one of Australia's best-known Christian songwriters, will celebrate The Salvation Army's community work during a two-month East Coast tour, which begins next month. The *Waiting for Love Tour*, which includes more than 30 concerts, starts in Bundaberg, Queensland, on 17 June and finishes in Warrnambool, Victoria, in August.

While David is known for his worship music, which has been recorded worldwide by artists such as Grammy Award winner TD Jakes and Australia's Hillsong church, this tour will feature David's recently recorded album *Fire This Love*, a mix of original country, folk and blues songs. Recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, with Australian producer Rick Price (Not a Day Goes By, Walk Away Renee, Heaven Knows, River of Love), it is David's first mainstream album.

"It's great that God isn't just limited to the gospel genre of music," David says, "but also songs that champion the good things of love and life that he is behind. The heart behind the tour is about celebrating what The Salvation Army does within their local communities. As a youth worker, I remember working

with street kids in Kings Cross and seeing The Salvation Army workers there every night. They were right there in the thick of things with us. The 'street cred' that they had was, and continues to be pretty inspiring.

"As a guest artist several years ago at The Salvation Army's *Unlimited*, I saw the passion that was displayed for God and for standing up for the defenceless. It was simply incredible and inspired me no end. So I'm really looking forward to being out there sharing my songs and celebrating the authenticity of The Salvation Army in their local communities. It will be a lot of fun and I know that many bridges will be built with a lasting impact."

The family-friendly concerts will include a segment for local Salvation Army officers to share about their programs and each venue will have a special area for people to donate to the work of their local Salvation Army. The tour will also include some Sunday services and songwriting workshops. If local corps want to be included on the tour, they can contact worshiparts@aue.salvationarmy.org.

– Anne Halliday

Mastering the art of worship ▼

A new series of WorshipArts

Masterclasses for creative and performing arts leaders is hoping to "scratch the itch" for corps around the territory this year. Organised by the Territorial WorshipArts department, the training initiatives are designed to enhance musicianship or technical craft, as well as developing increased opportunities for collaboration and communication with others who share the same passion.

"Through last year's Taste Unconvention, and the people that we have talked to, creatives want to do their ministry better," said Territorial WorshipArts co-ordinator Chris Brindley. "They are keen to connect and share experiences with people that have the same expression, so that they develop their understanding and can go back to their corps with a fresh approach to support others in worship."

Utilising the experience of highly skilled leaders in their creative field, the first masterclasses for drummers and percussionists was held in Brisbane in February, and for worship leaders in Canberra last month. Upcoming masterclasses include worship leading in NSW (21 May) and Queensland (June). Masterclasses for sound and lighting and tech teams are planned for later in the year.

Chris said that planning for future masterclasses was determined by feedback from officers and leaders who identify training that best meets their need. He said requests for training and further information can be made through corps leaders, at divisional and territorial events and forums, via [facebook.com/salvos.worshiparts](https://www.facebook.com/salvos.worshiparts) or by emailing worshiparts@aue.salvationarmy.org.

Weekly dinners nourish local community ▼



Brad Fowler and Melinda Patterson both volunteer to cook at Nourish.

Weekly dinners at the Long Jetty

Corps that began simply as an opportunity for extended corps fellowship, now include people from all walks of life throughout the community. Up to 75 people attend the dinners – aptly called “Nourish” – each week, with the numbers gradually increasing.

After the meal, members of the corps offer seeker-friendly interest groups such as Bible studies, an “Experiencing God” group, men’s and women’s groups, Junior Soldier classes, a book club,

Positive Lifestyle Program, Careforce Lifekeys, and others.

“The Wednesday night Nourish dinners have become a great contact point for meeting the community and through them we can develop relationships,” said Major Andrew Humphreys, Long Jetty Corps Officer, with Major Melissa Humphreys. “This is not just a way to grow our fellowship. People really feel like they are part of something. For me, I can achieve as much pastorally over dinner as I can in three hours of visits.”

The home-cooked meals, prepared by a team from the corps, are free the first time a person attends, and then \$4 per person after that. The corps is also examining how to make the one-hour space after dinner as effective as possible. “We want people to have the opportunity to go deeper in their relationships, not just over dinner but through small groups as well,” said Major Melissa. The corps also runs discipling groups, a youth group and Bible study, and personal growth groups that take place throughout the week. Many community members who attend the dinner and want to go deeper, are beginning to attend these additional small groups.

“We’re seeing group members care for each other, such as when someone goes to hospital or has a need, and it’s beautiful,” said Major Melissa. “Our church is quite fluid; people from all walks of life come, they keep coming, and I just love being around them!” ¶
– **Simone Worthing**

Street Safe Salvos program expands in Newcastle ▼

The Street Safe Salvos program

launched in Newcastle last October has recently expanded beyond the city centre into the neighbouring suburb of Hamilton. The six-month pilot phase has also been extended for another six months. The program, which is run in conjunction with the Newcastle City Council and NSW Police Newcastle Local Area Command, is designed to engage with vulnerable and isolated groups and individuals participating in Saturday night activities.

