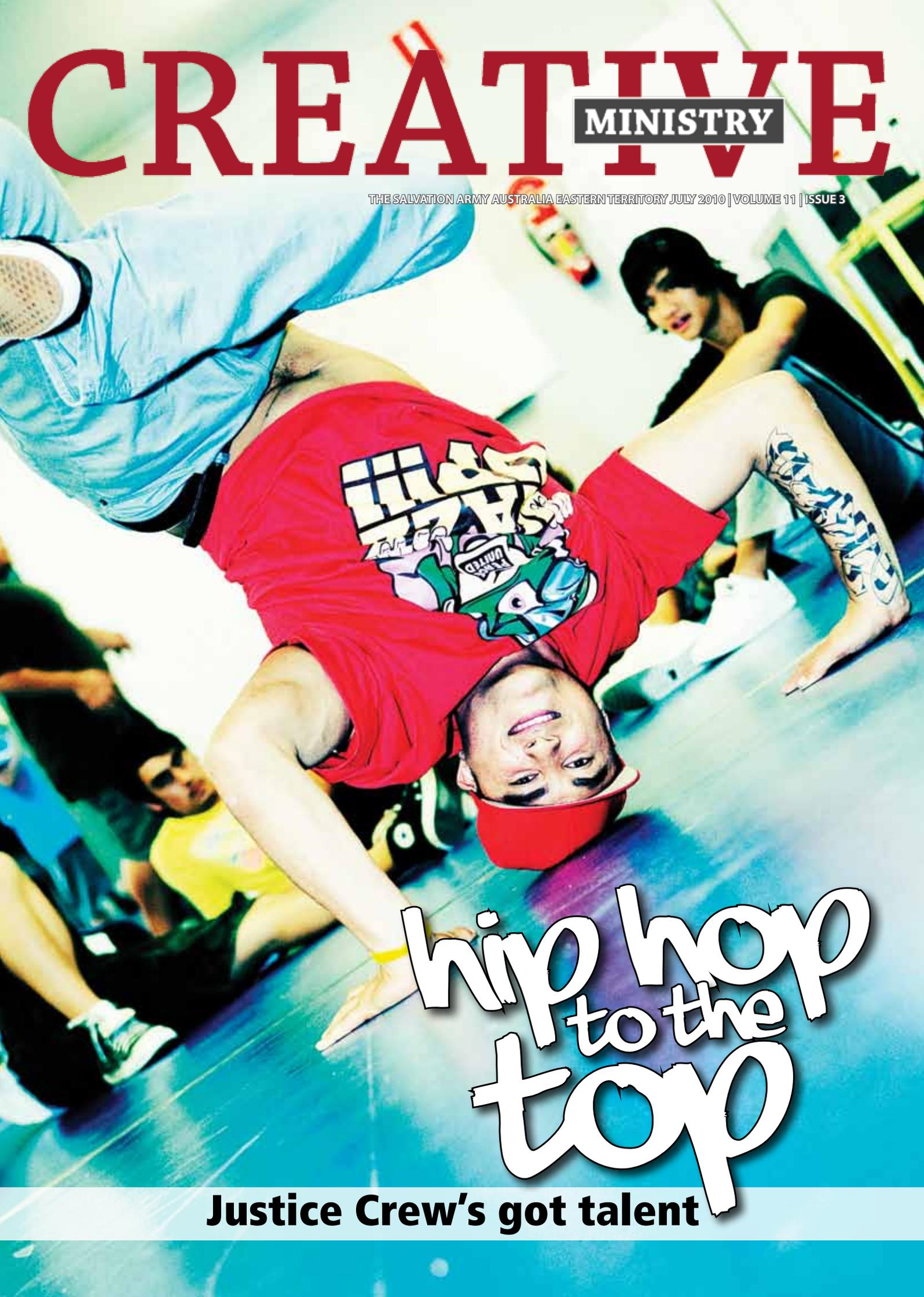


CREATIVE

MINISTRY

THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY JULY 2010 | VOLUME 11 | ISSUE 3



hip hop
to the
top

Justice Crew's got talent

Hot off the Press



Graeme Press
Territorial Music and
Creative Arts Coordinator

Putting in the hard yards

He walked away, turned and then said, “goodbye, take it easy!” Take it easy – I hadn’t heard that phrase for years. Reflecting on this I thought, I’m not sure that taking it easy ever really does work. Don’t think it ever really has, or is ever likely to.

Some things are important enough to give of our best ...all the time.

Geoff Bullock, one of Australia’s leading worship songwriters, and I were discussing his journey as a songwriter. After facing some challenging times, Geoff felt the need to return to some of his old songs and rework them to reflect his new understanding of worship. Many of these songs were well and truly established within the Christian church and were part of our corporate worship experience.

It has been interesting to hear how many people have struggled with these new words, preferring the well-known text over the subtle changes of focus with the reworked songs.

It’s hard to change things we have been doing for a long time. I heard their arguments: “we have always sung it that way”, “too hard to change now” and “everybody knows the old way”. We often hear similar phrases such as “everybody’s doing it” and “everyone loves it the way it is”.

Christian actor Chuck Neighbors has been involved in drama ministry for 34 years. That’s a significant commitment of time.

Over the years, he has experienced many changes to the way the church uses drama. Over coffee I discussed this with him and we talked about how we tend to find and seek the easier way today. The process of script writing (and

rewriting), finding motivated people to act and often long rehearsals seems too hard when the easy alternative is to throw a DVD on the screen and arguably present a more “polished” performance.

We debated how the end product becomes more important than the process and yet we lose so much by not engaging in these processes. The individual and group development, unity of purpose, understanding of the spirit of the work – there is so much to be gained by being “in the process”.

This has its implication for many art forms and genres. The easy way may even appear safer, more secure and foolproof, but it is not always the best way.

It’s interesting that the easy way to approach our congregations today is to expect everyone to look, act and feel the same. Yet we understand that our creator God made each of us individual. We look for safety, security and we want to “take it easy” when the rewards are there for those who are making every effort and running the race to win.

Paul speaks on this when he says in 1 Corinthians 9:24: “You’ve all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You’re after one that’s gold eternally.” (*The Message*)

Paul is speaking about life and the need to make every effort to run the race well so as to achieve the prize that will last forever, in Christ Jesus. Doesn’t sound like the “take it easy”, Aussie laid-back approach is the way to go here.

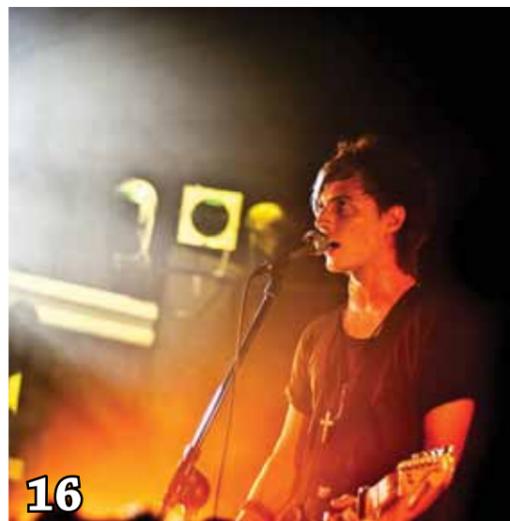
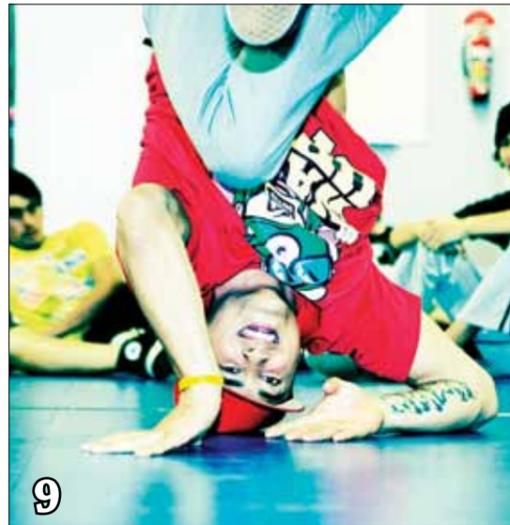
Read this issue of *Creative Ministry* observing those who have achieved in their work for the Kingdom and be inspired by the effort and hard yards put in.

