

# onfire

*mission and ministry*

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## Greatest Gift of All

*a*  
Thrill of hope  
the  
weary world  
rejoices.

—O Holy Night



**E**xpectations—we all have them. It's not hard to think of a few as we approach Christmas Day. As Salvationists we might be expecting December to be busy with carolling, hamper preparation, gift wrapping and associated corps activities. As families we may be expecting to participate in parties, accommodating visitors, food preparation, planning gifts or even a holiday. No matter what we're involved in there can be comfort in the traditions of the season.

But what of the unexpected? It can throw us, can't it?

Imagine the players in the first Christmas, going about their normal daily lives.

I'm sure Mary wasn't expecting to see an angel and, if that wasn't enough, to receive the news that she would become pregnant by supernatural means—try explaining that to your friends!

The Magi wouldn't have been expecting to make an extraordinarily long journey. The shepherds certainly wouldn't have been expecting to see angels in the field that night and later the messiah. Nor would Herod be expecting the rise of a rival king, and the Jews—although expecting the messiah—weren't expecting a baby.

Each responded to the message they received. Three groups embraced it, journeyed and made preparation to receive the good news. One saw it as a threat and did all he could to keep the status quo. The others couldn't conceive that God might work in any other way than what they were expecting.

The first three groups faced fear, sought out, believed and took steps that permanently, wonderfully changed their lives for eternity. Herod also faced fear of change, but let that fear stop him from really understanding who this king was, and so separated him from an abundant life beyond measure, compared to what he already possessed.

The Jews missed out simply because they had limited the almighty God by boxing him in to their level of comprehension.

"Behold I am doing a new thing," says the Lord (Isaiah 43:19).

How do we react to this new thing? Do we let fear or our limited comprehension separate us from the unfathomable, mysterious ways of God?

This Christmas, take the opportunity to be open to the new ways God may reach out to you in the spirit. Will you explore and go on a new journey with him and discover spiritual riches untold? <sup>o</sup>



*June Knop*  
**Captain June Knop**  
 Editor

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**International Headquarters:**

101 Queen Victoria St, London EC4P 4EP.  
 André Cox, General

**Australia Southern Territory** (NT, SA, Tas., WA, Vic.): 95–99 Railway Rd, Blackburn, Vic.  
 Floyd J. Tidd, commissioner, territorial commander

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**EDITORIAL**

National editor-in-chief Captain June Knop  
 Editor Captain June Knop  
 Editorial assistants  
 Captain Bron Williams, Ryan English  
 Proofreader Dawn Volz  
 Designer Aaron Mills

Advertising Jan Magor,  
[jan.magor@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jan.magor@aus.salvationarmy.org)

Annual subscriptions within Australia \$42.00 p.a. Overseas and airmail rates on application. Subscription inquiries Sue Allensby, [sue.allensby@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:sue.allensby@aus.salvationarmy.org)

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, *On Fire*, at the below addresses. Phone: (03) 8878 2303; Fax: (03) 8878 4816; Mail: *On Fire*, PO Box 479, Blackburn, Vic. 3130; email: [onfire@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:onfire@aus.salvationarmy.org)

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## Word for Word

Commissioner  
Floyd Tidd

In the coming weeks count the number of times people ask you if you're 'ready' or 'prepared' for Christmas. Times of celebration call for preparations.

On the first Easter morning, the women were prepared. They had come to the tomb on the third day, Jesus having been crucified, died and buried on Friday. They came prepared—prepared with spices to anoint Jesus' body. They came prepared for what was.

The message they carried away from that empty tomb was one given by the angels for the disciples and Peter. It was a call to prepare, not for what was, but for what is and is yet to come. Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee; they would see him there.

As prepared as they were for what was, there was a clear message that there was more—much more than they could have ever imagined—to come.

In these weeks of Advent as Christians prepare to celebrate the incarnation, God becoming human, as a baby born in Bethlehem, the invitation for us is to prepare, not for what was, but for what is and is yet to come.

We celebrate the birth of Christ as a significant move by God toward his creation in his mission to redeem the world to himself. So committed to that mission, God sent his own son into the world to die upon a cross for the sins of the world. God remains committed to his mission, still being and yet-to-be accomplished, by leaving his Spirit to see the mission completed.

Chris Wright, in *The Mission of God's People*, reminds us, 'It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church, the church was made for mission—God's mission.' That mission is still being accomplished. God continues to do new things today as he accomplishes his mission.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God challenged the people of Israel to prepare: 'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it' (Isaiah 43:18, 19).

The invitation in these Advent weeks leading up to Christmas, is to prepare; prepare not for what was—those former things—but for what God is doing today and what God is yet to do.

What are you preparing for this Christmas season? ◦

## God with us

While we were serving as corps officers of a relatively large corps, folk were encouraged to wear name tags so as to facilitate fellowship and integration and I soon discovered that not everyone likes to wear a name tag!

'O come, O come Emmanuel' is possibly my favourite carol and this choice owes as much to the haunting melody as it does to the profound truth held in the lyrics. The English translation we use is dated to the 1860s but the original Latin version has roots in the 12th (or possibly 9th) century, making this the oldest carol still in use.

The rarely used name 'Emmanuel' means 'God with us' and connects us to the principle of incarnation which is fundamental to the Christmas story. God, in the person of Jesus, became like us and lived a human existence. It's crucial to Jesus' mission but also teaches a key principle about how Christians are meant to live. God got involved. He could have remained separated from our earthly concerns—but God got involved with the reality of our lives.

If it was good enough for Jesus, then incarnation is good enough for his followers. God challenges us to get involved, to seek to understand the community around us and then work to bring about the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. We are called to be active for the work of God transforming our communities and world—here and now. If it was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for us!

My ministry involves training people to be officers in The Salvation Army. At times, trainee officers may be tempted to think they need to separate themselves from the world and walk a special 'spiritual' path. But the opposite is true. To lead the work of God means we need to learn how to be intimately connected with society and people around us—to practise incarnation.

The same is true for all followers of Jesus. Connect deeply with your community and see what God is doing. Help build the kingdom of God in your town or suburb.

The third verse of this carol says:

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

May we, like Jesus, dispel gloom and fear in our communities as we let others see that God is with us all. ◦



Major Gregory Morgan  
Training Principal at  
Catherine Booth College

“  
**We celebrate the birth of Christ as a significant move by God toward his creation in his mission to redeem the world to himself.**”

# A new perspective

It is with hearts filled with thanksgiving and praise to God that we should enter this Christmas season. I hope we will all take time to reflect and contemplate the everlasting love and eternal plan of salvation that God has prepared since the beginning of time for all mankind.

**We certainly have** had ample opportunity to reflect on the boundless love of God to The Salvation Army throughout this milestone year of the 150th anniversary celebrations. Once again, now, we think of the extravagant love of God who gave us the greatest gift of all, knowing full well that most of us would not realise the value.

Isaiah wrote, 'He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem' (Isaiah 53:2-3).

Despite it all, God still went ahead with his plan of salvation for the world! That is why Christmas is such a special time. The extraordinary revelation is that God sees things differently from us.

One of the first things Mary says in her song of thanksgiving to God is, 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant' (Luke 1:46-48).

We see here a clear distinction between the values of God and those of mankind. God is ready to give his all to save men and women like you and me. God is the God of eternity, he is the Almighty and yet he shows his love and concern for weak, imperfect human beings.

The subject of great joy expressed by Mary is a subject of great joy for us all. Yet

she continues with another outpouring of thanksgiving and joy, 'For the Mighty One has done great things for me ...' (Luke 1:49).

One of the elements of the Christmas story which never ceases to amaze me is to think that God is such a great and powerful being, yet he still is interested in us. That is why Mary rejoices and why we should rejoice as we look forward to celebrating the coming of Christ that changed the course of human history. God is ready to stoop down and even to use imperfect men and women to accomplish his plan.

Despite his power, God is happy to show mercy to the small, insignificant and imperfect people that we are. People give honour and glory to what appears to be powerful and wealthy in this world. God does exactly the opposite. God looks at humanity with love and mercy, which is what the story of Christmas is all about.

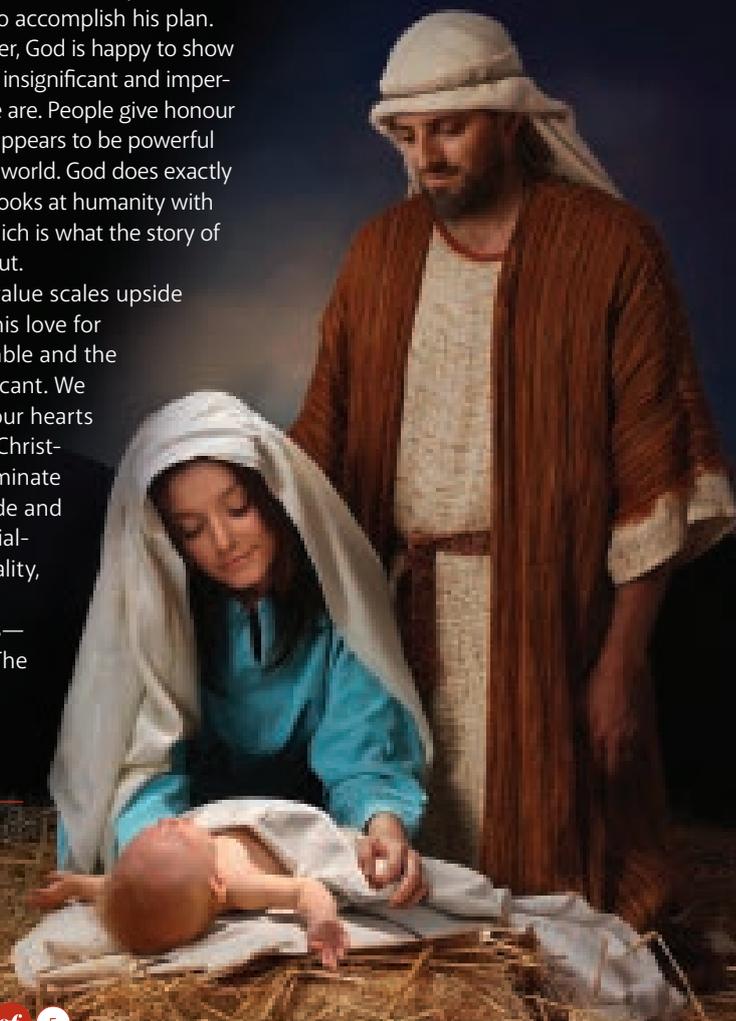
God turns the value scales upside down and shows his love for the small, the humble and the seemingly insignificant. We need to examine our hearts as we prepare for Christmas so we can eliminate all thoughts of pride and any spirit of materialism because, in reality, whether we are princes or paupers—or the General of The Salvation Army—we are pretty insignificant!