“The police are happy with the progress the program has made, they understand the needs our volunteers are meeting, and they trust us,” said Peter Martin, the manager at Oasis Youth Network

Hunter. “They have approved our expansion to Hamilton, which is where the rail line terminates, and where there are a host of issues facing young homeless girls in particular. Our 60 volunteers, who come mainly from the Northlakes and Newcastle Corps, will be a positive presence in this area.

“The role of the volunteers is to make contact with those affected by drugs or alcohol, or those with no way of getting home, and getting them into the right frame of mind to get them into a taxi or to call family or friends. If people can’t make this contact, program volunteers will either provide transport or allow people to rest and sober up in their mobile van.”

On each Saturday night, from 10pm until 3.30am, three teams of trained volunteers patrol the CBD on foot. They hand out bottles of water, lollipops and rubber thongs to replace high heels.

They can also help recharge mobile phones and offer a listening ear. “The program has helped 200-plus people so far,” said Peter. “More than 70 percent of those we help are females aged between 18 and 25. As well as meeting immediate needs, our volunteers also provide follow-up to the people they assist. Sometimes they will also have time to sit and chat with people and explore what is going on in their lives and some of the underlying issues they are facing.”

Coffs Harbour rally celebrates rising hope in northern NSW ▼



Divisional Commander Lieut-Colonel Miriam Gluyas presents Envoy Lloyd Graham, supported by his wife, Envoy Vicki, with his retirement certificate. Photo: Lieut Philip Sutcliffe

Salvation Army leaders from northern NSW gathered at Coffs Harbour Corps recently for an uplifting rally which centred on the theme of hope. Salvationists and friends filled the hall on Sunday 6 March under a banner proclaiming “Hope Rising”, with special guests including new Divisional Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, Majors Norm and Isabel Beckett (North/North West NSW Area Officers) and Majors David and Lea Palmer (NSW Northern Rivers Area Officers).

A worship team comprised of folk from both areas provided music, as well as a combined brass band led by Bandmaster Rod Hill from Grafton Corps. The service included a small ceremony

where Lieut-Colonel Gluyas presented Envoy Lloyd Graham with his well-earned retirement certificate. Lloyd and his wife Vicki have faithfully served for a number of years as rural chaplains working out of the Bourke community. The Divisional Commander’s message, based on Romans 15:13, reminded the congregation that they were to be a people of hope, with Lieut-Colonel Gluyas stating: “... because we are committed to, and serve, a great God of hope who calls people to have hope in him. We are no longer to live in poverty of hope but to look to Jesus to raise our hope again! Hope Rising!” Many people knelt at the Mercy Seat after the message, reflecting that God is at work in the rural and coastal town areas of north NSW. ¶

History Snapshot

Elizabeth Jenkins, an enthusiastic, even eccentric, Christian lady who lived on the northern beaches of Sydney in the late 1800s, gave a total of 500 acres of land to The Salvation Army. Read all about her legacy and what The Salvation Army did with that land at salvos.org.au (Go to: Our History - Local History - Sydney East and Illawarra - Northern Beaches)

Revelation Big Band to jazz it up north ▼

Brisbane’s Revelation Big Band is preparing to take its exciting brand of jazz music to Queensland’s north next month, with performances booked for Townsville, Innisfail and Cairns. It will be the band’s first tour of North Queensland.

The 17-member band, under the leadership of Carindale Corps’ Sam Creamer, formed in 2014 for Warwick’s Jumpers & Jazz festival. Drawing musicians from across the division, the band has since performed at various Salvation Army corps, centres and events around southern Queensland. They returned to the Jumpers & Jazz Festival last July. The North Queensland tour aims to celebrate the merging of the two Queensland divisions. The band will play at outreach gigs, take part in church services and perform concerts from 16-19 June.

The band recently ran a Jazz-a-thon to raise money for the trip. “The concept was inspired by a group of musicians from Bexleyheath Corps in the UK,” says Sam. Twelve band members participated in seven engagements across Brisbane during the course of eight hours. They performed at church services, concerts and in public outreach, raising \$800 through donations.

The band usually gets together twice a month, once to rehearse and the other to perform. They also have a nine-piece ensemble, the Revelation Small Band, which is also available for performances.

For information on the North Queensland tour go to the band’s Facebook page:

[facebook.com/revelationbigband](https://www.facebook.com/revelationbigband)

To donate to RBB, email

revelationbigband@hotmail.com¶

Salvos partnership restores broken dreams ▼



Volunteers, including professional tradesmen, renovated the duplex both outside and inside, making it ready for single mums with young children.

Refreshing the soul, restoring the dreams, and renewing the strength of vulnerable young mothers and their children is the goal of Besor Home, an innovative pilot project on the Gold Coast, based on a partnership between The Salvation Army and Global Care (the charity arm of Elevation Church). The project, which began in December last year, provides transitional and supported accommodation in the community for young mothers leaving The Salvation Army's Accommodation Service Gold Coast (Still Waters) and in need of ongoing assistance to rebuild their lives.

Besor Home is currently a duplex in a Gold Coast suburb – two units, each with two bedrooms. Elevation Church and their army of volunteers renovated the units for occupancy. “Part of our church’s ministry is vulnerable young mothers, and this is something we can do to help them in their time of transition,” said Andy Backhouse, Community Pastor, Elevation Church. “We wanted to provide something that would help the women feel valued and loved, and to offer them educational and practical opportunities and social connection with the church, as appropriate.”