It includes stories on the aforementioned artists, Geoff Bullock and Chuck Neighbors. Goodbye, and don’t take it easy. Rather, make every effort!

6 Feature story

WORSHIP IN A NEW LIGHT

A spiritual transformation has forced singer/songwriter Geoff Bullock to redefine the meaning of worship.



Features

9 CREW’S IN THE NEWS

Sydney-based hip-hop dance group Justice Crew hit the headlines recently by winning Channel 7’s top-rating show Australia’s Got Talent, but it is their work with under-privileged kids at Salvation Army venues that gives them most respect.

10 STILL BLOWING STRONG

Age is no barrier when it comes to the energy and enthusiasm of The Salvation Army’s Brisbane-based Divisional Fellowship band

16 RISING UP

Four young guys from Sydney’s south are taking their brand of Christian music to a new generation

Regulars

2 HOT OFF THE PRESS

4 THE BIG PICTURE

18 THE CUTTING EDGE



CREATIVE MINISTRY The Salvation Army WILLIAM BOOTH Founder
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 101 Queen Victoria Street London EC4P 4EP SHAW CLIFTON General
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY 140 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000 LINDA BOND Commissioner, Territorial Commander
PETER SUTCLIFFE Captain, Communications Director
EDITOR Scott Simpson GRAPHIC DESIGN James Gardner, Kem Pobjie and Dean Simpson COVER PHOTO Shairon Paterson
CREATIVE MINISTRY is a publication of the Communications Department
EDITORIAL AND CORRESPONDENCE PO Box A435 Sydney South NSW 1235
PHONE (02) 9266 9639 EMAIL eastern.editorial@aue.salvationarmy.org
Published for The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory by Commissioner Linda Bond
Printed by SOS Print + Media Group, 65 Burrows Road, Alexandria NSW 2015, Australia
All materials are copyright of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory and cannot be reproduced without permission

www.salvos.org.au



Love thy Neighbors

American actor Chuck Neighbors recently performed several one-man plays at the Sydney Staff Songsters' "Rising like the Dawn" concert featuring Geoff Bullock, held at Sydney Congress Hall on 1 May.

Chuck (pictured) demonstrated his 35 years of experience in drama – the last 26 with his own Master's Image Productions – by expertly performing – sometimes humorously – four skits from his presentation, Encounters. Each monologue told the story of a fictional character from biblical times.

Over the course of the evening, interspersed between performances by the Sydney Staff Songsters and Geoff Bullock, Chuck portrayed the innkeeper from the inn where Jesus was born; a blind man who lacked the faith to go with his friend to hear Jesus speak and experience healing; the disciple Thomas' twin brother, Didymus (pictured right), recounting the experience of the twin who was not a chosen disciple; and a slave in the time of the Roman emperor Nero who was imprisoned for his faith and given one last chance to deny Christ and live.

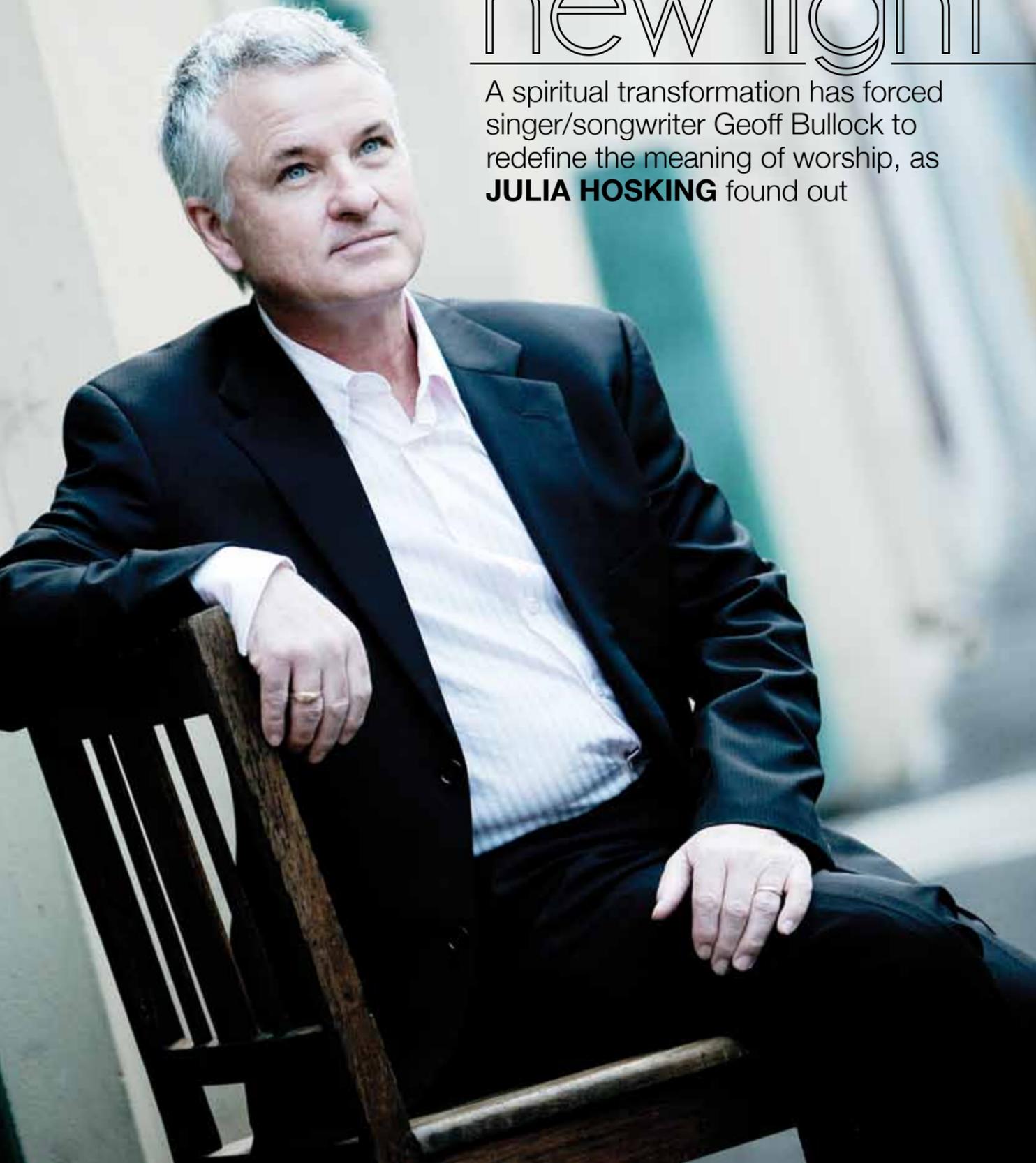
From Salem, Oregon, Chuck's time in Sydney also involved performances at The Salvation Army's William Booth House Recovery Services Centre, and at the Hurstville and Parramatta corps'.