Christmas is about the fact that God came specifically to establish a relationship with us, and his glory is manifested in the lives of ordinary humble people. Christmas is a time of great joy and peace for all mankind.

I pray that we will experience the wonder of that reality in our lives this Christmas time and that we will show it wherever we are!



André Cox,  
General



# Light changes everything

DO YOU REMEMBER BEING AFRAID OF THE DARK AS A CHILD? I DO. IT'S FUNNY HOW TURNING ON THE LIGHT CHANGES EVERYTHING. MENACING SHADOWS AREN'T WHAT WE HAD IMAGINED AFTER ALL AND THOSE THINGS WE STUMBLED ON IN THE DARK CAN NOW BE AVOIDED IN THE LIGHT.

## LIGHT REVEALS WHAT IS COMING

Right from the beginning of Scripture we are told that God created light to serve as a sign, not just in the sense of the coming seasons (Genesis 1:14).

The King James and Revised Standard Versions of the Bible portray a more accurate meaning of the text:

'...and let them [the lights in the sky] be for signs, and for seasons and for days and for years...'

This means that God uses the heavenly realm to convey knowledge and reveal himself. He uses stars and planets to warn, to motivate and to authenticate.

We see this example in the star over Bethlehem and how it affected the wise men. To them it was an authentication that the Messiah was coming.

Psalms 19:1-6 furthers our understanding in this area:

**“The Heavens will declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**



‘The Heavens will declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge...’

The Hebrew word for knowledge here is yada, which means to know through seeing.

The wise men—known also as the Magi—were non-Jewish priestly astronomers from the Persian Empire. Their field of expertise was interpreting the planets' movements and meanings. They would have been extremely interested in the phenomena that were happening in the heavens between the years 7-5 BC.

It is commonly accepted now that our current Gregorian calendar contains errors and that Jesus was likely born between 4-5 BC.

Modern planetariums have the ability to calculate what a night sky in any particular place or time looked like, as stars and planets move in a predictable fashion. When researchers began looking for the Bethlehem star they were astounded at what they found.

They began their search in the year 0 where nothing special was happening, but as they looked at each previous year things began to change dramatically.

In the year 7 BC there was a triple conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, which simply means that three times that year those planets came into close proximity.

This occurrence alone happens only once every 805 years, which is pretty special. Two months later in February 6 BC, there was a massing of Saturn and Jupiter, but this time with Mars.

To the Magi these occurrences would have had major significance.

However, it was possibly the nova described in ancient Chinese records in the year 5 BC which categorically heralded the actual time of a not-to-be-missed event.

A nova is an exploding star and its remnants can last as long as a year. Ancient Chinese astronomers recorded these events as an unusually bright star that appeared in the eastern sky for 70 days. This total combination of events occurs only once every 2,000 years, and the Magi would have believed that this was a religious sign.

Each planet and section of the sky had specific meaning for the Magi. For instance, Jupiter depicted royalty, Saturn signified the protector of the Jews and Mars represented conquest.

They would have surmised that a world ruler would arise soon from the Hebrews, who would challenge even Rome.

We can see how their interpretation of the planets led to their accurate understanding of who Jesus would be, which in turn informed their gift choice—gold recognised Jesus' royalty, the King of all kings; frankincense, a holy incense, confirmed Jesus' divinity; and the myrrh recognised his deity and the eventual holy suffering that he would endure to death.

## LIGHT BLINDS

Have you noticed that when you've been in the dark and the light is suddenly turned on you are momentarily blinded?

The most dramatic story in the New Testament of light changing everything is

of Paul on the road to Damascus. He was literally blinded by the light. It caused him to stop everything immediately and consider this great revelation of who Jesus was. All of his beliefs up until this moment had been incorrect.

Paul was a good Jew, a Pharisee who sincerely believed that the Christian movement was dangerous to Judaism. He hated the Christian faith and persecuted Christians without mercy and now here he was having a personal encounter with Jesus himself.

The Apostles were right; the Messiah had really come. He was alive. There really was resurrection from the dead. These were enormous concepts.

But now, blinded, Paul was forced to stop everything he was doing and wait on God.

It's ironic that, up until this moment, Paul was spiritually blinded by wrong convictions and, when the light caused him to become enlightened, he became physically blind.

Acts 9:9 tells us that his colleagues led him by hand to Damascus and for three days he didn't eat or drink. This was an intense time of prayer and fasting and Paul was repenting and seeking God's face.

Can you imagine how he must have felt when he realised the truth—when the light went on, so to speak?

I think he would have been almost crushed by the revelation of his own error and sin.

The light changes how we see ourselves. It causes us to look at all of our actions in a new light and helps us recognise that we are desperate sinners in need of salvation.

### THE LIGHT REMOVES THE DARKNESS OF SIN IN OUR LIVES

When we give our life over to Jesus and ask for his forgiveness, we become saved and righteous.

That's not to say that we become perfect in an earthly way—we can still make mistakes, stumbling along the way at times—but from that moment we give ourselves fully to Jesus, he sees us as perfect, as righteous—our past sins have been erased.

The Hebrew understanding of the word righteousness implies a relationship between man and God. This also implies living in the will of God and assumes that our actions will flow from this relationship—reflecting a godly character and response to the world around us as recorded in Micah 6:8:

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

The Bible tells us that God loves us, and loves us just as we are, that he values us, that we are worthy and that, even though we are not perfect, he sees us that way.

As believers and followers of Jesus we will be used to go out and shine the light of Jesus in the world.

We may not feel worthy, but we cannot rely on how we feel; we have to rely on what we know. And of course Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to do all that he asks of us.

'If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth... Soon the world

## “The Bible tells us that God loves us, and loves us just as we are...”



will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you, (John 14:15–20).

Jesus removes the darkness of sin in our lives and fills that space with the light of the world;

'For God who said "Let light shine out of darkness", made his light shine in our heart, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ' (2 Corinthians 4:6).

The word—the message—is within us.

### LIGHT GIVES CLARITY AND DIRECTION

Paul experienced conversion and revelation when the light came into his life and he was given instructions to go into the city of Damascus (Acts 9:6).

But the work in him was not complete. By means of a vision, Ananias was instructed to visit Paul to place hands on him to restore his eye-sight and fill him with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:12 and 17).

From that moment the purpose and direction of his life changed forever, as must ours.

Just as Christ is the light of the world and Paul became a light to his world, we have now become messengers of light for him. Where will you shine?°

*Captain June Knop*



# Mid-life transformation



**he Russian writer** Tolstoy said, 'Everybody thinks of changing the world, but nobody thinks of changing himself.' True enough. But let me broaden the

application of this observation. Let's expand the 'himself' beyond the personal, beyond you and I, to encompass the organisation to which we belong—The Salvation Army. It might now read, 'Salvationists think of changing the world, but never think of changing The Salvation Army.' Also true?

Further, the word 'change' is a bit weak. Replace it with 'transform' and we have: 'Salvationists think of transforming the world, but never think of transforming The Salvation Army.' Is this true or needed?

Transformation has been one of the four Mission Intentions of The Salvation Army Australia Southern territory for a number of years. Transformation is one of three key directions in the territory's new Strategic Vision, '*St!ll Fighting*'.

Transformation has a deeper, more profound meaning than simple change. One changes one's socks, but transforms one's appearance; one changes jobs but transforms one's life.

According to various dictionary definitions, the idea of transformation contains concepts such as, 'change in form, appearance, nature, or character', and 'the process by which deep structures are converted into surface structures using transformational rules'. In other words, transformation goes deeper, below the surface, to the nature, character and structure of a person, organisation or culture.

Jesus spoke of the need for transformation constantly and in many different ways. Jesus demonstrated time and again that transformation is possible. The Bible continues to call people to lives of transformation. One of the most familiar examples is found in Romans 12:2, 'Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God





“  
**Salvationists  
 think of  
 changing the  
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 never think  
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 The Salvation  
 Army.”**

transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect’ (NLT).

This transformation Jesus calls us to is often termed ‘repentance’, from the Greek word ‘metanoia’, meaning (as in Romans 12:2), ‘to change one’s mind’, and thus to transform one’s understanding, approach to life and way of being in the world.

In July The Salvation Army celebrated its 150th year at the Boundless congress in London. This was a watershed celebration, a kairos moment in the life of our movement. Church history tells us that missions and movements generally have a shelf life of about 150 years after which they decline into ineffectiveness, increasing irrelevance and eventual obscurity. This appears to be a time-tested pattern.

I pondered what it might mean for the Army to reach its 150th year of existence. Have we finally ‘grown up’, are we entering ‘old age’ or are we in a period of ‘mid-life crises?’ Do we need to ‘change our minds?’

Franciscan priest, Father Richard Rohr, wrote, ‘For most men, mid-life is usually

the last chance to make any real change. If a man has not taken any great risks by the time he’s 50, chances are he’s too entrenched in his day-to-day life to make radical changes.’

This may be the reason why many men have a midlife crises—it’s God shaking the tree one last time and challenging, ‘Will you give up the illusion? Will you stop being just who you think you are supposed to be and finally be who you really are?’

While Rohr was speaking specifically to men, I believe this observation can equally apply to women and organisations.

If our mission at The Salvation Army is to bring God’s metanoia-leading-to-transformation to a culture with a sinful mindset and a world that embraces change while resisting transformation, can the Army continue to be effective in this mission without undertaking such metanoia and transformation in our organisational culture? The statistics and the signs might suggest otherwise.

Are we in a ‘change or die’, a ‘transform or die’, moment? Is our future indeed as boundless as God’s grace or as bounded as our inflexibility?

As we enter the Christmas season our thoughts naturally turn toward the incarnation. It is the season when, as C.S. Lewis said in *Mere Christianity*, ‘The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God’—incarnation in order to bring transformation.

So maybe this is a good time to pause and consider what new incarnation of The Salvation Army is needed in order to bring transformation to a world very different and even stranger than the world of 150 years ago, when the very first incarnation of The Salvation Army appeared on the scene. Is it time to give prayerful consideration to the shape of our Army—its form and culture, its mission, methods and ministries?