The first client in Besor House spoke to her case worker about wanting to build friendships and connect to a church,

and volunteers are sensitively working with case workers, and the client, to make this happen. “As clients express an interest in connecting, support such as budgeting assistance, healthy cooking classes, parenting role modelling and social networks are available,” said Mona Nielsen, Still Waters’ Manager.

Still Waters recommends clients for Besor Home and continues to support them as they settle into the community and look for sustainable independent accommodation. “This is provided by working within a case management framework,” said Mona. “It’s exciting because it’s a natural part of our approach to help the women develop their resilience, do more for themselves and build social connection.”

The women are finding a special place in Besor Home. “I love it very much,” said one of the ladies. “It is very peaceful for me and all so new. As soon as I come in here I feel peace.”

Salvos Housing manages the tenancy according to the Residential Tenancies Authority. “We explained that we are a ‘Real Estate with a heart’,” said Rob Burnelek, General Manager Salvos Housing. “We still require a bond and rent, but we also help clients build a positive bond history, provide certain support services and work with clients to become part of their healing and

growing process. Ultimately, we want to see people flourish in life and come to Christ through our services.”

Ongoing communication with, and connection to, the faith-based community, is a vital part of the Besor Home project. “Everything we do is professional, relational and missional,” emphasised Chris Deighton, Salvation Army Operations Manager, Queensland, Accommodation and Housing Services. “We believe transformation is all about community, and a faith-based community opens up opportunities for people to engage, grow in self-worth, and develop resilience. Once a person is connected in their community, the social services can just be used as stepping stones and for duration of need in particular circumstances. They won’t need to be part of a client’s life forever.”

Besor Home is named after the Besor Valley in 1 Samuel 30:10-11 – a place of restoration, cheerfulness and good news.

“This partnership is working well and I couldn’t think of a better organisation to partner with than The Salvation Army,” said Andy. “We want to edify and mature that work here on the Gold Coast through Besor Home, and dream about expanding from here.” ¶

– **Simone Worthing**

Flags raised at new territorial headquarters ▼



(Above) Colonel Mark Campbell marches the Territorial Headquarters flag into the new complex at Redfern in Sydney. (Top right) Colonel Campbell and Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge roll up the THQ flag at a farewell service at Elizabeth St led (above right) by Commissioner Jan Condon.

The raising of four flags outside The Salvation Army’s new Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters last month was part of a series of ceremonies marking the move from the Elizabeth St building, in Sydney’s CBD, to the Redfern centre. The Australian, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islands flags were raised alongside The Salvation Army flag on 13 April, in recognition of the Army’s ongoing commitment to the people of Australia.

The flag ceremony followed the first weekly “prayers” to be held in the new building, which employees moved into on 11 April. More than 250 staff gathered in the building’s chapel for a time of worship, scripture reading and reflection. The Australia Eastern Territory Territorial Headquarters flag was marched in and unfurled by Chief Secretary, Colonel Mark Campbell. A large three-dimensional cross, filled

with white stones, was also dedicated during the service. Both symbols will reside permanently in the chapel.

Territorial President of Women’s Ministries, Commissioner Jan Condon, said those present at the official opening were invited to write their name on a stone and place it in the cross as an expression of gratitude to God for the new facility. “I have been amazed at the atmosphere of change as we have made this move,” she said. “There is a real spirit of positivity and excitement. It’s wonderful.”

The new THQ building was officially opened on 2 April, a day on which the first meeting of the Salvationist Advisory Council to the Territorial Commander was held in the executive boardroom. The group of Salvationists, drawn from corps across the territory, gathered to discuss critical territorial

issues and, in particular, the new two-division structure that was introduced in January this year.

The farewell to the Australia Eastern Territory’s previous headquarters building, in Elizabeth St, was marked by a gathering of staff for “final prayers” on Thursday 7 April. The service, led by Commissioner Jan Condon, featured a number of staff taking part in a shared Bible reading. Commissioner James Condon also brought a brief message.

During the service, Colonel Campbell and Territorial Secretary for Business Administration, Lieut-Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge, officially rolled up the Territorial Headquarters flag in readiness for its transportation to the new Redfern complex. The Australia Eastern Territorial Headquarters had been housed at the Elizabeth St site since 1926. ¶— **Anne Halliday**

Territorial leaders conduct retirement service for McLarens ▼



Commissioner James Condon shares a lighter moment with Majors Phil and Nancy McLaren during their retirement service.

Territorial leaders, Commissioners

James and Jan Condon, conducted the retirement service for Majors Phil and Nancy McLaren at Carindale Corps, Brisbane, on 14 February. Commissioner James highlighted the McLarens' consistent and faithful service over 40 years of ministry, both in the Australia Eastern Territory and overseas. Commissioner Jan, Territorial President of Women's Ministries, expressed her appreciation to Nancy, in particular, for her ministry to women in the territory.

The McLarens also shared during the service. Major Nancy spoke about the

many people who had influenced her life and the life of her family over 40 years of officership – both officers in different appointments and those who came from all walks of life. "I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful support given by my family over the years," she said. "They have shared in my calling."