To find out more about Chuck Neighbors and Master's Image Productions, or to purchase scripts, go to: mastersimage.com

Photo: Shairon Paterson

Worship in a new light

A spiritual transformation has forced singer/songwriter Geoff Bullock to redefine the meaning of worship, as **JULIA HOSKING** found out



Geoff Bullock performs his new and re-written songs on stage at a concert with the Sydney Staff Songsters at Congress Hall in May.

Geoff Bullock is passionate about worship. Although when he says “worship”, he does not refer solely to music, which is surprising for the renowned Christian songwriter.

“Worship does not equal music,” the singer/songwriter boldly asserts.

“If we use the word love, we wouldn’t think of our favourite love ballad ... you think of how you respond to the person you love and how that changes your life. Worship is the same. Worship is our response to grace, and in responding to grace, we start the journey of becoming more gracious; in responding to love, we start the journey of becoming loving; in responding to forgiveness, we journey into being forgiving, and merciful and accepting. I long for the time when we use the word worship and the church thinks of a whole lot of things.”

For the past 20 years, Bullock – who is based in the Hills District of Sydney – has been writing songs for the Christian church, all the while increasing his understanding of worship.

“We must grab worship, and shake the music off it, and get it back to a *response* to being forgiven and free. I’m not trying to stop people from singing, I’m just saying, come on, it is music plus. Worship is music plus.”

It has been a long journey – involving two “spiritual lives” (at Hillsong and after

Hillsong) – for Bullock to reach this level of understanding. Additionally, the two lives and the songs written in each, reflect Bullock’s growing knowledge of God’s mercy and grace.

The songs, written while at Hillsong, were all marked by “striving” and asking God for things, whereas Bullock’s second spiritual life conveys a different message.

“All my songs and my whole spiritual journey since [Hillsong] is all about what God has done for me, rather than what I would like to do for God,” he says.

As a result, Bullock has rewritten some of his original music. He explains, referring to his song *Just Let Me Say*, “Just let me say how much I love you’ – I’m saying to God, I love you, I really do love you, take notice of me. Telling God you love him is the obvious thing to say. It’s the same of every faith. It’s the same of every person in trouble; they want to say God, I love you.

“The miracle of the Gospel is the love that God shows for us. It’s not just a nice cuddly love, it’s a dramatic love. And so I’ve changed that around to ‘just let me say how much you love me’.”

This change in direction, emphasis and focus is reflected in Bullock’s new songs. For example, *Rising Like The Dawn, Until We See The Cross* and other ones he has re-written such as *The Power Of Your Love* and *Great Southland*. These songs are included on his >>>

American actor Chuck Neighbors playing a role as the inn-keeper in Bethlehem during his performance at the Congress Hall concert. Photos: Shairon Paterson



self-titled album, released in 2008. It is the first album that he sings on, and therefore the first that truly represents Bullock's soul for the music.

Complete brokenness

In 2004, Bullock was formally diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and thought he would never again play his music for audiences. A small concert four years later in Newcastle showed him that God had other plans.

"I was asked to do a concert in February 2008 and I thought no-one's going to notice, it's just Newcastle, no-one's going to care," Bullock laughs.

"I'll just slide up there and slide on stage and say hello to my songs again. And that was February; July I was singing to a quarter of a million people [at World Youth Day]."

The year after leaving Hillsong in 1995 (which was due to God's prompting), Bullock's marriage fell apart. He was at a point of complete brokenness, but during that time he learnt the most about God's grace, and was eventually able to rid himself of constant guilt. The guilt he used to carry was that he was never good enough, but he realised he can never be "good enough" for God. Instead, he just needs to be himself.

"[Many Christians] feel guilty because they're not praying enough, they feel guilty because they're not committed enough, they're not giving enough money, they have flaws in their nature, and flaws in their character and they feel guilty," he says reflectively, as a man with experience.

"Now if I wanted to feel guilty, I might as well give up. And so all I have is grace, and grace is all I need."

Separate identities

The Salvation Army was privileged to hear Bullock's new songs, his rewritten songs, and the stories behind them all on Saturday, 1 May at Sydney Congress Hall.

The night titled "Rising like the Dawn" also featured the Sydney Staff Songsters and American actor Chuck Neighbors (see Big Picture on page 4). Throughout the evening, between segments of Neighbors acting and Bullock singing and playing piano, the songsters performed several of Bullock's songs, sometimes with the congregation singing along. This, Bullock shares, is always an incredibly strange experience for him.

"It's really weird sitting there and watching Graeme [Press] conduct, and seeing [the Sydney Staff Songsters] singing my songs ... it's a surreal alter-ego experience, it is odd."

To help him cope with the bizarre experiences, the harrowing stories people share about his songs, and the unexpected momentum his music had and still has, 55-year-old Bullock, in his second spiritual life, has learnt how to separate his identity from his songs.

"They're two different things," the father



The Sydney Staff Songsters perform one of Geoff Bullock's well-known songs during the *Rising Like The Dawn* concert which featured an evening of music, drama and song at Sydney Congress Hall in May.



Chuck Neighbors brought all of his 35 years of professional theatre experience to the stage to compliment an evening of music with inspiring pieces of drama.

Photos: Shairon Paterson

of seven says. "I put on Geoff Bullock, then I get back in the car and take him off again. [At home] I'm just Geoff. I love the news, I'm a family man, I try and write more music, work, easy. I'm a very average, average person."

Bullock admires the standard of compassion The Salvation Army has that challenges the world to believe in Christ.

"If ever there's a movement that has the right to *speak* against injustice as an act of worship, and to *sing* against injustice as an act of worship, it'd be The Salvation Army."

And so, for now, and for the future, Geoff Bullock will be advocating for the true meaning of worship – just as love is a life-changing commitment, worshipping God

should be a life-changing act.

"I don't want to be on a crusade, but I must admit, I'm hoping that the things that I am really starting to feel about worship, and the way it is impacting church growth, that I would be given the right to speak, and have the opportunity to challenge people to look again," he says. "We all love to sing, it's all inspiring, but don't miss the real deal in it all."

For more information on Geoff Bullock, and to read his personal reflections on worship, go to www.geoffbullock.com. The album *Geoff Bullock* is available at Koorong and Word book stores.

justice for all



The Salvation Army has played a role in the development of a dance crew who have a heart for outreach, as **JULIA HOSKING** discovered

Justice Crew, the nine talented hip-hop dancers who recently won Channel 7's *Australia's Got Talent*, are musical performers making a difference – with a little help from The Salvation Army.

The self-taught dancers – who used to rehearse in front of a glass window at the Sydney Entertainment Centre because they could not afford to hire a studio – won \$250,000 when they received the most votes from the public out of seven other acts.

Maurice June, the crew's mentor, heads up a non-profit organisation known as MMAD Moves (Musicians Making a Difference) which teaches dance lessons to kids, teenagers and adults in the community who cannot afford to pay for classes.

MMAD Moves was initially held in a community hall. When a new location was required, Maurice, a passionate Christian, approached The Salvation Army to connect the program with a church.

For the past 18 months, Justice Crew have joined Maurice at various Sydney Salvation Army corps, including Miranda and Hurstville. Due to their commitments with *Australia's Got Talent*, they temporarily withdrew from their weekly teaching.



Photos: Shairon Paterson

Despite that, the crew members share a desire to reach out to people who come from low socio-economic backgrounds or broken homes – situations akin to their personal experiences.