Let us ask, as did the Israelites in exile by the river of Babylon, ‘How can we sing the songs of the Lord in this strange new land?’ (Psalm 137:4).<sup>2</sup>



Commissioner  
 Floyd Tidd

 MARK 14:1-11

## The vulnerable Jesus

Geoff Webb shares a series on Mark's Gospel focusing on special words or phrases that give insight into Jesus, his mission and his call to be his disciples.

An ominous note sounds, with the plot to kill Jesus by stealth. The chief priests are worried about doing it publicly, however. What they really needed was someone 'on the inside'.

The scene abruptly changes (v. 3) in another example of Mark's 'sandwich' technique. Here an anonymous woman comes in, breaks a jar of expensive perfume and pours it out on Jesus' head. She contrasts with the earlier anonymous woman—the widow who felt compelled to hand over her entire living to the Temple. This woman would appear to have had the means to be lavish in her generosity. After all, the perfume was worth more than a year's wages! In breaking the alabaster jar, she made certain that all the perfume had to be poured out, and the jar could never be re-used. Her act of love for Jesus prepares his body for his rapidly approaching burial.

Jesus was able to do what we sometimes struggle with: to receive blessing from someone else. That

requires vulnerability—a willingness to be ministered to by someone else without any possibility of it being reciprocal. Jesus will be vulnerable many times over the next several hours—mostly at the hands of people seeking to hurt and kill him. Here Jesus is vulnerable to a woman who blesses him extravagantly.

Among those present were some who were scandalised by the woman and criticised her, until Jesus intervened. He explained the significance of the woman's actions: the woman had done a beautiful thing to him. Then he mentioned that she would always be remembered. It is ironic that while her act may be remembered, we don't even know her name in Mark.

By contrast, we know the name of Judas. His act will also be remembered, but for all the wrong reasons. He connects with the chief priests to betray Jesus, becoming their 'inside man'. While the unknown woman proclaims Jesus' death in an extravagant demonstration of love, Judas orchestrates Jesus' death through treachery and betrayal for a meagre sum.

Outrageous betrayal contrasts with open-handed blessing—and Jesus was vulnerable to both.<sup>o</sup>



Major  
Dr Geoff Webb  
is the Western  
Victoria divisional  
commander and  
vice-chair of the  
Army's International  
Theological Council



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PUBLIC LECTURE

MAJOR (DR) JOHN READ

AUTHOR OF "CATHERINE BOOTH: LAYING THE THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF A RADICAL MOVEMENT"

DR READ IS ALSO TEACHING A UNIT AT CATHERINE BOOTH COLLEGE FROM 8 - 19 FEBRUARY, 2016 TITLED "THE THEOLOGY OF CATHERINE BOOTH IN ITS HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS"

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### Some children wonder if Christmas will come this year.

Imagine Christmas morning without a gift for your child, and no Christmas table laden with yummy food. Just a day like any other—struggling to find anything to feed the family, with little hope that the New Year will bring anything better.

This is frightening to even think of, yet for many of the world's poorest families this is their reality. You can change that reality for someone today.

We have many children waiting for support in Myanmar. Sponsor a child now and give them the gift of hope, of education, basic medical care and nutritious food.

There is still time to make this their happiest Christmas ever and fill the New Year with joy and hope that will last a lifetime.

### Senior students are often in need of short-term assistance on their way to success.

Xyrine is in her third year of a bachelor of education, but her father's harvest was lost in the drought and now her family has no income.

Sharmaine (Philippines) is in the second year of a double degree in science and business administration. She helps her mother sell vegetables door-to-door to support the family and fits her study in as well.

Carmina (Philippines) is waiting to start her course. Her parents died when she was only seven and her grandparents care for her but struggle to support her basic needs and have no way to afford college fees.



Contact the Child Sponsorship team on (03) 8878 4543 to make a one-off gift now to change a life. °



### God Came Near ★★★★★

MAX LUCADO

'Just because one has witnessed a thousand rainbows doesn't mean he's seen the splendour of one,' Max Lucado writes in this book. 'One can live near a garden and fail to focus on the splendour of the flower.'

Likewise, you might have heard about Jesus' life and sacrifice a hundred times and still have missed a detail or two that could change your perspective.

In *God Came Near*, Lucado explores one of those oft-overlooked details of Jesus' life—the fact that it was filled with many of the experiences you're experiencing in your own life. Jesus got hungry and tired, had dirt under his fingernails and wept tears that came from 'a heart as broken as yours or mine ever has been'.

The first half of this series of short stories, poems and thoughts explores the implications of Jesus' mortal existence, wondering particularly at a life lived with the knowledge of a looming crucifixion. In its second half, *God Came Near* unpacks the ways we can use Jesus' example to inform our own actions.

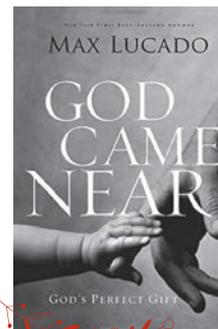
In each of these beats, Lucado approaches the various aspects of Christ from a slightly different angle, some cute, some funny and some sombre. All of them are thought-provoking.

Lucado has a talent for taking well-worn stories and spinning them slightly on their axis, giving them new insight and entertainment. If you've heard the Christmas story a hundred times—and have perhaps lost the feeling of wonder that it first inspired—*God Came Near* might remind you of how remarkable it is. °

Ryan English



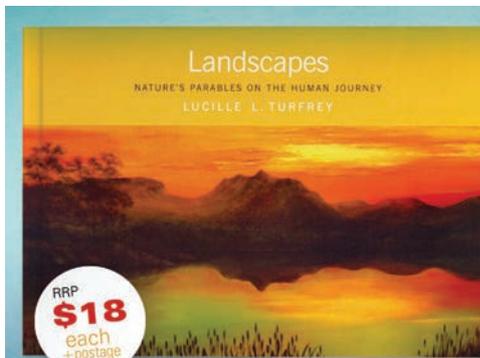
*God Came Near* is available at Koorong for \$19.88.



**“God Came Near unpacks the ways we can use Jesus' example to inform our own actions.**



DON'T BOTHER 🙄 PASSABLE ★★ GOOD ★★★ IMPRESSIVE ★★★★ EXCEPTIONAL ★★★★★

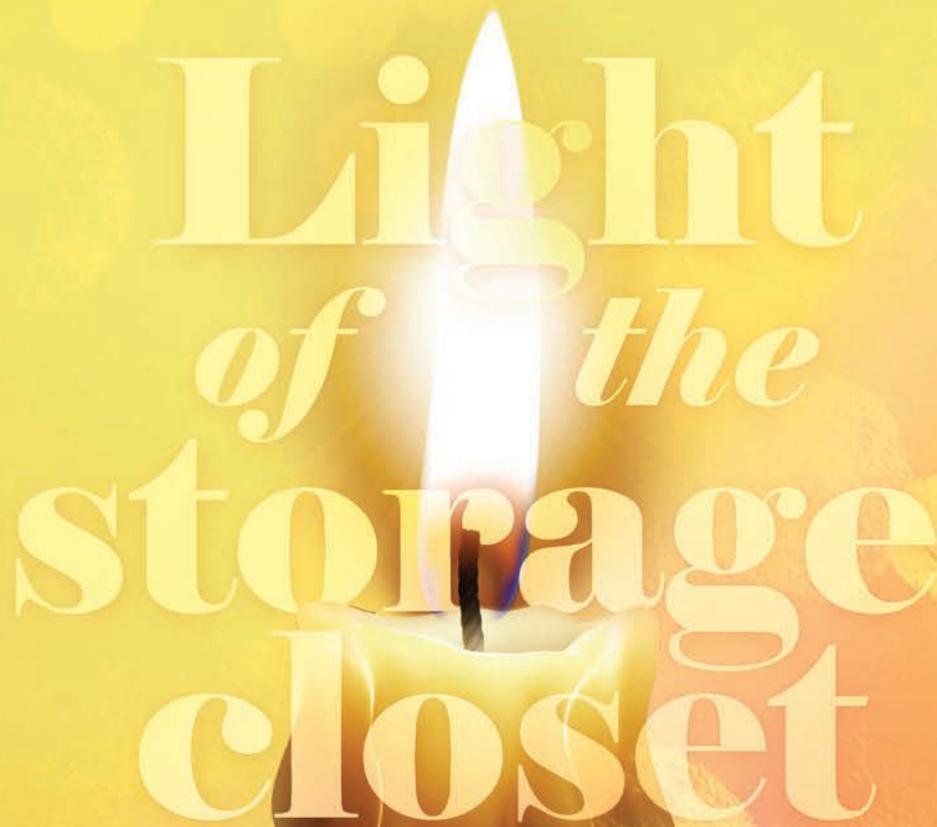


An eight-week series of daily devotions, *Landscapes: Nature's parables on the human journey*, is the latest book from the pen, paintbrush and camera of Lieut-Colonel Lucille Turfrey, offering readers the 'hope, joy and peace of travelling with a sense of the abiding presence of God'.

Each reflection includes a prayer, a point to ponder and a pilgrims' pool discussion starter suitable for small groups, offset by a beautiful full-colour photograph.

*Landscapes* is a sister publication to *Reflections: Nature's parables on wholeness and Holiness*, and *The Sacred Journey: Nature's parables on redemption*.

All books available from Salvation Army Supplies, 1800 100 018, [www.salvationarmy.org.au/supplies](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/supplies)



# Light *of the* storage closet



A few nights ago a peculiar thing happened. An electrical storm caused a blackout in our neighbourhood. When the lights went out, I felt my way through the darkness into the storage closet where we keep the candles for nights like this. Through the glow of a lit match I looked up on the shelf where the candles were stored. There they were, already positioned in their stands, melted to various degrees by previous missions. I took my match and lit four of them.

How they illuminated the storage room! What had been a veil of blackness suddenly radiated with soft, golden light! I could see the freezer I had just bumped with my knee. And I could see my tools that needed to be straightened.

'How great it is to have light!' I said out loud, and then spoke to the candles. 'If you do such a good job here in the storage closet, just wait till I get you out of where you're really needed! I'll put one of you on my table so we can eat. I'll put one of you on my desk so I can read. I'll give one of you

to Denalyn so she can cross-stitch. And I'll set you'—I took down the largest one—'in the living room where you can light up the whole area.' (I felt a bit foolish talking to candles—but what do you do when the lights go out?)

I was turning to leave with the large candle in my hand when I heard a voice, 'Now, hold it right there.'

I stopped. Somebody's in here, I thought. Then I relaxed. It's just Denalyn, teasing me for talking to the candles.

'OK, honey, cut the kidding,' I said in the

semi-darkness. No answer. Hmm, maybe it was the wind. I took another step. ‘Hold it,’ I said! There was that voice again. My hands began to sweat.