Major Phil spoke about the blessings and privileges of officership and how God had opened so many doors of ministry through The Salvation Army. He made special mention of the times spent in Africa where he was privileged to conduct planned giving workshops.

"The biggest impact on my life was the generosity of people who have so little to give," he said.

The Carindale Corps family were also guests at the retirement service, with the corps' music sections participating. An audiovisual presentation displayed highlights of the McLarens' ministry.

In retirement, the McLarens are looking forward most of all to spending more time with family. They also plan to invest time and energy into mission at their local corps, Carindale. Major Nancy will continue to participate in local ecumenical expressions.¶

Inspiring Fellows Program accepting applications ▼



Training and education scholarships

of up to \$5000 are once again up for grabs thanks to The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus' annual Fellows Program. Individuals are not only

encouraged to pursue their own creative, intellectual and professional goals to benefit their own careers but also to enhance the work they complete for the Army.

The successful applications will be chosen by the Fellows committee, comprised of representatives from Booth College, Human Resources and Aged Care Plus and the CEO of Aged Care Plus, Sharon Callister. Applications for the 2016 Fellows Program close on 13 May. For further information, go to my.salvos.org.au/fellows-program

Auburn Corps ▼



Commissioner James Condon enrolls the new soldiers at Auburn (from left) Zoe, Beatrice, Usha, Behnaz, Natalie, Michael and Nelson.

Send us your enrolment stories

In each issue of *Pipeline*, we like to feature brief stories of recently enrolled junior and senior soldiers, and accepted adherents. To have your corps' or centre's story included, please send the following details to Simone Worthing at simone.worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org: Date of enrolment; name of corps or centre; name of enrolling officer(s); name of soldier(s) or adherent(s) enrolled and a couple of short sentences about them; and a high resolution photo of the new soldiers or adherents, with names of those in the photo. If the photo is a large group shot, only the names of the new soldiers are required. Photos should be at least 1mb in size, and sent as an attachment.

If you have any questions, please contact Simone at the above email address.

“The victory of Christ was powerfully demonstrated on Easter Sunday as seven new soldiers testified and made their covenants,” said Major Paul Moulds, Auburn Corps Officer. Commissioners James and Jan Condon, territorial leaders, enrolled the new soldiers during the 27 March meeting.

“The new soldiers represented the diversity of the Auburn community, coming from many nations and diverse backgrounds,” said Major Moulds. “There was Usha from Nepal; Behnaz

from Iran; Beatrice and Nelson from Liberia; Michael from Sierra Leone; Zoe, a third-generation Australian Salvationist; and Natalie, a recent Australian convert. A number had been refugees and asylum seekers. Each testified powerfully to the transformation that Jesus had made in their life and pledged to share this good news with others. Another surprise was in store when one of the new soldiers, Nelson, proposed to his girlfriend on bended knee following the enrolment.”

Brisbane City Temple Corps ▼



← Major Dean Clarke enrolled Caitlin Freeman as a senior soldier last month. Jeff Luhrs, Caitlin's godfather, is flag bearer.

Major Dean Clarke, Corps Officer, enrolled Caitlin Freeman as a senior soldier on 10 April. “Caitlin has been attending the corps' youth group, Factory 412, for just over one year,” said Major Clarke. “This group is part of our corps' investment into young people and Caitlin is active in the group, helps lead worship there and is an encouragement to others.”

In her testimony, Caitlin spoke about the positive influence the youth

ministry of the corps has had on her life. “This gives me an opportunity to serve and for worship,” she said. “This is my place and I love the corps and coming here to Factory 412 and on Sunday. I really sense God's presence here.”

Major Clarke also enrolled Anthony Hodge as a senior soldier earlier in the year. Anthony grew up in The Salvation Army and is now leader of Factory 412. “This is part of the flow-on effect,” said Major Clarke. “Anthony stepped up to be enrolled and lead youth, and now others are following. Factory 412 is also having a big impact on Corps Cadets on a Sunday morning.”

Cairns Corps ▼



01



02

Corps Officer, Major Garry Cox, enrolled three senior soldiers – Eliza Kendall, Angela Blain and Allan Pinchen – and two junior soldiers – Brandon Hewett and Victor Exton – during a special Sunday morning meeting on 24 January.

Eliza was surprised by family members and friends from other churches, who came along to witness her enrolment. She gave a heartwarming testimony of finally finding peace and a relationship with Jesus that she had never experienced before in her spiritual journey. Angela, in her testimony, stated

that her enrolment was a very joyful occasion and certainly one of the most significant days of her life.

In his testimony, Allan shared an inspiring story of how he came to Christ. He described a childhood which was disadvantaged, including abuse which led to a rejection of authority. His adult life became affected by drug and alcohol abuse, accompanied by numerous failed relationships. Allan eventually found his way to Cairns Corps, where he says he became saved by Jesus and found peace through his faith.

01. Prayer partners Allan Pinchen and Lyle Johnston support the new junior soldiers, Brandon Hewett and Victor Exton, as they are enrolled by Major Garry Cox.

02. Major Garry Cox enrolls senior soldiers (from left) Eliza Kendall, Allan Pinchen and Angela Blain. Major Ragana Gumuna is holding the flag.