The crew and Maurice reach out to young people by not only teaching them how to dance at the free classes, but by also encouraging them to set goals and strive for their dreams.

One of the crew members, Solo Tohi,

echoed this sentiment with a comment after winning *Australia's Got Talent*: "As long as it's positive and your dream is strong, anyone can do anything."

At The Salvation Army corps where MMAD Moves takes place, the classes have been helpful in building relationships and connecting the church to the community.



Still blowing STRONG

Age is no barrier when it comes to the energy and enthusiasm of The Salvation Army's Divisional Fellowship Band, Brisbane. This vibrant group of seniors spoke to **SIMONE WORTHING** about their unique and growing ministry

The Divisional Fellowship Band, Brisbane, is no ordinary band. Comprised of both Salvationists and members of other Christian denominations, all retired or of retirement age, this dedicated band ministers to corps and local communities with entertaining and inspiring music, as well as providing support, companionship and spiritual fellowship to each other.

"God has opened new avenues of service and ministry with this band," says Ian Exton, founding member and band secretary.

"We have also seen the faithfulness of God meeting the band's needs, confirming the calling that God gives us as a part of his Church and The Salvation Army."

Major Jean Buckmaster originally conceived the idea of a band for retired Salvationist men and women in 2001, during her appointment as South Queensland Divisional Seniors Secretary.

The band launched into its first rehearsal on 30 May 2002, with only 12 Salvationist bandsmen. Maurice Bull took up the position of bandmaster, and served until 2007. Today, the band is made up of almost 60 members from across the Christian community in Queensland's south-east corner, including 13 ladies in the timbrel brigade.

Ray Simpson is the current bandmaster, a role he greatly enjoys and believes is an opportunity God has given him.

"I am passionate about music," he says. "My goal is for the band to be progressing in its ability to perform all styles of music, and to play it for the glory of God."

Ray and his team have worked hard setting up the infrastructure of the band, including new instruments, uniforms, a logo, uploads to the popular internet site youtube.com and an upcoming website.

"We have also established an expanded executive to serve, not only the present

Fred remains a brass act

Fred Milkins, one of the early members of The Salvation Army's Divisional Fellowship Band, Brisbane, has been playing a brass instrument for more than 70 years.

Fred (right) began learning to play as a child at the Wonthaggi Corps in Victoria and eventually joined the senior band there. He then played for many years in the Yallourn Corps Band, also in Victoria, and has also been an active member of bands in Bunbury and Kalgoorlie, both in Western Australia, and south-east Queensland.

"At the age of 76, I still get immense enjoyment from playing and am thrilled to be a part of the Fellowship Band along with Salvationists and other Christians," Fred says.

Fred particularly enjoys the band's engagements in Brisbane City Council parks.

"They give us the opportunity of putting out a message and challenge to the general public through music and song, and this is our ministry," he says. "It's also important to show, by example, just how happy and fulfilled a Christian doing God's will can be."



members, but those in the band for many years to come. This includes our executive officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Wilson, who will serve as a link with divisional headquarters," he says.

Band member Ross Johnstone believes the new infrastructure is opening doors for the band.

"I can see God leading us into new areas of service as our reputation and availability becomes better known," he says.

Lieut-Colonel Wilson agrees. "The band wants to be a resource to The Salvation Army as well as to other churches and community groups. A plan has been made for the band to move into new ministry opportunities."

Outreach ministry

From its beginning, the band has been committed to presenting entertaining and inspirational music to its listeners.

Its ministry is varied and includes

performances at nursing homes, retirement villages, special Salvation Army occasions, corps with little musical support, Brisbane City Council park engagements, and ecumenical church and carol services. The band also performs for seniors' groups throughout south-east Queensland.

"We endeavour to make our programs attractive to the widest audience possible by including secular and sacred music," Ian Exton explains. "Every program also contains a devotional segment and a message from our band chaplain, Major Ted Harmer. Our mission is to present the Gospel in music and word."

Last year, the band travelled to Rockhampton where it presented an open-air concert, two programs at the Capricorn Region Corps and an afternoon program in the local botanic garden.

"This was a wonderful time of outreach and fellowship," says Ian.

"The open-air concert at nearby Yeppoon attracted a large crowd and enabled the [local Salvation Army] officers to make a number of new contacts with people who were interested in the opening of the Army work in their community."

In 2005, under the direction of Annette Hooper, a group of timbrellists began to support the band's programs. Most of the ladies in the brigade are wives of the bandsmen.

"These ladies are in their early 70s and had not played a timbrel for over 40 years," says Annette. "With much hard work and dedication to what they believe God is allowing them to do, they have overcome this problem and are a source of blessing wherever they play."

After the timbrellists played in Rockhampton, the corps officer challenged the older ladies of Capricorn Region to form their own group and take part in outreach, >>>



The trombone row of the band, which is committed to presenting entertaining and inspiration music to listeners. Deputy Bandmaster Daryl O'Donoghue (right) takes the baton.

which they have since done. "We had committed that weekend to God and felt humbled to be used in this way," Annette says.

Last year, the band added a male voice presentation to its program, under the baton of Deputy Bandmaster Daryl O'Donoghue.

"This is another way of spreading the Gospel and adding variety to our program," says founding band member, Fred Milkins.

As its name suggests, fellowship and prayer support are vital components of the band.

"This means we are open to non-

Salvationists becoming members," says bandmaster Ray. "And, being mainly seniors, we appreciate the prayer support needed in times of sickness and in health."

Band member Nev Ball agrees. "I enjoy the excellent companionship and mixing with Christian musicians of common interests."

And what of the band's future?

"I believe God will greatly use the band in the present and coming years as it ministers to the elderly and others in the community, and through the fellowship it provides to each member," says Ray.



ISB TO MARK 120 YEARS WITH ALBERT HALL EVENT

London's Royal Albert Hall has been the venue for many great Salvation Army occasions and next year it will host ISB120 marking 120 years of the International Staff Band (ISB). Major **CHRISTINE CLEMENT** talks to project director, Malcolm Quinn, about the event.



CC: Malcolm, when does ISB 120 take place?

MQ: The celebration weekend is 3 to 5 June 2011 but three bands will be touring the United Kingdom before those dates (the schedules are to be confirmed) and others will tour Europe beforehand.

CC: Which bands are your guests this year?

MQ: Joining the ISB will be the Army seven other territorial staff bands from Amsterdam, Canada, Chicago, Germany, Japan, Melbourne and New York.

CC: That's a lot of organisation. Why are you making such a big event of the ISB's 120 anniversary?

MQ: The inspiration and concept of the Celebration came over two years ago from Territorial Music Director Dr. Stephen Cobb. It is a significant milestone and there will probably be a number of events coming to London in the next few years – Salvation Army and national events such as the 2012 Olympics. To celebrate in 2011 seemed the optimum time.

CC: What is the aim of the weekend?

MQ: Stephen has a very clear vision which we all share and are working very hard to 'make it happen'. The aim is to showcase

all that is good and best in Salvation Army brass banding. There will be entertainment, evangelism, fellowship and we also want to ensure that there is a lasting legacy from what we strive to do.

CC. So, what's happening?

MQ: We are hoping that the bands that arrive ahead of 3 June will each have a tour which eventually converges on London for a day of music-making. All eight Bands will contribute to an absolute feast of music, each band having the opportunity throughout the day to perform individually in the Royal Albert Hall for which concertgoers will be able to have an all day ticket. Saturday will culminate in a spectacular concert that evening with all eight bands participating. Massed items and new music specially commissioned for this landmark event.