‘Who said that?’

‘I did.’ The voice was near my hand.

‘Who are you? What are you?’

‘I’m a candle.’ I looked at the candle I was holding. It was burning a strong, golden flame. It was red and sat on a heavy wooden candle holder that had a firm handle.

I looked around once more to see if the voice could be coming from another source. ‘There’s no one here but you, me and the rest of the candles,’ the voice informed me.

I lifted up the candle to take a closer look. You won’t believe what I saw. There was a tiny face in the wax. (I told you, you wouldn’t believe me.) Not just a wax face that someone had carved, but a moving, functioning, flesh-like face full of expression and life.

‘Don’t take me out of here!’

‘What?’

‘I said, don’t take me out of this room.’

‘What do you mean? I have to take you out. You’re a candle. Your job is to give light. It’s dark out there. People are stubbing their toes and walking into walls. You have to come out and light up the place!’

‘But you can’t take me out. I’m not ready,’ the candle explained with pleading eyes. ‘I need more preparation.’

I couldn’t believe my ears. ‘More preparation?’

‘Yeah, I’ve decided I need to research this job of light-giving so I won’t go out and make a bunch of mistakes. You’d be surprised how distorted the glow of an untrained candle can be. So I’m doing some studying. I just finished a book on wind resistance. I’m in the middle of a great series of tapes on wick build-up and conservation—I’m reading the new bestseller on flame display. Have you heard of it?’

‘No,’ I answered.

‘You might like it. It’s called Waxing Eloquently.’

‘That really sounds inter—,’ I caught myself. What am I doing? I’m in here conversing with a candle while my wife and

daughters are out there in the darkness!

‘All right then,’ I said. ‘You’re not the only candle on the shelf. I’ll blow you out and take the others.’

But just as I got my cheeks full of air, I heard other voices. ‘We’re not going either!’

It was a conspiracy. I turned around and looked at the three other candles; each with flames dancing above a miniature face.

I was beyond feeling awkward about talking to candles. I was getting miffed.

‘You are candles and your job is to light dark places!’

‘Well, that may be what you think,’ said the candle on the far left—a long thin fellow with a goatee and British accent. ‘You may think we have to go, but I’m busy.’

‘Busy?’

‘Yes, I’m meditating.’

‘What? A candle that meditates?’

‘Yes. I’m meditating on the importance of light. It’s really enlightening.’

I decided to reason with them. ‘Listen, I appreciate what you guys are doing. I’m all for meditation time. And everyone needs to study and research; but for goodness’ sake, you guys have been here for weeks. Haven’t you had enough time to get your wick on straight?’

‘And you other two,’ I asked, ‘Are you going to stay in here as well?’

A short, fat, purple candle with plump cheeks that reminded me of Santa Claus spoke up. ‘I’m waiting to get my life together. I’m not stable enough. I lose my temper easily. I guess you could say that I’m a hothead.’

The last candle had a female voice, very pleasant to the ear. ‘I’d like to help,’ she explained, ‘but lighting the darkness is not my gift.’

All this was sounding too familiar. ‘Not your gift?’ What do you mean?’

‘Well, I’m a singer. I sing to other candles to encourage them to burn more brightly.’ Without asking my permission, she began a rendition of ‘This Little Light of Mine’—I have to admit, she had a good voice.

The other three joined in, filling the storage room with singing. ‘Hey,’ I shouted above the music, ‘I don’t mind if you sing

**“I was turning to leave with the large candle in my hand when I heard a voice, ‘Now, hold it right there.’”**



while you work. In fact, we could use a little music out there.’

They didn’t hear me. They were singing too loudly. I yelled louder. ‘Come on, you guys. There’s plenty of time for this later. We’ve got a crisis on our hands.’

They wouldn’t stop. I put the big candle on the shelf and took a step back and considered the absurdity of it all. Four perfectly healthy candles singing to each other about light but refusing to come out of the closet. I had all I could take. One by one I blew them out. They kept singing to the end. The last one to flicker was the female. I snuffed her out right in the ‘puff’ part of, ‘Won’t let Satan puff me out.’

I stuck my hands in my pockets and walked back out into the darkness. I bumped my knee on the same freezer. Then I bumped into my wife.

‘Where are the candles?’ she asked.

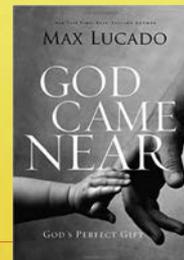
‘They don’t...they won’t work. Where did you buy those candles anyway?’

‘Oh, they’re church candles. Remember the church that closed down across the town? I bought them there.’

I understood.°



From *God Came Near* by  
Max Lucado  
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# Camp Gallipoli

**S** AGALA leaders and members had a wonderful time sharing in adventures and learning at the recent Sunbeam and Adventurer Camp held at Halls Gap from 16–18 October.

All of the activities at 'Camp Gallipoli' had an Anzac theme, with campers receiving a dog tag, a photo and the history of an Australian service member from WW1.

There was 'Arty Crafty' badge-work, including wax paintings of poppies and a mural of a grieving soldier.

Those doing their 'In the Kitchen' badge became the camp caterers—jaffles on the open fire, making Anzac biscuits of course, and cooking a roast dinner in the coals of the fire were

some of their culinary achievements.

'Help 'em Out' was the name of the badge that taught about the animals who served and died during conflicts, like Duffy, Simpson's donkey, horses, dogs and homing pigeons, who received the Dickin Medal, the animal version of the Victoria Cross.

The 'Take a Hike' and 'Under the Stars' badge group completed a test of courage and endurance with a five kilometre round trip hike up Chatauqua Peak, carrying a backpack filled with an individual first aid kit, food, water and map. Tracking, compass work and safe fire-lighting were also taught.

Members and leaders from Frankston Corps were among those

who witnessed the enrolments that took place at the camp.

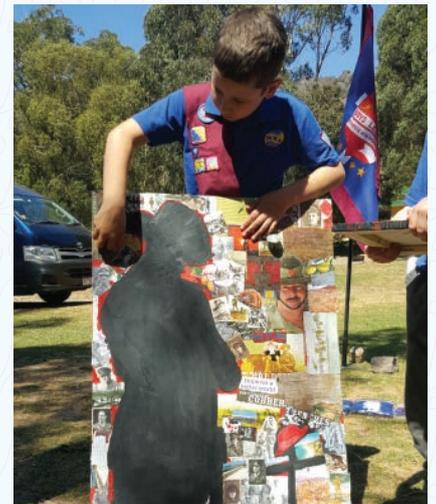
During our Anzac Memorial Service on Sunday morning the scripture verse, 'There is no greater love than this: that a man lay down his life for a friend' (John 15:13) was presented in sign language by the 'More than Words' badge group.

A moving tribute involving a poem and blowing bubbles—which reflect light, colour and beauty but only for a short time—was also given for our fallen comrade, Abbey Solo, a Sunbeam from Sunshine corps who lost her battle with cancer during the week preceding. °

*Major Mim Adams*



➤ Camp Gallipoli attendees blow bubbles in tribute to Abbeyael Solo



⊕ Scott Ellery, Ron Stobie and Alexander Johnston

# TALE GATE



Number 100 December 2015

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER...

Salvos Stores has completed the first quarter of the financial year in a very positive way.

We have surpassed our sales expectations and beaten our surplus targets for the quarter. Successful new store openings in South Australia (Aberfoyle Park and Parafield) and Victoria (Pakenham Village) provided wonderful highlights in their respective states.

September also saw the retirement of Major Eva Phillips from active officership. She will be sorely missed in Western Australia, where, as chaplain, she made many close friends among our staff and volunteers.

October has already brought a number of highlights and challenges. We completed a successful senior managers conference in Geelong, during which we planned out and agreed to the detailed roadmap for our

business for the remainder of this financial year. An exciting time lies ahead.

While in Geelong, our mission development coordinator, Major Lynda van Gaalen-Prentice, arranged a 'super' volunteer recognition evening attended by 30 volunteers, managers, area managers and chaplains, with eight recognitions taking place for between five and 20 years of volunteering service. In total, we celebrated over 360 years of volunteering. Congratulations to all involved and a special thank you to these wonderfully loyal volunteers.

One challenge we will be facing in the coming months is a hot, dry summer. This leads to uncomfortable working conditions for our people and spells the start of our territory's bushfire season. Salvos Stores has a detailed emergency plan to deal with

this and will work closely with The Salvation Army at the appropriate time to ensure that we are effective in helping those affected.

Also, the peak donations season is almost upon us and our resources will again be stretched to the limit to deal with this.

At this coming period of hyperactivity, I think it is also the right moment to quietly reflect on why we do what we do and to recognise the great organisation we are all privileged to work for and the many people we are able to help.

Best wishes in the months ahead,

**Frank Staeb**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Salvos Stores



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

On Sunday evenings, my husband and I have been watching *The Voice*.

What drew me to this program was the fact that decisions are made on the artist's musical ability—not their looks. Contestants are aspiring singers drawn from public auditions. The first stage of competition in the show is a blind audition in which the four coaches, all noteworthy recording artists, listen to the contestants in chairs facing away from the stage.

If a coach likes what they hear from a contestant, they press a button to rotate their chairs to signify that they are interested in working with that contestant. If more than one coach presses their button, the contestant chooses the coach he or she wants to work with.

Coaches dedicate themselves to developing their singers mentally, musically and—in some cases—physically, giving them advice and sharing the secrets of their success.

The judges cannot see the artist,

so they need to listen carefully if they are to hear 'the voice'. In the midst of our busy lives, there are times when it is good to turn our backs on all that distracts us from knowing what God's will is for our lives, to hear what he is saying to us.

In her book *How to Hear from God*, Joyce Meyer writes:

'With the commotion from our fast-paced world, it's difficult enough to hear our own thoughts, let alone try to listen for the voice of God. But in order to fulfil the great

plans he has for us, we need to be able to recognise his voice.'

God reaches out to us every day, offering guidance for everything from major life issues to small, ordinary problems. The question is, 'Are you listening?'

**Major Eva Phillips**  
Chaplain WA  
Salvos Stores



*Since writing this Major Eva has entered retirement. On behalf of Salvos Stores, I would like to thank her for her years of ministry. Eva's ministry was a gentle and firm pastoral presence; her ministry to staff and volunteers was held in the highest regard. Our prayer for Eva is that God will guide and bless her and her family in this next stage of her journey.*

*Major Lynda van Gaalen-Prentice*



## »» EVA BURROWS MEDAL AWARDS

The Eva Burrows Medal Award is awarded annually to one store in each state which has performed excellently throughout the year. Based on the Brownlow medal count, for each month of the year stores are awarded points in a number of areas, including customer service and the 5 Star Report. Two of the winning stores were:

### > Whitford (WA)

Congratulations to store manager Carolyn Servis and the team at Whitford store who received their medals—presented by regional manager Sean Burgess and area manager Antony Fletcher—and celebrated with a morning tea.