 The Salvation Army's
Kokoda Trek
 11-22 September 2016
 19-30 April 2017

In 1942, The Salvation Army "Sallymen" were there on the Kokoda Track, making a difference to the lives of our men on the front line. Now it's your turn.

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Women free to be themselves at GOD group ▼



The Brisbane Streetlevel Mission "G.O.D" group provides a relaxed environment for women to connect.

Group outings, guest speakers, op-shopping, serving others, and honouring special events in people's lives are just some of the weekly events ladies look forward to at the Brisbane Streetlevel Mission's women's group. The G.O.D (Girls Only Day) group meets every Friday morning and is focused on doing life together. "It's casual, but it's not just coffee and chatting," said Denise Smart who helps coordinate events. "We bring God into it at every step. The connection we have is that none of us are stereotypical."

The ladies have been challenged by group discussions, learned new skills in art, cooking and hairdressing, served at Streetlevel, community and other corps events, and enjoyed trips to the beach, local museums, and city parks. Many of them also attend women's ministries camps and conferences. The group occasionally meets with the Streetlevel men for a combined day out.

"Meeting people, making good friends, learning something new and seeing a purpose is why I come to the girls'

group," said Lynda, who attends each week. "I have good friends, but this group is my family." Dusty, another group member, feels that she can be herself at the group. "We accept each other here for who we really are, we drop the masks and we support one another," she said.

Marilyn Whitfield, who founded the group in 2013 and is part of the ongoing leadership team, felt God leading her to create a place for all women at Streetlevel, as well as those who were passing through. "The group is a place where the girls feel loved, accepted and encouraged," she said. "Women need a place like that.

"God was showing me that, as a mother, aunty, sister, friend – I could care for women and women could care for other women. This is the family God gave me and includes those I am blessed to serve in my phone ministry as well. God and I are on this journey together." ¶

– **Simone Worthing**

Newcastle hosts celebration events ▼



Kristen Hartnett speaks to the ladies about Moneycare's services.

More than 130 women gathered for fellowship and worship over two celebration events in Newcastle on

7 and 9 March. The women were also focused on raising funds for the Women's Ministries Territorial Project for the year – The Salvation Army's Safe House for Trafficked Persons in Sydney, and assisting four young women from Papua New Guinea to come to the Salvos Discipleship School over the next two years.

"We had special guests to lead worship and to speak on Salvation Army services, so there is always a spiritual and educational theme," said Major Beatrice Kay, Salvos Women Coordinator, who organised the events. Captains Adam and Megan Couchman led the heartfelt praise and worship. Kristen Hartnett, Moneycare Area

Manager and financial counsellor, was guest speaker. She led the ladies in a devotion and spoke about her role and the lives that are impacted by Moneycare's services. Joyce Koiari, one of the students from Papua New Guinea currently studying at the Salvos Discipleship School, shared her testimony and how being at the school is changing her life and approach to ministry.

"It was a time of encouragement, celebration and refreshing for everyone," said Major Kay. "The ladies look forward to these events every year. We are also delighted with over \$1000 that was raised for the territorial project." ¶

Salvationists join delegates at UN to address gender inequality ▼



Captain Kathy Crombie with Christine Mangale, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America UN Representative, at the Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York.

Two Australia Eastern Territory officers – Captain Kathy Crombie and Major Beth Twivey – joined 20,000 delegates from all over the world at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), held at the United Nations in New York on March 14-24. Twenty Salvationists from seven countries were among the delegates, which included representatives from United Nations' (UN) member states, UN entities and non-government organisations. A significant number of men participated, recognising the importance of men and women working together to address issues of inequality and injustice.

The CSW is a global policy-making body that meets annually and is dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. There were more than 700 meetings during the event, with The Salvation Army hosting 105 of the meetings at the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) building in New York.

Delegates from faith groups were also part of daily devotions and other events organised by Ecumenical Women. During one of the devotion sessions, Captain Crombie spoke about doing mission in cities, building sustainable cities and communities, and responsible consumption and production. Having just completed two years as Senior Policy Research Analyst with ISJC in New York, Captain Crombie, is about to take up a new appointment as Projects Officer Emergencies and Disaster Relief, The Salvation Army (Mission) Nepal, India Eastern Territory.

Captain Crombie attended sessions on ensuring gender equality and sustainable livelihood in post disaster situation; emerging issues in gender, water and sanitation; several sessions on human trafficking, and many others. "I went to many discussions on trafficking, as The Salvation Army has an international taskforce focusing on the issue, so it's important that we feed back to the Army the latest trends and practices, and share the knowledge we are receiving," Captain Crombie

said. "If we work in partnership with others, we can access their expertise and experience and can complement each other. I was also encouraged by Ecumenical Women's teaching on advocacy – what it is and how to advocate in your own countries for the marginalised."

Major Twivey, Area Officer for North Queensland, attended many presentations, including those discussing gender equality in the media; restoring self-protection, empowerment and worth for girls; and putting girls at the centre of development.

"I now feel more informed about the global picture, but the experience also emphasised to me the need to see the needs of the local area where God has placed me, and how I can make a difference here," said Major Twivey. "I am more resolved to be a woman of God in my community, equipped, and making a difference here in the lives of men and women in addiction, changing the patterns for the next generation and also focusing on mental health, domestic violence and youth suicide."