CC: You said entertainment, evangelism and fellowship. You've only mentioned entertainment.

MQ: Yes, while prevalent throughout the whole of the weekend, our focus on fellowship, and in particular evangelism, is specifically planned for Sunday. The bands will form up on Horse Guards Parade to march up the Mall to Buckingham Palace where they will play in the forecourt. We believe this will attract the crowds that will be in London that time of year. As the bands move up the Mall we will be ready to engage with the crowd.

CC: Can we afford this type of event?

MQ: Yes! We can and I believe it would be inappropriate stewardship of our resources if we did not cover and costs and more. This event is being arranged in such a way that there will be no negative financial implications on the UK Territory. In fact we anticipate that it will ultimately make a financial contribution, locally and nationally as well as internationally, to Salvation Army mission projects. More than 100 corps have already expressed interest in hosting a band and even before the tickets are printed more than 2000 people have inquired about availability.

CC: Finally, how will an event in London help The Salvation Army in Australia?

MQ: The involvement of the Melbourne Staff Band, as with the other bands from their respective territories, recognises the continuing evangelical service of banding in The Salvation Army and in their territory. We are looking at the possibility of streaming the event via the internet so people who cannot travel to London can be involved. International news coverage will also, we believe, stimulate further interest. We hope Salvationists in Australia will be uplifted as they see their band marching down The Mall, representing their evangelical efforts throughout that Territory

Go to <http://www.isb120.com> for further details and information.



Photo: Shairon Paterson

Timbrel brigade adds colour to ministry

Since 2005, the Divisional Fellowship Band, Brisbane, has been joined on its many and varied engagements by a timbrel brigade.

This vibrant brigade, made up of ladies who are mostly in their early 70s, present their own items to the band's accompaniment.

"Our ministry is to be a blessing to all those we play to," says Annette Hooper, timbrel brigade leader and member of the Band Executive Committee.

"Before an engagement we always make it a matter of prayer that people's hearts will be opened to the message of the band, the timbrels and individual items."

In preparation for a program, Annette or Bandmaster Ray Simpson select a march for

the timbrellists. Annette then listens to the music, works out suitable beats and then teaches them to the group.

"Once the beats are decided upon, we make up a DVD for each member to use for practice," says Annette.

"The ladies work hard and are dedicated to what God is allowing them to do."

Fellowship and support within the band are important to the timbrel brigade.

"Many of these people I have known most of my life and grown up with and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to work closely with them," says Annette.

"It's also great for us to meet with and enjoy the company of bandsmen who did not grow up in the Army."

A passion expressed in song

By JULIA HOSKING

From a young age, Thelma Stace has loved both God and music. The Lord is her passion, her life, and her reason for persevering. As for music, it is a way of life for her; a path she can take to connect with people in different ways.

Thelma has found a way to unite both of her passions – singing enables her to connect with Jesus and she does this through her debut album, *Autumn Leaves*.

"The voice is the instrument you carry with you wherever you go. I enjoy the freedom of song," says the 16-year-old. "All songs tell a story ... In song, I can sing about my past, present and future, my hopes, dreams and experiences. That's how I express myself."

And express herself she does. Thelma independently wrote words and music for nine of the 10 songs on the album.

Endless Hope is the last song on the album and was written with the help of Thelma's close friend, Caitlyn Bourke. It is about giving your all to Jesus and understanding that although life is hard, with God everything will be okay.

All the songs on the album – which are a mixture of up-beat tracks and slower ballads – were written at various moments in Thelma's life, and she credits all of them to God's inspiration. Some of the songs are about forgiveness and repentance, others about love, and some about a need for God.

Thelma sings all tracks on *Autumn Leaves*, played guitar for most and piano

on just the title track. Other musicians who feature are Meagan Skinner (vocals/guitar), Thomas Cox (drums), Brenda Stace (piano) and Joel Cox (bass guitar).

Thelma expresses a lot of gratitude to James Cox, a friend of hers who recorded and mixed the album through his company, Infinight. Thelma and James are both children of Salvation Army officers (Majors Kelvin and Brenda Stace; and Majors Garry and Susanne Cox), and their friendship began through regular interactions at Salvation Army divisional (The Greater West) and territorial events.

James wanted to gain experience as a musical engineer, and having known Thelma for many years, he "was very pleased to be able to approach her in

asking to record her music".

When asked what her hopes are for the album, Thelma is humble.

"I hope and pray that whatever happens is what God wants. I don't really have a hope for it and no expectations, just a trust that God will do with it as he wants," she says. "The CD was an opportunity for me to let people in on what God means to me. It was a gift from God so he can bless people through me. I am just his vessel."

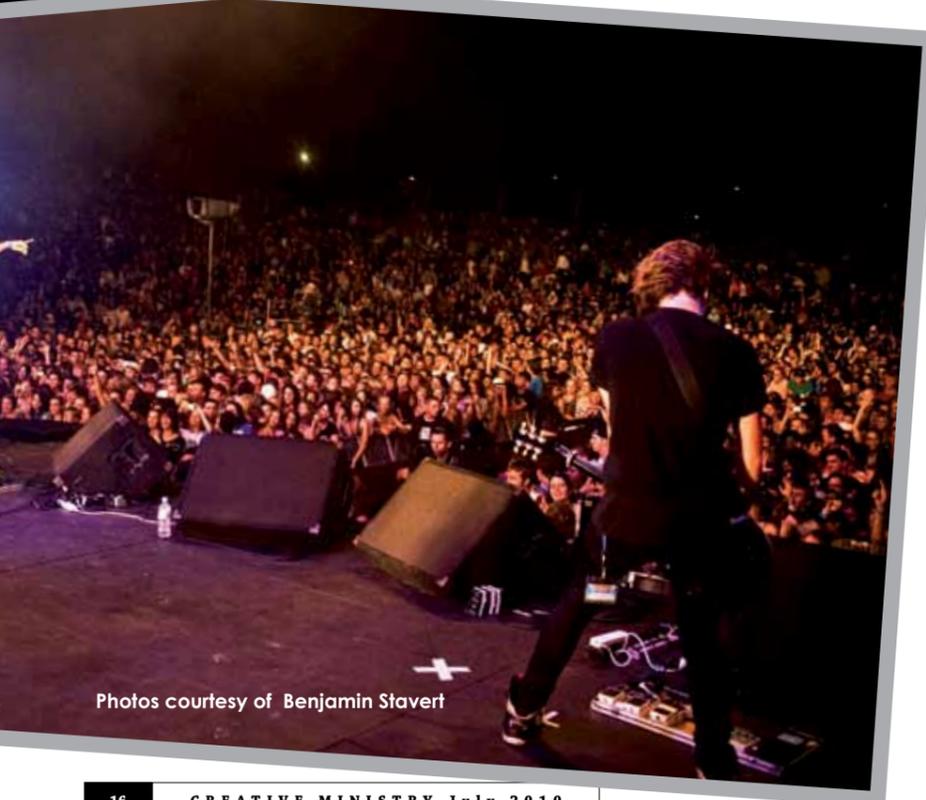
Autumn Leaves is available from The Salvation Army's Greater West Divisional Headquarters, by writing to Thelma at PO Box 312, Broken Hill, NSW 2880 or by email: thelma.stace@hotmail.com



The rise of a new empire



Four young guys from Sydney's south are taking their brand of Christian music to a new generation. **JULIA HOSKING** reports



Photos courtesy of Benjamin Stavert



Building an empire for the Lord through music – (from left) Pete Gillies, Jeremy Fowler, Sam Walker and Kale

New Empire is not your average pop/rock band of 20-something guys. They may wear the latest fashion, have teenage girls going gaga over them and be heard on mainstream radio, but these boys play the kind of music you'd be happy to hear blasted out of your teenager's bedroom stereo.