### > Melrose Park (SA)

Regional manager Sean Burgess and area manager Elaine LeBourn attended a morning tea at the store, where manager Daisy Dey was presented with the shield and medals for each team member. Congratulations to Daisy and her team for a sensational year.



*Manager Daisy Dey with Sean Burgess and Elaine LeBourn*



## STORE OPENINGS...

»» **BALCATT A (WA)** Store manager Michelle Diaz and sales assistant Lana Arkhipova cut the ribbon opening the new extension to the Balcatta store, doubling the store's size to 800 square metres.

The Balcatta store has been in its current location for eight years and has grown significantly in sales; the extra space will be put to use in expanding its fashion and bric-a-brac departments.



Attendees included regional manager Sean Burgess and area managers Michael Frost, Ryan Steele and Elaine LeBourn. Store manager Samantha Grycewicz and sales assistant Rosemary Watson cut the ribbon to open the store.

### »» **ABERFOYLE PARK (SA)**

Aberfoyle Park store opened on 18 September with a dedication and blessing ceremony conducted by Major Clinton



»» **PARAFIELD (SA)** The new Parafield store was recently opened with a dedication and blessing ceremony led by divisional leaders Lieut-Colonels Ron and Robyn Clinch.

Castley. Attendees included area managers Elaine LeBourn, Ryan Steele and Michael Frost and COO Frank Staebe, who assisted store manager Cheryl Jessup to cut the ribbon.

### »» **PAKENHAM VILLAGE (VIC.)**



With the area growing rapidly, Salvos Stores decided to open a second store in Pakenham.

The opening day, Friday 18 September, commenced with a dedication service conducted by Commissioner Aylene Finger and regional manager Edwina Morgan. Cr Leticia Wilmot, the mayor of Cardinia, attended the event, along with city council members Kate Lempriere and George Blenkhorn and

Pakenham corps officers Lieutenants Belinda and Dale Saunders. HR manager Julie Fargie represented the Salvos Stores executive board and other guests included Victoria/Tasmania area managers along with staff and friends from the south-east Victoria area stores.

Local shoppers were keen to be among the first in the door and the store was full of customers for the whole of Friday and Saturday.

»» **FITZROY (VIC.)** The long-awaited refurbishment of the Fitzroy store has been completed.

Many thanks to the Central Victoria area store managers and the Fitzroy team of staff and volunteers who gave up their time to complete this task.





**>> Antony visits Nottingham**

Having read an article in *150 Years of The Salvation Army Worldwide* about William Booth's birthplace, area manager Antony Fletcher decided to visit this historic place while on

holiday. As a Salvos Stores 'ambassador', Antony also gave Salvos Stores some exposure—by wearing his Salvos Stores T-shirt for the day.

**>> Joondalup (WA)**

Employees from accounting firm McKinley Plowman & Associates visited Joondalup store as part of their end of financial year fundraiser. A letter was sent to area manager Antony Fletcher and store manager Nikola Baric.

'Thank you for all your assistance in making our end of financial year function and fundraising such a success. The community of Joondalup and surrounding suburbs have been good to us and have made our business the success it is today; it is nice to be able to put something back into that community through your organisation.

'It was a great night out with great competition and team building. Everybody looked fantastic in their best Salvos Stores attire—and not forgetting the sheer fun we all had.'



**>> Wynyard (Tas.)**

Wynyard store participated in the well-regarded and very popular Tulip Festival. Regional manager Edwina Morgan and area manager Ali Clements manned a pop-up store at the event. The day started

at 7:30 am, setting up trestle tables and presenting the amazing stock sourced for the event. Sales were strong and the duo did everything possible to deliver great customer service—including a spot of dog-minding! The pop-up site was the first Tassie store to achieve budget on the day. More than 15,000 visitors to the festival heard about Salvos Stores—it was an awesome promotional opportunity.



**>> Congratulations**

We congratulate Major Lynda van Gaalen-Prentice on her graduation with a Masters in Theological Studies from the University of Divinity.

During her time with Salvos Stores, Lynda has also received recognition in the SACS Consulting Award for Leadership, and continues study in Supervision in Ministry. These achievements come through the encouragement and training in investment and excellence taught by former CEO Allen Dewhirst.

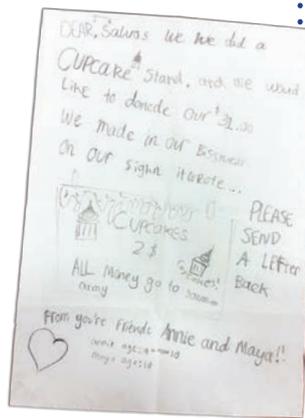
**>> Sebastopol (Vic.)**

Sebastopol Salvos Stores was afforded a great compliment when asked to attend the Ballarat Career Expo to speak with students about visual merchandising. Store manager Jodie Sander took along photos of the visual merchandising displays at Sebastopol.



**>> Kew (Vic.)**

Two young girls visited Kew Salvos Stores to donate \$31 to The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. They had raised the money by holding a cupcake stall.



*Michelle (centre)*



*Marianne (second from left)*

**>> Five years' service**

In the Western Victoria Area, two employees have received their five years service badge and shared the celebration with their area manager Dusica Vlasnjic and store teams. Congratulations and appreciation for their continuous hard work and commitment to the Salvos Stores mission go to Marianne Powell, part-time sales assistant at Glenroy, and Michelle Jorgensen, store manager at North Geelong.

**>> Twenty years' service**

Leanne Sauvarin, currently store manager of the Fitzroy store, commenced at Salvos Stores as a volunteer in the Collingwood store and has worked at many stores including St Kilda, Richmond, Windsor, Bourke Street and Abbotsford over the past 20 years.

Leading a team of dedicated staff and volunteers, Leanne is proud of her volunteer leadership and encourages all members of the community to volunteer in her store. Leanne has many long-term volunteers and, due to her leadership, many have progressed to paid employment with Salvos Stores.

Leanne is a valued part of Salvos Stores—congratulations!



*Leanne receives her 20 year badge from regional manager Edwina Morgan*



## VOLUNTEERS...

» **ROWVILLE (VIC.)** The volunteer program team was delighted to see the first group of graduates successfully complete their 24-week training program.

This training program covers numerous topics, including customer service, production, pricing, cash handling, merchandising, window displays and OH&S.

Volunteers from the Rowville Salvos Stores were invited to apply to the new program and successful applicants commenced their training in February, completing the course in August.

All the candidates gained a wealth of knowledge and an abundance of confidence that we are sure will assist them in finding paid employment with either Salvos Stores or external organisations.

Due to the overwhelming success of the pilot program, Salvos Stores will be significantly expanding the program to other stores in 2016.



» **CRANBOURNE (VIC.)** Cranbourne Salvos Stores has been open for six years and is celebrating those who have been volunteering at the store for five and six years. We thank our volunteers and our store managers who inspire and lead such a great team.

» **GERRY SMITH** After 12 years of volunteering at the Carrum Downs store (Vic.), Gerry Smith has retired to manage the Men's Shed in his local community. Gerry was presented with a certificate and a 'Friend of Salvos Stores' badge.



» **GRACE TRIPODI** Grace Tripodi is a dedicated volunteer who puts in a lot of time assisting at the Fulham store (SA). A large group of volunteers attended a lunch to celebrate and share Grace's 65th birthday. *Grace (third from right)*

### » LORRAINE ALLWORTHY

Lorraine Allworthy was recognised at the Geelong Area celebrations for her 20 years volunteer service to Salvos Stores.



## NEWS FROM ROUND ABOUT...

...CONTINUED



### » Salvos sleep out (Tas.)

Sleeping Out with the Salvos gathers politicians and community leaders from around Tasmania to assist The Salvation Army's Street to Home program and raise awareness of homelessness.

This year's event included a demonstration at the New Town

Salvos Stores. Melissa, a team member, writes:

'The aim was to educate everyone on how difficult co-ordinating an outfit for a job interview is with a budget of \$20.

'Many did not realise what a wide range of goods Salvos Stores offers. All were impressed by the size of the store and many returned the next day to make purchases.'

### » Perth fashion show

The fifth annual 'Restyle' event, part of the Perth Fashion Festival, took place in September.

Always drawing a big crowd, the parade—which sees models parade in clothing and accessories gleaned from Salvos Stores and other charity stores—is the finale to a four-week social media event.



### » Retirement—Marie Lang

Sales assistant Marie Lang has retired from Salvos Stores after

26 years of service.

At a morning tea at the Adelaide store, Marie was given a watch to acknowledge her years of service. Area managers Ryan Steele and Elaine LeBourn, chaplain Lieut-Colonel Jenny Barnard and administrative assistant Colin Day attended.

Marie sends thanks to COO Frank Staebe, regional manager Sean Burgess and Salvos Stores for the gift and kind wishes.



# IN THE *Public Eye*

**Territorial  
Public Relations  
Department**



**Issue 29 ■ December 2015**

## Greetings

This year The Salvation Army celebrated 150 years since the organisation was founded on the poverty-stricken streets of East London. Today we've changed quite a bit—for a start we're now active in 127 countries.

But what hasn't changed since our earliest beginnings is that our ability to work in the community is greatly dependent on the generosity of others giving their time, their talents and their finances to support us.

And this is possibly truer now than ever before. We're in a time of tightened budgets and economic pressure. At the same time we're assisting more people each year. In our homeless services alone, we recorded a 9% increase in the number of people assisted in the last year.

Our roles in the Public Relations Department might not be on the 'frontline' engaging with people in our centres, on the streets or in their homes, but I believe it's just as vital. We work to engage the community to raise financial resources so this frontline work can happen.

We know the need out there is great and this inspires us to reach larger audiences and our current supporters in a real and meaningful way.

And we've experienced some major achievements this year.

*Be a Souperhero* was a new campaign we piloted, with outstanding results. Over \$17,000 was raised by people in the community who became 'souperheroes' for a week by eating nothing but soup to raise awareness of the many Australians who live on less than \$18 a day—an actual figure based on a survey of our clients this year.