The ISJC posted daily summaries of each day's meetings and presentations, including quotes, photos, and points of significant interest to The Salvation Army globally – to read these go to salvationarmy.org/isjc/csw60. Other links of interest: unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016, and ecumenicalwomen.org/

Faith leaders visit Army's art contribution to Lent ▼



Leaders of different faiths in London gather to view the Sea of Colour patchwork at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters during Lent.

Salvation Army international

leader General André Cox, along with Commissioner Silvia Cox (World President of Women's Ministries), Chief of the Staff Commissioner Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle (World Secretary for Women's Ministries), welcomed the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and Bishop of London, Right Reverend Richard Chartres, to International Headquarters during Holy Week.

The faith leaders were beginning a pilgrimage to a number of the Stations of the Cross – art installations which have been exhibited across London throughout Lent, to help people of different faiths to reflect on Jesus' journey to Calvary. IHQ hosted "Sea of Colour", a unique patchwork of discarded child refugee clothing, hand-stitched by artist Güler Ates. The piece reflects both the moment when Jesus was stripped of his clothes on the way to the cross and the modern-day plight of refugees fleeing conflict and persecution.

Cardinal Nichols read the account from John's Gospel before co-curator of the

Stations of the Cross initiative, Dr Aaron Rosen, invited Ms Ates to speak on what had inspired Sea of Colour. She spoke movingly of her own experiences as a Kurdish refugee and the impact on her of TV news images showing three-year-old Alan Kurdî, a Syrian refugee who had died on the Bodrum beach that she was so familiar with. "It could be my son, it could be anyone's son. And not just from one faith either. To me, that was very painful," Ms Ates explained. "Jews, Christians, Muslims [are] all together here."

Having viewed the patchwork, Rev Chartres reflected that: "One of the most moving things about this ... is that sentence, 'Why did my son have to die?'," referring to a message handwritten on to one of the garments by a refugee volunteer. "One of the great things about creative pieces like this," he continued, "is that we don't hurry on to give a glib answer." The bishop concluded: "As we make our pilgrimage through Holy Week, that's very salutary. We have to stay with that question: Why did my Son have to die?"

– David Giles

History Snapshot

At a time when women in ministry positions was unheard of in most other churches, The Salvation Army in Ayr was hosting dozens of female Salvation Army officers. The trend started in 1896 with Captain Mary Rogers, Ayr's first officer. Read all about it and other stories about the North Queensland corps at this link: "Local History" (Central and North Queensland – Ayr) on salvos.org.au

'Life-changing hope' the hallmark of General's visit to USA Southern Territory ▼



General André Cox shares how The Salvation Army provides both hope and healing at The Salvation Army Annual Civic Dinner in Augusta, Georgia. Photo: Dave Haas

A "mind-blowng" tour of The

Salvation Army Kroc Center in Augusta, Georgia, featured in a short visit by General André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox (World President of Women's Ministries) to The Salvation Army's USA Southern Territory. Supported by territorial leaders Commissioners Donald and Debora Bell, divisional leaders Majors Charles and Paula Powell, with territorial and divisional staff, the international leaders brought blessing and challenge.

Augusta's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and nearby Center of Hope make a major impact for God and for The Salvation Army. There is a thriving corps that provides vital ministry through the recreational and educational programs of the Kroc Center. The Center of Hope, with its soup kitchen, family assistance and overnight housing, reaches out to people in their most desperate moments. It was fitting that the international leaders were guests for the annual civic dinner.

Speaking of the need for hope, General

Cox said: "Life is not always smooth sailing, but if we lose hope, we lose everything. Temporal things will always disappoint. But our hope is not conditional on our present life. Having faith in God does not shield us from the difficulties in life, but it doesn't change the fact that God never fails us. We rejoice that many people who encounter Christ through the ministry of The Salvation Army ... will find a life-changing hope."

At Florida's Tampa Citadel Corps, Lieutenants Ben and Annie Bridges hosted the international leaders as they conducted Sunday's holiness meeting. The theme "Holy in Every Part" was woven into each aspect of the meeting which included music and sacred dance. General Cox, calling the congregation to a life of holiness, said: "We are to be salt and light in the world. Sadly, the world is impacting the Church and the Army rather than the other way around. But if God is in complete control of our hearts, it will show ... We require a revolution in our souls."

– **Lieut-Colonel Allen Satterlee**

International councils meet to discuss common issues ▼

History was made at Sunbury Court

in London recently when a joint two-day meeting of the International Theological Council (ITC) and International Moral and Social Issues Council (IMASIC), under the leadership of Commissioner Robert Donaldson, was held. Themes and agendas common to both bodies were discussed at the meeting.

The ITC, chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel Karen Shakespeare, also spent two days focusing on the General's priorities, as well as preparing for its forthcoming meeting in Paris which will include Sunday worship and a workshop with French Salvationists. The ITC was advised that its work on "Doctrines for the 21st Century" has been approved for publication. This will shortly be available on the ITC website.

ITC writings on the doctrines that have been published in *The Officer* magazine are now in preparation for publishing as a book. A series on other aspects of the Soldier's Covenant is being written by members of the ITC for *The Officer* magazine.