New Empire is Jeremy Fowler (vocals/guitarist), Pete Gillies (guitar), Kale Kneale (drums) and Sam Walker (bass). They are all Christians from the same church in Caringbah, in Sydney's south, and see their everyday jamming, rehearsing and performing as an opportunity to share God's light.

"God calls us to do ministry throughout our whole life, in everything we do. For us, individually and as a band, this is our ministry," says Pete.

"But that being said, we're not a worship band, we're not specifically a Christian band ... we're basically a bunch of dudes that like to write music and perform it."

New Empire's primary songwriter, Jeremy, says he is always open to God when he composes. He wants God to influence the song content so that it will, in turn, influence others.

"Through the content of our music, God totally changes people," Pete explains.

"We sing songs about hope, about looking to the future, about healing, about not being the victim of abuse, stuff that's meaningful. [We hear] reports about people thinking

about giving up life and giving up hope, and then for some reason, through our music and what God does through what we do, they get a second wind for life.

"We're just super stoked to be part of a life-giving thing and a life-changing thing, and that's what we're all about. It's not about us, and we've always kind of been on that mindset where if it ever becomes about us we're losing perspective. Our whole thing is about people and if it ever shifts from that then we've got serious problems."

Mind on things above

It would be quite easy for the band's focus to shift from God to the worldly temptations of fame, fortune, screaming fans, requests for performances, commercial contracts and fashionable clothes. But, Pete says, the band simply views its music – and all that comes with it – as just a job.

"If you want to be in the rock/pop market then you have to care about the way you look. And as long as you stay in the right frame of mind, as long as you don't get lost in the material world of clothing and all that stuff, then it's really just a type of a job, so to speak."

In order to maintain this right mindset, Pete says that the band strives to "pray without ceasing".

"The Bible speaks specifically about praying without ceasing, and I know that's not sit on your knees at the foot of your bed 24 hours a day. I know it's where your spirit needs to be

active with God the whole day and that is the most important thing."

In 2008, New Empire had their song *Hero*, from their debut album *Come With Me Tonight*, chosen as an anthem for the Australian Navy.

Hero clearly demonstrates the uplifting, positive and godly music that is New Empire. This particular song speaks about being a hero by making an impact in your community.

"Within the church ... it's important that we stay in touch with God so we can hear what he wants us to do," says Pete. "It's important that we understand what spiritual gifts we have, because if we're not standing up and taking responsibility for the [gifts] that we've been given then nothing will get done."

"[I want] to live a life so that I get to the pearly gates and [God] says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, thanks for standing up and being a hero in your community, thanks for doing what I asked you to do.'"

Kale, Sam and Jeremy echo these sentiments. Jeremy says it's what keeps the band cohesive.

"[Being Christians] has definitely been our strongest connection point together as a band and really always will be," he says.

"Knowing that we're all family in God brings us so much closer together as a band."

"Through every aspect of our music and what we do and how we relate to people, we are looking to encourage and build people up. I find that there is so much negativity in our world today, especially in the music industry.

It's amazing what a small encouragement or even a smile can do for someone."

Appealing to all markets

It was while driving back to Sydney after a gig in Melbourne mid-last year that the four band members decided to quit their jobs and pursue New Empire full-time.

Since then they have toured the country with Youth Alive, performed at Big Exo Day, Easterfest and Blackstump in Australia and Parachute Festival in New Zealand – all Christian music events.

Earlier this year, New Empire travelled the country on their "The Summer Sky" tour to promote their new single of the same name. When planning this tour they deliberately selected a variety of both Christian and secular venues.

"That's not to be fence-sitters by any means, but we just prayed heaps about it and we know that God wanted us to construct the tour where we appealed to pretty much everyone," says Pete. "And for certain shows around the country we basically have people walk into a church ... it's breaking the idea that a church is boring or that a church is not the place you want to be."

***Come With Me Tonight* is available from Koorong, Word and iTunes. For more information on New Empire, see the band's Myspace page: myspace.com/newempiresound.**

Australian song scores spot on *Sing to the Lord*

Chris Brindley, from Brisbane City Temple Corps, has had his song *Shine Lord* selected to appear in *Sing to the Lord: Volume 17 Part 3*, which is due for release in September.

Sing to the Lord is the international music publication for Salvation Army songsters. Original songs are presented to a music board at International Headquarters, and only songs of a high standard are considered and selected.

Notable Australian composers who have been published in *Sing to the Lord* include Major Howard Davies, Graeme Press, Barrie Gott and Colonel Arthur Arnott.

Shine Lord tells of the pure beauty of the perfection of the Spirit of God: his strength, peace and transforming power.

"To me, to have a piece published means that it is officially accepted as useful material for worship across the Army world," Chris shared. "I remember sweating away as a songster pianist many years ago wondering how anyone could ever write something good enough to be printed in *Sing to the Lord*."

Chris has a strong background in music and composition, stemming from his involvement in Queensland Conservatorium of Music's *Young Con* program where he was introduced to excellent music theory and orchestra work.

In 1996 he toured with a national representative wind orchestra, performing in Orlando (Florida) Disney World, New Orleans (Louisiana) for the National Band Association convention (including for the President's Own U.S. Marine Band), Foley (Alabama) for the State Music Educators Convention, Raleigh (North Carolina) and Interlochen (Michigan) Centre for the Arts.

More recently, Chris has played at the World Youth Conference in Minnesota, USA, and in Japan. He also performed and recorded for the ABC with the Australian Youth Orchestra.

As a Salvationist, Chris plays in the Brisbane City Temple Band on tuba (Bb Bass) and leads the songster brigade. He has also led vocal at the Territorial Gospel Arts Camp, and Contemporary, Brass Band,



Chris Brindley leads the Brisbane City Temple songster brigade.

Theory and String Ensemble at QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts School).

Chris's musical expertise extends beyond playing the tuba and leading songsters however, and he has had many of his 17 original compositions requested, performed and even recorded by the Queensland Pops Orchestra and has had an arrangement performed in the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Also, his passion for composing has seen his arrangement of *The Prayer* for orchestra performed by Marina Prior and Silvia Paladino for several annual televised Christmas concerts, and many of his songs have been requested around the Salvation Army banding world.

This is very exciting for Chris as he sees music as a vital support for the Army's core work of saving lost souls.

Gold Coast bands combine for wave of brass

Gold Coast Temple Band and Surfers Paradise Brass Band met for an encore performance of "Surfers and Salvos" on Saturday, 5 June.

Akin to a previous successful evening, the concert at The Salvation Army's Gold Coast Temple was well-attended, as was the fellowship supper at the conclusion of the brass band concert.

Surfers Paradise Brass Band (Musical Director, Dylan Troyahn) is affiliated with the Queensland Band Association and competed in the B Grade level at the Queensland Band Championships the weekend after Surfers and Salvos.

Two bandsmen from Gold Coast Temple Band (bandmaster Simon Fagence) – Ron Southall and Anthony Simmonds – were busy playing the whole evening, as they are also members of the Surfers Paradise Brass Band. Additionally, Salvationist Rodney Southall is part of the Surfers band.

The Gold Coast Temple Band opened the evening with *Make His Praise Glorious*, and followed with a variety of songs such as *Wonderful Day*, *The Amazing Race*, a flugelhorn solo by Anthony Simmonds, *So Glad*, and a duet performed by Ron Southall and Scott Exton to Chris Brindley's (Brisbane City Temple bandmaster) arrangement of *The Prayer*.