Our schools teams continue to educate students about the realities of homelessness in Australia, and this year a primary school presentation aligned to their curriculum was developed, in addition to the current high school curriculum. A film competition for young people aged 12–18 years was also launched. Young people were asked to create a short film to raise awareness of youth homelessness, with 11 high-quality films received from students.

We also continue to engage with corporate supporters. This year we secured a new partnership with Myer that will focus on equipping our family and domestic violence services.

At this stage of the year, however, our attention turns to Christmas. We assist three times more people in December in our community support centres compared to any other month.

We've got a big fundraising target but what motivates us isn't this bottom line—it's the thousands of people who won't have anywhere to go this Christmas, those who will be put under even further financial pressure, those who will be lonely, depressed, or just finding life a bit tougher.

Thanks for your ongoing support.  
May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'P. Hateley'.

**Major Paul Hateley**  
Territorial Public Relations Secretary



## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Most of us are excited about the upcoming festive season.

But Christmas isn't a time of celebration for everyone. We conducted a survey of our clients this year and found Christmas can be an especially hard time:

- 60% of our clients were unable to afford presents for family and friends
- 50% do not have regular social contact with others
- 25% will not share in a meal on Christmas Day

Christmas is the busiest time for the Salvos. We assist more than 300,000 Australians during this time and share a Christmas meal with almost 10,000 people.

To keep doing this work we're aiming to raise \$10 million nationally—and our campaign will focus on giving hope to people in crisis.

## Susan's story

The family home is extremely important—especially at Christmas when it becomes the place for Christmas lunches and dinners, family gatherings and presents under the tree.

But can you imagine being without a home at Christmas?

This will be the reality for around 25,000 families this year.

Our Christmas Appeal TV and radio commercial features the real story of Susan—a mother forced to live in her car with her children.

### Here's some of her story...

When we first met Susan, her life had been a challenge for many years. Two of her three children have disabilities, and three other babies died at birth.

Then Susan's husband got sick with swine flu. He was put in an induced coma for three months, and was hospitalised for nearly a year.

Susan and her children became homeless and only survived by living in their car. They kept their few belongings in the boot,

cooked on council barbecues and showered at school. At times Susan stopped eating so the children didn't have to.

Two weeks before Christmas last year, Susan and her family finally moved into permanent housing. The house was empty, and the few pieces of furniture Susan stored in a shed had been stolen or smashed.

The family began by sleeping on the floor until The Salvation Army brought around a trailer-load of furniture and an old fridge.

In the lounge was a second-hand Christmas tree the family found. The children sat alongside it, but there were no presents. Our Salvo volunteers found presents for the three children, wrapped them and wrote the children's names on them so Susan could put them under the tree as if Santa had brought them.

When Susan saw the presents, she just started crying because she couldn't believe that people would care so much.

The Salvation Army was able to assist Susan and her family thanks to the generosity of everyday Australians.

To read more stories and find out how you can get involved visit [salvationarmy.org.au/Christmas](http://salvationarmy.org.au/Christmas)



# Get involved this Christmas!



## Give a meal and give hope

Ensuring people don't go hungry is an important part of the work of the Salvos and has been for more than 130 years in Australia. Over half of the people we see in our community support centres are unable to afford or eat even one substantial meal a day.

In the lead-up to Christmas we serve almost 10,000 meals to people—and this year our *10,000 Meals* campaign is back.

We're asking the public to donate a meal to someone in need for \$10. Last year enough funding for 7,823 Christmas meals was raised—up from 2,081 in the previous year.

Watch our Facebook page for details or for more information go to [10thousandmeals.org.au](http://10thousandmeals.org.au)



## Kmart Wishing Tree

This is the 28th year of the *Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal*. Gifts placed under the Christmas tree at Kmart stores around Australia by members of the public are then distributed to individuals and families who come to our community support centres during December. These presents go a long way to brightening Christmas for someone in need.

You can get involved by donating a present at Kmart stores around the country.

## Christmas Kettle

In America and Canada, The Salvation Army's *Christmas Red Kettle* is one of the most famous street fundraising campaigns. We piloted this campaign last year in some states—and it's back for another year.

In Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, you'll find volunteers in shopping centres, main streets and at train stations with 'kettles' ready to take donations—sometimes with an accompanying Salvation Army brass band.

Last year a total of \$50,000 was raised from these collection points and donations support the work of The Salvation Army.

If you would like to volunteer visit [salvationarmy.org.au/volunteer](http://salvationarmy.org.au/volunteer)

## Myer Spirit of Christmas CD

This year's *Spirit of Christmas* CD fundraiser by Myer is a greatest hits compilation from the decades of material performed and recorded to date for the CD. The CD has been going for more than 20 years, with over \$7.5 million raised for charity to date.

A total of \$250,000 was raised in 2014 and this year funds raised from the sale of the CD will go towards The Salvation Army's family and domestic violence work.

*The Spirit of Christmas* CD is available in Myer stores, online or on iTunes from the beginning of November.





## All in a year's work

### We're proud to announce that...

This year the Red Shield Appeal raised a total of \$36,770,000 in the Australia Southern Territory.

In 2015 funds raised through the Red Shield Appeal helped The Salvation Army to provide:

- 690 social programs/activities
- 597,000 episodes\* of care across all our social programs
- 260,000 vouchers to people in need
- 176,000 episodes of emergency and material aid relief to people in hardship
- 357,000 bed nights for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- 32,000 episodes of specialised financial counselling assisting people in financial crisis
- 25,000 episodes of care to people experiencing family and domestic violence

\*an episode refers to a contact on a single day of support

*If you'd like to find out more about the work of The Salvation Army in the last year, check out our 2015 Annual Report, which will be available online at the beginning of December.*

## JUSTgifts

### Give a gift that keeps on giving

Last Christmas Australians received almost \$20 million in unwanted gifts.

This year the Child Sponsorship team is giving you the opportunity to give a gift that matters—one that won't end up in the rubbish bin or buried deep in a cupboard. The JUSTgifts catalogue allows you to choose a gift that provides food, shelter, support or assistance to people struggling around the world.

For each gift you will receive a gift card to forward to your loved one or friend—who will be delighted to know they have helped give hope, justice and a sense of dignity to someone in need.

All money raised goes to The Salvation Army's international aid work.

For more information visit [salvationarmy.org.au/justgifts](http://salvationarmy.org.au/justgifts)



**TERRITORIAL  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT**  
AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN TERRITORY

**Editor-in-chief** Captain June Knop  
**Supplements coordinator** Ryan English  
**PR staff writer** Katherine Goswell  
[katherine.goswell@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:katherine.goswell@aus.salvationarmy.org)

**Designers** Craig Buddle, Glonaida Quiapon  
**Proofreader** Dawn Volz  
**Address** PO Box 479, Blackburn 3130  
 (03) 8878 2400 [salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au)

# MESSENGERS OF LIGHT

## Commissioning 2015: 'Messengers of Light'

In its 150th year, new officers take up the challenge of being part of a transformed Salvation Army.

**C**ommissioning events began on Saturday 28 November with the commissioning luncheon during which the cadets received their Certificate of Salvation Army Officer Training.

An important and valued part of this celebration was the induction of the parents of the cadets to be commissioned into the 'Fellowship of the Silver Star'. The aim of this Fellowship is to recognise and honour parents for the support given to their officer sons and daughters.

The cadets presented their parents with a Silver Star badge, certificate and gift to remember the occasion. A white rose was given to each cadet's mother who was present. Where parents could not be present, other people who were important to the cadets were invited.

The guest speaker was Colonel Karyn Rigley, territorial secretary for the Fellowship of the Silver Star, who spoke of the valued influence of family and others who had impacted the cadets' lives.



**“Continue to learn, to grow, to commit yourselves to the mission of personal and societal transformation for the sake of the kingdom of God.”**



**O**n Sunday 29 November, six new lieutenants from the 'Messengers of Light' session were commissioned at Hamer Hall, Melbourne, by territorial leaders Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd in front of a large and encouraging crowd of peers, friends and family.

In his letter to the 'Messengers of Light', General André Cox reminded the new lieutenants that they have been 'called by God and entrusted with the Gospel' and that their sessional name identifies them as those who are sent out with a message to be shared 'openly in word and deed'.

'Messengers,' General Cox added, 'cannot remain silent, cannot edit that which is given to them' and 'cannot communicate without the Holy Spirit's presence'.

Major Gregory Morgan, training principal, Catherine Booth College, noted in his address that, as the first session of cadets to be commissioned from the new campus of Catherine Booth College in Ringwood, the 'Messengers of Light' have been part of 'a significant time in the history of the School for Officer Training'.

He added that they had 'navigated the unpredictable paths of change with good grace and patience'—something that will stand them in good stead for the unpredictability and variability that is part and parcel of Salvation Army officership.

In their training, Major Morgan said that the 'Messengers' showed 'commitment to the processes of academic, ministry and personal formation, a commitment that changed them in ways that will impact others in the years ahead as they spread a godly influence across communities around the Territory.'

He encouraged them to 'continue to learn, to grow,



⤴ Lieutenants Colin and Phoung Reynolds



⤴ Lieutenant Sharnna Ainsworth



⤴ Lieutenant Ben Hollis



⤴ Lieutenant David Mackertich



⤴ Lieutenant Erin Mains



⤴ Lieutenants Colin and Phoung Reynolds



⤴ Rory Preece, and below with his mum, Lieutenant Erin Mains



to commit themselves to the mission of personal and societal transformation for the sake of the kingdom of God'.

Representative speakers, Lieutenants Colin and Phoung Reynolds spoke of how members of the session will be appointed in Victoria, WA and NT, and how the six members of 'Messengers' session were like the six colour ranges in the spectrum of light.

Lieutenant Phoung Reynolds said, 'Our light has been cast and will continue to shine over much of this great south land,' while Lieutenant Colin Reynolds said that, 'As we are different, yet still the same in essence, we commit ourselves, as Messengers of Light, to shine like stars to illuminate the lives of the lost with the light of Christ.'

Lieutenant Erin Mains' son Rory Preece's heartfelt rendition of 'It Is Well With My Soul' was a highlight of the afternoon.

In his address to both the newly-commissioned officers and the gathered crowd, Commissioner Floyd Tidd spoke from Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 5:14ff. He noted that with the coming of Jesus a new revelation was given—a light has come into the world with bursts of 'Sonlight'.

Jesus transforms life as a new reality unfolds and a new identity is shaped so that those who once walked in darkness are now the light of the world.

Finally, a new response is called for from a response-able people who are surrendered to God's purpose and placing, generous with their lives and, in opening up to other people, prompting them to open up to God.