– **Major Geoff Webb, ITC Vice-Chair**

Steadfast soldier ▼



Major Jean Dorothy Walker (Reid) was promoted to glory on 19 March 2015 at Macquarie Lodge Aged Care Centre, Arncliffe, aged 94. The committal service took place at Woronora Crematorium on Friday 27 March, conducted by Majors Rodney and Leonie (niece) Ainsworth. This was followed by a celebration of her life and ministry at The Salvation Army Earlwood Citadel, also led by the Ainsworths.

Songs chosen by Jean were used in the service and, at her request, Major Peter Dollin brought a vocal tribute *Down From His Glory* which was one of her favourite songs. Major Judith Knight (cousin) read from the scriptures and Lieut-Colonel Peter Laws read a tribute from Commissioner James Condon, Territorial Commander. Family tributes were given by Major Ruth Dollin (daughter) and Jeanette Sumner (cousin). A visual reflection of Jean's life was also shown.

Jean Dorothy Reid was born on 18 September 1920 in Bankstown to Dorothy (Dora) and John Reid. She entered the *Steadfast* session of cadets from the Cremorne Corps in 1942. Following her

commissioning she was appointed to Blackbutt (Qld), where she served for two months before moving to Toowong Girls' Industrial Home in Brisbane in 1943. Two years later, Jean was appointed to Samaritan Corps in Sydney, and in 1947 Arncliffe Girls' Home (which is now Macquarie Lodge Aged Care facility).

Further appointments included corps officer at Forbes, working in the Trade Department, Divisional Helper at North Sydney Divisional Headquarters, Divisional Youth Officer (Armidale Division), Assistant Officer at Parramatta Corps and then corps officer roles at Thornleigh, Chester Hill and Penrith.

While she was an exceptionally capable corps officer, a change of work followed and Jean was appointed to the Red Shield Community Services, Wollongong, where she ministered for 17 months. Farewell orders were received in 1966 with an appointment as corps officer to Unanderra, followed by Wagga Wagga and Canberra South Corps. Another change found her appointed as Secretary of the Bethesda Nursing Home, Marrickville.

A highlight of her officership was her attendance at The International College

for Officers in 1969-1970.

Jean was an excellent speaker and soloist who loved to share God's Word. On many occasions she was invited to be the guest soloist or speaker at The World Day of Prayer, Ladies Church Mornings and Women's Ministries functions .

In 1972, Jean married Major Percy Walker, and together they served as corps officers at Belmore, Inverell, Bundaberg, Toongabbie and Lismore. They entered into retirement on 1 December, 1980.

The first eight years of retirement were spent in the Wollongong area. In 1987, the Walkers moved to an independent unit at Macquarie Lodge. After the sudden promotion to glory of Percy on 7 December, 1995, Jean continued to live at Macquarie Lodge where she looked for opportunities to minister and serve her Lord. In the remaining years of her life, Jean showed great courage and faith, encountering many health challenges.

A verse of scripture which suits Jean's life is from 1 Corinthians 15:58. "Therefore, my beloved Brethren, be ye steadfast unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

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About People ▼

Additional Appointments

Captain Christy **Kurth**, Hub Strategic Team Leader and Chaplain for Social Programs, Broken Hill, NSW/ACT Division, effective 6 June; Major Dean **Clarke**, Strategic Team Leader, Brisbane Hub, QLD Division, effective 14 April.

Appointments

Effective 14 April: Captain Dale **Murray**, Corps Officer, Armidale Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Lieutenant Belinda **Cassie**, Mission Support Officer, Oasis/Hunter Region, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 5 May: Major Nellie **Moed**, Corps Officer, St Marys Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 6 June: Lieutenant Andrew **Jones**, Assistant Corps Officer, Casino Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Lieutenant Kylie **Hodges**, Divisional Youth and Children's Secretary, North NSW Region, NSW/ACT Division; Captain Nathan **Hodges**, Divisional Youth and Children's Secretary, North NSW Region, NSW/ACT Division; Lieutenant Troy **Munro**, Chaplain Salvos Stores, Western Sydney, Salvos Stores Head office, Business Administration; Major Marilyn **Smith**, Admissions Compliance Officer Macquarie Lodge, Aged Care Plus Centre, Program Administration; Major David **Soper**, Men's Ministry and Mentor, NSW/ACT Division; Major Michael **Hogg**, Corps Officer, Panania Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Major Sandy **Hogg**, Corps Officer, Panania Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Major Bruce **Harmer**, Manager, William Booth House, Social Program Department, Program Administration; Major Carolyn **Harmer**, Manager, William Booth House, Social Program Department, Program Administration.

Effective 1 July: Major Alison **Cowling**, Assistant Director for Internal Audit, Maritime Division, Canada and Bermuda Territory; Major Donna **Evans**, Head of Training and Education, The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory.

Time to pray ▼

1-7 May

Mid NSW North Coast Hub: Taree Corps; North/North West NSW Area: North East Inland Hub: Armidale Corps, all NSW.

8-14 May

North East Inland Hub: Gunnedah Corps, Moree Corps, Narrabri Corps, Tamworth Corps; NSW Northern Tablelands Hub: Barraba Corps, Bingara Corps, Glen Innes Corps, Inverell Corps, Tenterfield Corps, all NSW.