Following interval, Surfers Paradise Brass Band took to the stage and amongst songs including *Take Five*, *Symphonic Music*, *Caravan* and *Journey into Freedom*, they played the Salvation Army hymn *Reflections in Nature* (Colonel Robert Redhead).

After a word of thanks expressed by Simon Fagence, the bands combined to conclude the event with *Vitae Lux* (Frode Alnaes, arranged by T. Aagaard-Nilsen) and *Olympic Fanfare* (John Williams, arranged by Peter Graham).

Worship resource to infuse and ignite musical passion for God



Encountering God and moving into his presence is often facilitated by music. A gift from God, it is also a powerful tool for worship, learning, teaching and growing.

Infuse and Ignite is a worship resource coordinated by the Australia Eastern Territorial Music and Creative Arts Department to help people encounter God and be motivated into acting out his will.

In early September, a worship training day and worship evening will take place as part of the launch of the new album and resource kit *Infuse and Ignite*.

Several versions of the album containing songs written by a variety of Salvationists will be created: one for youth (*Infuse*), one tailored for the main congregation (*Ignite*) and a version containing just backing tracks (specifically created to assist churches who do not have musicians).

The CD will be complemented by a resource pack containing PowerPoint files and sheet music for all the songs. Additionally, an internet site will be launched as a central place for storage of further resources such as videos, devotions and tips for worship leaders. The website will also be the place to find any new songs released by the *Infuse and Ignite* team.

The name *Infuse and Ignite* was specifically chosen to communicate

two messages. Firstly, there is the aim to *infuse* a lifestyle, constant practice and awareness of worship into the hearts, minds and souls of people. Secondly, the project is designed to *ignite* the Holy Spirit's fire, stirring people to action, and into a deeper devotion, understanding and love for God.

Some of the artists who have contributed their music for the resource albums are: Nathaniel Brown (Miranda Corps), Simon Gough (Glebe Corps), James Clanfield (Auburn Corps), Nicola Poore (Parramatta Corps), Luke Kay (Glebe Corps) and Gemima Gray (Parramatta Corps). Jared Lattouf (Glebe Corps) is responsible for engineering and recording the project, while Tim Griffin (Sydney Congress Hall Corps) is the producer.

For more information on *Infuse and Ignite*, please visit: www.salvos.org.au/infuseandignite

Tuggeranong concert raises \$6000 for Zambian hospital

By MIRIAM ANGUS

(Captains Mark and Fran Everitt, Majors Colin and Ann Lingard, Cadets Peter and Rebecca Gott)

Tuggeranong Corps members, friends and the wider Canberra community turned out in good numbers to support a fundraising concert and afternoon tea for the Salvation Army's Chikankata Hospital in Mazabuka, Zambia, on Sunday, 16 May.

The event, held at Tuggeranong citadel, was organised by corps member Peter Trick who is about to return for a second three-month period of volunteer work assisting former Tuggeranong Corps bandsman Anthony Watson in undertaking special projects associated with the hospital and rural health services. Anthony is the Administration Manager at Chikankata Mission and his wife Deryn is a doctor at the hospital. (Refer to February *Pipeline* for the report on Peter's first trip.)

The musical afternoon was chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel Ian McLean, who is the Director of Military Bands in Australia, and an accomplished musician and prominent Canberra musical director.

Local Canberra artists willingly gave of their time and talents, including baritone soloist Michael Politi (piano accompaniment by Captain Fran Everitt), The Strange Weather Gospel Choir (Sonia

Anfiloff) and the South Canberra Youth Wind Orchestra (Nathan Sciberras). They joined with the Tuggeranong Corps Songsters (Rendry Del Rosario) to entertain the audience.

Items included *Under His Wings* by the Tuggeranong Songsters, *Stars* from *Les Miserables* sung by Michael Politi and *The Chronicles of Narnia* by the South Canberra Youth Wind Orchestra. The Strange Weather Gospel Choir performed a number of African songs accompanied by the tribal rhythms of African drums.

An offering for The Salvation Army's Chikankata Mission Hospital was very well supported by the large audience (over \$6000 was raised from the offering and afternoon tea). Prior to the collection of the offering, Peter provided a graphic insight into the poverty and the prevalence of AIDS, HIV and tuberculosis in both Zambian adults and children, and he explained how even a small donation could assist these people.

The raised funds will purchase much needed medical equipment and supplies, as well as bicycles and equipment for Zambian people to enable them to be self-sufficient in the future. Peter will also visit the rural clinics where he will distribute donated clothing to people in the villages.

The enjoyable afternoon had a strong sense of community involvement evident in the wonderful support for Peter and The Salvation Army in Zambia.

Young Queenslanders get creative

Youth and young adults around Queensland are meeting on the Sunshine Coast this month for the annual Queensland Performing Arts School (QPAS).

Held from 3 to 10 July, more than 200 young people (including some from Papua New Guinea) will learn new skills and hone developed ones in areas of music and creative arts.

Campers will not only be taught how to effectively use their gifts and talents for God in the local church, but they will also develop relationships with other young people and mentors as well as personally encountering God and growing in their faith.

The youth within the division of South Queensland, under the leadership of Divisional Youth Secretaries Captains Nigel and Sandy MacDonald, have been encouraged in 2010 to go back to basics and discover or rediscover God, who they are, and what their purpose in life is.

In line with this, the theme for QPAS 2010 is "TEN"; with a focus on the Ten Commandments, and on how living a life according to God's plan is a life of freedom.

Throughout the week, youth will be involved in worship, Bible study, combined vocal, electives and night activities (including the QPAS Formal and a night at the movies).

Youth have chosen two electives, from two streams with the



choices including: brass, drama, song writing, mission, technical production, cartoons and brushstrokes, photography, dance, and practical worship studies.

A concert at Brisbane City Temple on Saturday night 10 July will conclude the week's camp.

Social justice CD set for release

The Salvation Army's CD about social justice, *Message for a Change*, will be released next month at the *I'll Fight* conference.

Almost 25 songwriters across the Australia Eastern Territory, plus a few national and international artists, responded to the plea made earlier this year to submit music, lyrics and recordings for the social justice-themed album.

A panel reviewed the submissions and selected 12 to feature on the CD. The artists are: Paul Farthing (Macquarie Fields), Claire Twivey (Eastlakes), Thelma Stace (Broken Hill), Lucas Cairns (Tweed Heads), Brad Ellis (614 Melbourne) and Chris Tidd (Canada). Aaron Hale, The Radiance Effect and Anberlin – all international artists – have also donated songs for the album.

Message for a Change will be available for purchase at *I'll Fight*, online at the conference website (salvos.org.au/illfight) and the Australia Eastern Territory justice website (salvos.org.au/justiceunit). Only 1000 hard copies of the album will be available for purchase, but all songs written by the Salvation Army artists can be downloaded from the justice website.

"The hope for this CD," shares Tim Griffin, the album producer, "will be that people become informed about the social justice issues that are being targeted by The Salvation Army. Then, through this information, more would become involved in the fight against these issues. Also, I hope that through this CD, people will be exposed to new music by local songwriters."

For more information on the individual artists, read Tim Griffin's blog: www.iamgriffin.tumblr.com



Pleasant concert at Port Macquarie

(Captains Brett and Alison Gallagher)

Port Macquarie Corps held a free Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert for the community on Sunday, 16 May.