As people in our communities don't often find their way to the local church or corps, it is even more urgent that 'Messengers of Light' are sent out to bring light and love. 'While one dark soul remains without the light of God—we must still fight, as messengers of light. Messengers of Light seek first to attend to our community rather than seeking to get our community to attend our corps/churches.

To bring the meeting to a close, each new lieutenant received their appointment from Commissioner Floyd Tidd and, following the final song, marched out of Hamer Hall with their new divisional leaders, who symbolically released them into their new fields of mission.

**T**he day of commissioning and celebration concluded with the Festival of Mission, held in Kensington, inner-city Melbourne.

An opportunity to celebrate mission taking place across the territory, the festival allowed participants to consider their own involvement in mission within corps communities and to commit to being active in bringing about the Kingdom of God in their neighbourhoods.

Thought-provoking and challenging poetry was brought by spoken-word poet Joel McKerrow, beautiful music provided by Mezz Coleman and inspiring short 'TED' style talks were presented by guest speakers Brooke Prentis (Salvationist and Indigenous leader), Moriah Hurst (Love Makes A Way), Lieutenant Kris Halliday (Perth Fortress), Major Brendan Nottle (Melbourne 614) and Commissioner Floyd Tidd (Territorial Commander).

A variety of Salvation Army ministries were represented at a mission expo. Stalls such as Salvo Resto from the Bellarine, Westcare Services in Sunshine and the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service in Brunswick provided opportunities for people to learn and sign up for involvement in mission.

There was also an amazing variety of food, including Iranian and Nepalese dishes and traditional Aussie toasties available, thanks to Footscray Outreach and Dandenong Corps.

Chris Booth, from Urban Seed in Melbourne, created a moving visual art display.

Brooke Prentis gave a powerful talk on the need for all Salvationists to bring about reconciliation in their local neighbourhood. 'Reconciliation is about Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people. My hope is that we can come together. We need non-Aboriginal brothers and sisters bringing the Kingdom here and now. The Army is a church called to justice. Reconciliation requires action.'

Moriah Hurst, from Love Makes A Way, gave an overview of the movement's ongoing commitment to seeing the release of children and their families from immigration detention. Made up of Christians from a large cross-section of Australian denominations, including The Salvation Army, this group is committed to active non-violent civil disobedience. Moriah encouraged the audience to write to a local member of parliament and begin a conversation. Moriah also encouraged us to befriend a refugee and show compassion. People were asked to like the Love Makes A Way Facebook page and consider attending training in Christian non-violent action in February.

Lieutenant Kris Halliday shared inspiring stories from Perth, highlighting the profound opportunities to come alongside people in ministry, to genuinely

**“What would it look like if we focused on attending our community, rather than attending our corps?”**



show care and compassion to everyone in their communities, particularly those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged in some way. Kris reminded us that relationships are key and that God is always present with the people we serve and with us as we build those relationships.

It was storytime with Major Brendan Nottle who shared a powerful story, called *The Hungry Beast*. The Beast in the story represented the Church infrastructure as a whole; the biggest challenge was for the beast to be on the frontline, and for the 'mission workers' to keep feeding stories to the beast. Brendan reminded everyone that what the secular world is wanting to see from Christians is action. He emphasised that faith in Jesus requires concern for matters outside our familiar church structures and called for serious involvement with our neighbourhoods.

The evening concluded with a strong message from Commissioner Floyd Tidd, challenging everyone to be prepared for what God is doing now and for what God will do in the future. The commissioner asked, 'What would it look like if we focused on attending our community, rather than attending our corps?' An inspiring festival providing an opportunity to be challenged by the call of Jesus to be active in our neighbourhoods.°



Lieutenant Kris Halliday



Brooke Prentis



Commissioner Floyd Tidd



Major Brendan Nottle

# Christmas greetings from

**H**ave you ever wondered what the traditional Japanese Christmas meal is or who brings Christmas gifts in Eastern Europe? *On Fire* catches up with Southern Territory officers around the globe to find out about the ways Christmas is (and isn't) celebrated in different cultures.

## Japan

Imagine waking up and Christmas Day is just like any other day. It's not a public holiday, everyone gets up and goes to work and few homes have a tree on display or presents to open—this is Christmas in Japan.

There are of course some shops that decorate with Christmas decorations, and many people in recent years have started to celebrate with an American-style Christmas party with KFC as the main dish and strawberry sponge cake for dessert. Some young people in Japan have a romantic image of Christmas and they go

on dates together. However, the true message of Christmas is not known to most Japanese people. Less than 1% of the population are Christian, so Christmas is not a widely celebrated event. Instead of celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, most Japanese people go to the Buddhist Temple or Shinto Shrine at this time. They pray that their sins of the past year will be forgotten and that their ancestors will protect them in the coming year.

It is in this environment that the Christian churches, including The Salvation Army, spread much love and cheer at Christmas time. Of course it is winter in Japan so the Army in Tokyo cooks 200 meals four days a week for home-

less men and women. Even though the weather is absolutely freezing, there is Christmas kettle collecting and carol singing karaoke-style!

The Salvation Army also continues to reach out to survivors from the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. Thousands of Japanese people are still without homes, living in temporary housing. The Army supplies much-needed blankets, heaters and meals.

Daniel and I have often been asked to speak at different corps and social centres about Christmas in Australia. Everybody loves hearing about Aussie Santa on a surfboard. I even managed to make chocolate coconut truffles for everyone!

We also help organise various Christmas parties for children and youth. We started junior English classes at our corps for children aged 2-12 years. The little kids learn English conversation and at Christmas time we have a big party and they perform Christmas songs for their families. We also help with a Christmas party for all the youth in the Tokyo division; the young people decide the menu! Last year we had KFC chicken and chips and made our



own sushi rolls—a surprisingly delicious combination! It's not easy to be a Christian in Japan, so I have much admiration for the young people's faith and perseverance. It is a fantastic time of year, with many opportunities to tell people the good news about Jesus.

As for us, we can't wait for packages from our families back home. They send us the essentials including socks and jocks, DVDs and, of course, chocolate!

Thank you all so much for your love and prayers. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Captains Daniel and  
Melissa Templeman Twells*

## Moldova

Christmas isn't really celebrated in Eastern Europe in the same way it is celebrated in Australia. Eastern Europe celebrates Christmas Day on 7 January and 25 December is just an ordinary working day. This came as a bit of a surprise for us.

New Year's Eve is considered more important for a celebration, with Christmas Day celebrated quietly with extended family and good food.

Winter is at its coldest, so warm stews and borsch are served and there is a great variety of breads to soak up the juices and cheeses and add to the taste.

We also found that family time is precious. Children are the centre of the family and grandparents are highly respected as they also take a key role in raising their grandchildren.

Our first Christmas season was spent in Moscow, Russia; our second, in Tbilisi, Georgia where we looked after the region while we waited for replacement officers. This year, THQ moved to Chisinau, Moldova, so we will be celebrating here.

The Russians have both Father Frost, who brings presents for the children, and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden. In Georgia they have a remarkable Christmas tree that, once the Christmas celebrations have finished, is burnt in the fireplace. This is to symbolise new beginnings and the release from past mistakes (it also keeps you warm!).

This year is marked by waves of people seeking refuge from the conflict in Syria and its surrounding area. It reminds us of Joseph and Mary who travelled to Bethlehem where Jesus was born in a stable.

In Eastern Europe The Salvation Army seeks to help many poor communities—distributing winter shoes, clothes, food and many toys for children. Our centres are safe places where people gather to honour the birth of Jesus and share in meals together.

Christmas blessings to you all.

*Majors Mark and Judith Soeters*

## Sweden

God Jul och Gott Nytt År! (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)

Some people say that you haven't experienced Christmas until you've experienced a white Christmas. Well, now I've experienced a very white, very dark, very cold Christmas I can say, although it's wonderfully fantastical, I definitely miss my after-

noon BBQs and swims in the pool!

In 2014, it was minus 18 degrees on Christmas Day and minus 25 degrees on the 29th. Brrrrrr!

Up here in Luleå in December the sun comes up at about 10 am and goes down again at around 1 pm. It only just comes up over the horizon, so the days can seem very surreal—a kind of eternal sunset. But that's when you very much enjoy the snow. It reflects every natural and man-made light and everything sparkles. It's quite beautiful.

The whole of December for our corps is overtaken by Christmas fundraising and distribution of special Christmas help for those who are doing it tough in our town. If you've seen Christmas kettles in the USA, then you can imagine how it is for us. Soldiers and friends of the corps 'guard' the kettle (julgräta) during every Saturday in December and then the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve.

In Sweden, Christmas Eve is the main day for celebration. There's a fascinating tradition that includes everyone (yes, apparently nearly everyone in Sweden) turning on the TV at 3 pm to watch something called 'Kalle Anka' (Donald Duck)—a special Disney Christmas special that has been showing at the same time every year since 1959. When it was explained to me, I had no idea why it could possibly be so enjoyable, but when I sat myself down at 3 pm in a warm cosy couch with a cup of warm tea, some fika\* and Christmas lollies, lights in the windows and fake candles in the real Christmas tree, I realised—this is Christmas!

\*fika is basically the best thing in the world. Cinnamon buns, cardamom buns and saffron buns galore!

Med många vänliga hälsningar till alla vänner och familj i Australien (With many friendly greetings to all friends and family in Australia)

*Lieutenants Kathleen and Erik Johansson  
Corps Officers, Luleå Corps, Sweden*





## Brigadier Emily Maud Day celebrates 100 years

On 18 November, Brigadier Emily Day joined the elite group of people who have reached the century milestone.

Celebrations were spread over a week, commencing with three generations of nieces and nephews, along with many friends, meeting for a dinner on 14 November. A special time with other residents of Glynde Retirement Village followed on her birthday, with the Brigadier's church family at Campbelltown Corps celebrating the milestone with a special Home League and lunch in her honour on 22 November.

At these occasions, letters of congratulation and best wishes from the Queen, Governor-General, Prime Minister and State Premier, Commissioner Floyd Tidd and other THQ staff, fellow officers and many friends, were read out.

Sadly, Emily's younger sister by two years, Brigadier Vera Steer, was not able to be present due to the frailty of advancing years and distance.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that Emily was one of the chief organisers for her mother Major Laura Day's 100th birthday celebrated in 1976.

Emily Day was the second of four children of Majors Samuel and Laura Day—born when they were stationed at Mount Barker Corps.