15-21 May

Hunter and Central Coast Area, Newcastle/Port Stephens/Upper Shire Hub: Cessnock Corps, Maitland City Corps, Newcastle Worship and Community Centre, Port Stephens Corps, all NSW.

22-28 May

Newcastle/Port Stephens/Upper Shire Hub: Raymond Terrace Corps, Singleton Corps, Oasis Youth Network Hunter; NSW Central Coast Hub: Dooralong Transformation Centre, Gosford Corps, Long Jetty Corps, all NSW.

29 May – 4 June

NSW Central Coast Hub: Oasis Youth Network Wyong, Tuggerah Lakes Corps, Umina Beach Corps; Lake Macquarie Hub: Bonnells Bay Corps, Cardiff Corps, Eastlakes Corps, Northlakes Corps, Sal's by the Lake, all NSW.

5-11 June

Lake Macquarie Hub: Westlakes Corps; Captain Meaghan Gallagher, Central West NSW Area; NSW Country Hub: Bathurst Corps, Broken Hill Corps and Broken Hill Social Programs (Algate House and Catherine Haven), all NSW.

Engagement Calendar ▼

Commissioners James (Territorial Commander) and Jan Condon

Sydney: Sun 1 May – Youth Councils

Sydney: Mon 2 May – National Steering Committee

*Dooralong: Mon 2 May – REACH Homechurch

Dooralong: Wed 4 May – Chapel, Dooralong Transformation Centre

*Castle Hill: Fri 6 May – Red Shield Appeal launch, Western Sydney

*Sydney: Thu 12 May – Territorial Advisory Board meeting

Sydney: Sat 14 May – Retirement salute, Sydney Congress Hall

*Sydney: Mon 16 May – Red Shield Appeal Multicultural launch
#Parramatta: Mon 16 May – Australian Church Women dedication service

#Bexley North: Tues 17 May – Salvos Women Seminar, School For Officer Training

Chatswood: Sun 22 May – Holiness meeting, Chatswood Corps

Sydney: Sat 28-Sun 29 May – Red Shield Appeal

* Commissioner James Condon only

Commissioner Jan Condon only

Colonel Mark Campbell (Chief Secretary)

Gold Coast: Wed 4 May – Red Shield Appeal Launch, Crowne Plaza

Canberra: Fri 6 May – Red Shield Appeal Launch, National Press Club

Sydney: Sat 14 May – Retirement Service for Commissioners James and Jan Condon at Sydney Congress Hall

Sydney: Sun 15 May – Opening of new Ryde complex

Sydney: Sun 22 May – Seniors meeting at Sydney Congress Hall

Sydney: Sat 28-Sun 29 May – Red Shield Doorknock

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

Prayer cuts through visa red tape

WORDS LISA DRAPER



Thank God for giving me and my husband this opportunity to testify of his love and grace. I married Dennis here in Australia more than a year ago. Because of my visa status, I had to return to China to lodge my application for a spouse visa. I knew returning to China and waiting for the (government) department's decision could be risky and lengthy. There would be no guarantee that I could return to my husband's side in Australia, or no guarantee how long the process could take. I knew many people here were praying for us.

It was around 10.30pm (Beijing time) on 31 January 2015 that I got a call from Emma in Australia. She asked me whether I'd like to receive a big New Year present from God. She told me the application for my spouse

visa was granted. That meant I could come back to Australia and live with my husband forever. Praise the Lord!

Tears ran down my face – tears of excitement, tears of happiness, tears of gratitude. Thousands of words came down to one sentence: Thank you God. I kept saying, "Thank you God. Thank you God". The whole process took only five months and three days – it normally would take at least one year, or more. To most people this was so unbelievable, so unreal, so impossible. But that is God. He is mighty. He can do anything beyond our imagination. It was his miracle, his love and grace.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us – for your love and care, most importantly, your prayers. It is our Saviour who listens to our prayer and promises us in Mark 10:27: "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'"

Before I went back to China, Dennis wrote lovely words to me, which not only became the testimony of our love but also the testimony of our faith in God. Here is what he said: "Our destiny is coming to a climax. We have one more mountain to climb. When we reach the summit we will look down at the life you and I were destined for.

God has given us a task to complete to test our true love for each other. We will reach that summit and the Lord will bless us. Love you, and I will protect you through all obstacles. May God have loving mercy on us as we continue our journey towards our dream!"

Being away from my husband was tough. However, at the same time, I had great opportunity to spend time with my sick mother. I never knew how sick my mother was until I went back home. She was lying on her bed 24/7, relying on other people's service in feeding, showering, toileting, etc. God gave me a wonderful opportunity to look after my mother, spending time with her, talking to her, even though she couldn't respond to me every time. Sending me back home was part of God's great plan.

My experience in those five months and three days testifies that our Lord is mighty. Our Lord is loving and our Lord can do anything beyond our imagination. I'd like to encourage all of you to put your trust in our Lord. No matter what is happening in your life, he is there with you. No matter what kind of challenge you are facing, there are always blessings and plans God has in store for you. Just believe. Anything is possible. ¶

**Lisa and Dennis Draper attend
Campsie Corps in Sydney**

SHE

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