These are held four to five times throughout the year at the corps to allow musicians the opportunity to showcase their musical talents, and for the corps to engage with members of the public.

Port Macquarie band, timbrels and songsters all participated, and soloists were heard throughout the afternoon. For this particular concert, men from Miracle Haven also attended and one of them shared his testimony.

Youth to get creative at Gospel Arts Camp

The Australia Eastern Territory will be holding its annual Gospel Arts Camp from Sunday, 26 September to Saturday, 2 October at The Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches.

Gospel Arts Camp is designed to teach young people about God, and offer them the opportunity to discover and develop the skills and abilities he has given them.

The camp will conclude with an Open Day held at Collaroy on Saturday, 2 October, from 10am to 2pm for family, friends and corps members to view campers' skills developed, work produced, and performances rehearsed.

Application forms for Gospel Arts Camp are released this month. For more information, please visit the website at: salvos.org.au/gac

Staff Songsters bring Easter alive in Canberra

By CAPTAIN DALE MURRAY

The Sydney Staff Songsters joined with all corps in the Canberra region over the Easter long weekend to share the true message of Easter with the community.

On Good Friday morning, the songsters ministered at Northside Corps. Later that day, all six Canberra region corps, along with Canberra Recovery Services, joined for an Easter Outreach Family Festival at Queanbeyan.

Major Maree Strong, Divisional Mission and Resource Director (Corps) said: "The purpose of the festival was to engage with the community and share the message of Easter."

More than 250 people attended the festival and enjoyed entertainment provided by Sydney Staff Songsters, Tuggeranong Corps Band, and the Agents of Truth. Visitors also accessed information about the ministries of The Salvation Army, social justice issues and fair trade.

Queanbeyan Corps Salvation Army Emergency Services provided a free barbeque, as well as tea, coffee and hot cross buns for everyone. Children were entertained with face painting, balloon sculpting, craft activities and the interactive concert by the Agents of Truth. The festival was a great success and finished with the ACT and South NSW Divisional Commander, Major Rodney Ainsworth, offering prayer.

On Saturday, 3 April, the songsters attended Tuggeranong Corps where a "Gaither Style" night was held around the piano and the hymns of Easter – old and new – were joyfully sung by all.

Four Easter Sunday sunrise services were conducted by The Salvation Army at locations around Canberra (Queanbeyan, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Bradon).

Captain Laura Gittins (Canberra City Oasis Corps) led the service held in Bowen Park (Bradon) on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin with the assistance of the Sydney Staff Songsters.

Later that morning, the Sydney Staff Songsters led the worship service at Canberra City Oasis Corps. To conclude their visit, the Songsters joined with members from other churches in Canberra and participated in the "Awakening March", followed by a public performance in Gareema Place, located in the centre of Canberra.

Included in the performance was an impromptu dance with a group of Samoan performers and the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus – which was accompanied by more dancing and then met with a standing ovation from the audience.

Throughout the weekend, the Sydney Staff Songsters powerfully connected with their audiences, making it a truly blessed Easter that made a great impact on the people of Canberra.



Canberra was alive with activity over the Easter period – (from top) a witness march through the city centre; the Sydney Staff Songsters in full song; volunteer workers on the job at the Easter Outreach Family Festival at Queanbeyan where there was plenty of entertainment for children including face painting and (left) the Agents Of Truth.

Seize the Day

By **GRAHAM AINSWORTH**
Bandmaster, Parramatta Citadel Band

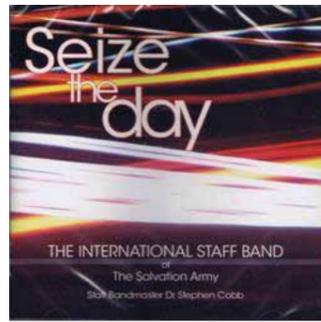
Earlier 2010 provided opportunity for the International Staff Band of The Salvation Army, under the leadership of Bandmaster Stephen Cobb, to the tour the USA Western Territory.

Tustin Ranch, Pasadena, Sacramento and Seattle were just a few of the stops on their ministry tour itinerary.

Produced to coincide with the International Staff Band's visit to the USA was the album *Seize the Day*. The band's latest recording represents their concert repertoire including compositions by both English and American composers.

From the first notes of the opening track, *South Shields Celebration* by Martin Corder, you catch a glimpse of what is in store for the listener. If you are like me, you will have a reasonable collection of International Staff Band recordings already and you will have come to expect great musicianship and the highest standards of playing. This recording is no different.

The only reason you may hesitate for a second in purchasing this CD is because it appears to be full of major/concert works. I thought that this recording may take some concentration, but I found it to be



full of great music that inspired, encouraged and blessed me.

This is brass band music of the finest order and titles like *Psalm of Praise* (Paul Sharman), *Turris Fortissima* (Stephen Ponsford) and *Purpose* (Paul Sharman) display the brilliance of the band.

In contrast, you will be moved by listening to Kenneth Downie's *The Joy of Loving Hearts*. Add to this the solo item

Canaan's Land (Peter Graham) by long-serving Principle Euphonium Derrick Kane, and Gary Fountain on Soprano Cornet, whose rendition of *The Higher Plane* (Stephen Bulla) is truly stunning.

The title track *Seize the Day* is a spectacular piece of music composed by Peter Graham with an American flavour. Included within the work are the spirituals *Gospel Train*, *Sweet Chariot* and great gospel song *Amen*. Motifs from Macarthur Park, widely used by big bands, also seem to be present before *Sweet Chariot* returns as the finale of this piece.

This is definitely another quality recording from the International Staff Band. It is perfect for both the brass band enthusiast and those looking to hear a more modern brass band sound.

Hurstville blessed by Ingle Farm band visit

By **CAROLYN HIDE**
Hurstville Corps historian

The atmosphere was one of expectation and excitement as you entered The Salvation Army Hurstville hall on 12 June.

The laughter and the chatter of those who had long been apart; the reserved greeting to those not yet known but soon to be friends was an indication that this was to be a night that would rekindle deep emotions from music almost forgotten.

It was also evident that this night with the Ingle Farm Band (Bandmaster Howard Parkinson) from South Australia was going to be one where our souls would arise and the Light of the World would be shed into that very room.

The weekend of 12 to 13 June – celebrating Hurstville Band's

90th anniversary of ministry and evangelism – was set to be God-glorifying.

We were all very thankful to be reminded by Amanda Tillett (a very talented 16-year-old trombonist) that we have *A Never Failing Friend*. The angelic voice of Alison Wieszyk brought us closer to heaven and we all shared in the wonder and amazement of God's grace.

The message on Sunday, 13 June was skilfully entwined through the playing of *Divine Pursuit* where there was a reaffirmation of God's constant love and the fact that his embrace will never relax.

May God continue to lead Ingle Farm (Majors Paul and Wendy Hateley) in the way everlasting, and may his love and mercy be shared through their ministry.



Hurstville and Ingle Farm bands (left) combine to celebrate Hurstville band's 90th anniversary. (Above) Alison Wieszyk praises God in song during a solo over the weekend of celebrations.

RISING LIKE THE DAWN

Sydney Congress Hall
Saturday 1 May 2010



Photos: Shairon Paterson

INFUSE  IGNITE
WORSHIP RESOURCES

WORSHIP RESOURCES
COMING SOON

WHAT
DIFFER
ENCE
CAN I
MAKE?

more 

salvos.org.au/more

Have you looked at? 

www.raisedup.org

 | WORLD YOUTH CONVENTION 2010
SALVATIONISM