Emily trained as a machine knitter prior to answering her own call to officership. She entered The Salvation Army Training College from her home corps, Glenelg (SA), in 1940 as a member of the 'Hold Fast' session—following in the footsteps of her older brother Bram who was commissioned in 1933 and her younger sister Vera in 1939.

Following commissioning, Emily had three corps appointments in Tasmania and two in country Victoria, as well as a couple of short-term THQ assignments before moving into social service where caring for others became the hallmark of her active ministry. In December 1943, Lieutenant Emily Day was appointed to Bethesda Hospital where she completed her midwifery training. This became the first of three nursing appointments.

The latter part of her active service was shaped by two events, a work-related back injury meaning an end to her nursing, and the need to care for her ageing parents. Moving back home to Adelaide, she was able to live with her parents and remain an active officer in her two final appointments of Samaritan work (welfare) and prison court officer. It wasn't uncommon for Emily's ageing mother to travel with her. Major Laura Day would sit in an adjacent office or car and make knitted toys or talk to people while Emily went about her work.

Retirement meant caring for her mother for a short period and later enjoying travelling with her favourite travel club, along with developing her interest in china painting.

Emily enjoyed Home League and had many associated specialising engagements.

Many lives have been changed by her life, works, words of encouragement and practical caring. Her life reflects the old saying, 'A sermon is better felt than telt'.



## DON ELLIS



Salvationist Don Ellis of Bentleigh Corps was promoted to Glory on 16 October from Bethlehem hospital, Caulfield (Vic.). He was 82.

Donald Rhys Ellis, fourth generation Salvationist, was born in Geelong on 19 February, 1933 to Albert and Dorothea Ellis. He was the eldest of four children and grew up in the Geelong Central Corps.

In 1955, he married Heather Cook and they entered Training College in 1956 as part of the 'Swordbearers' session.

They were officers in various appointments for almost 20 years after which Don established the Employment 2000 Program for the unemployed in Victoria. He and his staff made a great difference in many young people's lives.

Don was a devoted husband to Heather, proud and loving dad to Christine, Peter (dec.), Debbie, Julie and Joanne and proud father-in-law to Craig, John, Bruce and James. He was besotted with his 10 grandchildren: Aleisha, Caitlin, Jade, Madeline, Jordan, Daniel, Lachlan, Joshua, Charlotte and Caleb.

The funeral service at Camberwell Citadel was conducted by Major Lyn Jones with the committal by Lieut-Colonel Ian Hamilton on 22 October.

Don's younger brother, Alan, spoke of their early Army life at Geelong Central Corps and of their happy, loving family life. He recalled that they were both champions in their mum's eyes. He said that Don was his mate and hero.

Daughters Christine, Debbie, Julie and Joanne spoke of their father as a sincere, loving family man. He was encouraging—their rock who offered spiritual guidance. Don brought people to Christ and this was the driving force of his life. He was interested in his grandchildren, their sport and friends. He prayed for them all.

Bentleigh corps officer Captain Peter McMaster, giving the corps tribute, said that Don was a friend and confidant to him, previous corps officers and many corps folk. He gave 38 years service in various positions in the corps. He was a keen bandsman from the age of 10 and played in the corps band until recently. He was a member of the Red Shield band for 10 years. 'Don prayed for revival,' said Peter and referred to Don as a special kind of man.

Alisha Cowie and Caitlin Hallett also paid tribute to their grandfather, and before singing 'He Leadeth Me', Lionel Wood spoke of Don as his best friend of over 60 years.

The scripture was read by Jade Cowie and Madeline Hallett. Major Jones referred to Romans chapter 8 in her message, reminding the congregation that nothing can get in the way of God's love.

Lieut-Colonel Hamilton spoke of his friendship with Don, followed by the committal and conclusion of the service.

Don's Salvation Army cap, his Bible and Geelong football scarf preceded the coffin out of the citadel, carried by his grandchildren.

## MAJOR JEAN CLARK

Major Jean Clark, a resident of Seaforth Gardens, Perth, was promoted to Glory on 20 October, with family members by her side. She had been suffering declining health for some time. She was 93 years old.



Born 3 May 1922, Jean Cornwell lived in Stawell (Vic.) as a young girl and went to school at Stawell High. After finishing school she worked at the North Western Woollen Mills as a textile worker. Her family made The Salvation Army Stawell Corps their spiritual home.

There she met James Clark, who had come to Stawell for work and was attending the Stawell Corps. They married on 21 December 1946. They both responded to the need they saw in people around them and applied to serve God in full-time service as Salvation Army officers. They entered the Training College from the Footscray Corps on 17 March 1948, joining 'The King's Messengers' session.

James and Jean were first appointed to Creswick Corps (Vic.) as corps officers. Further corps appointments followed in Leigh Creek, Quorn, Kadina and Colonel Light Gardens in South Australia and St Arnaud, Eaglehawk, Kyabram,; Mordialloc, Healesville, Heidelberg, Oakleigh, Clayton, Warragul and Footscray in Victoria.

In January 1968, there was a change of work and they were appointed to Hollywood Senior Citizens Village (WA), assistant managers at The Anchorage and then managers at Cranbrook Lodge (Vic.). Next was an appointment to Whitmore Square (SA) as managers and finally to Inala Village in Melbourne as assistant superintendents. They entered honourable retirement, after health concerns, on 3 February 1984 after 35 years on active service.

James and Jean were blessed with three children, Marilyn, Gwen and Jenny, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. All were much loved by James and Jean.

Jean also loved cooking and was known for her yummy pasties and other baking for street stalls. She had the gift of hospitality and provided freshly baked refreshments for anyone who called in, even later in her retirement years.

Jean was very supportive of her husband during their ministry together and also fulfilled her own effective ministry. Over the years, countless men and women, boys and girls had lives influenced for the Kingdom through their ministry.

After years of ill health, James was promoted to Glory on 9 April 2014. We believe Jean has joined him now in heaven in the presence of the one they so faithfully served.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are with her daughters Marilyn (and Colin), Gwen (and Rob), Jenny (and Gary), grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the extended family and friends.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Major Jean Clark was held on 27 October at Seaforth Gardens, Gosnells, conducted by Major Colin Medling. °

## ABBEYGAELE SOLO

10 June 2006–12 October 2015

The first thing that stands out for me when I remember Abbey is the amazing smile she always had. It never seemed to matter what the circumstances, she always managed to give even a little grin—albeit more cheeky than not.



Abbey used to love mainly music at the Salvos in Sunshine, (Vic.) and, in more recent years, became part of the very first SAGALA group, where all that mattered to Abbey at the time was getting enrolled. She embraced learning the pledges and laws with so much gusto and enthusiasm.

I remember her disappointment when she returned to hospital for a very long stint and her dream of getting to SAGALA for her enrolment wasn't possible. It was such a great day, however, when with some organising from her mum, many friends and the hospital staff, Lieutenant Marie and I were able to go into the hospital and enrol Abbey as a Sunbeam. The joy and sparkle on her face that day was absolutely priceless as she took a stand of faith for Jesus, who she loved so much. Many of us were brought to tears that day and felt so humble watching her take her pledges, promises and step forward in the name of Jesus.

There is an Arabian proverb that says, 'If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would be changed.' Abbey, I believe, in general always saw the whole world as a flower.

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Abbey was that single candle—sharing her light, love, compassion and friendliness to everyone she came into contact with.

The joy that Abbey brought to SAGALA and to us at the Salvos is hard to express. She packed more into her life and touched more people in her nine years than I feel I have in my 56 years.

Abbey seemed to have a God-given talent for many things. I always had trouble saluting correctly and Abbey would try, very patiently, to help me get it right and then all the girls would have a big giggle because I always got it wrong.

A life well lived is a precious gift of hope and strength and grace, from someone who has made our world a brighter, better place. Abbey certainly did that.

Abbey had so much compassion and empathy for others. Her own words and quotes are very inspiring:

'Each day is a blessing. Each moment is a memory. Our mistakes make us better but challenges make us human'.

'Happiness is the key to peace; peace is a key to a broken heart. The happy memories created allow happiness to find peace; its only when you're in peace, that your heart will open and feel freedom.'

Abbey, on behalf of myself and The Salvation Army, we salute you, precious angel. Keep soaring and I know heaven is a much better place because you are now there.

We miss you heaps but thank God for you and the precious memories. °

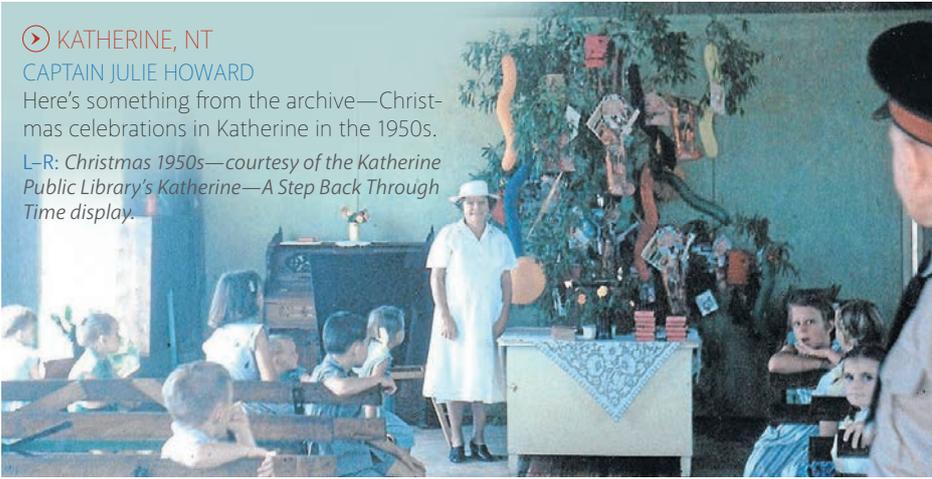
Captain Lilian Platts

➤ KATHERINE, NT

CAPTAIN JULIE HOWARD

Here's something from the archive—Christmas celebrations in Katherine in the 1950s.

L-R: Christmas 1950s—courtesy of the Katherine Public Library's Katherine—A Step Back Through Time display.



➤ SCOTTSDALE, TAS.

CAPTAINS DEAN AND KAYE HILL

Peter and Sarah Lethbridge were enrolled as senior soldiers on 27 September. Both testified to the leading of Gods' spirit through prayer and confirmation towards taking this next step in their walk of faith.

Peter commented, 'Who would have thought three years ago that we would be standing in Army uniform? But here we are, and it just feels right.'

The enrolment was performed by Captain Dean Hill, with CSM Dorothy Farrell proudly holding the flag.



L-R: Sarah Lethbridge, CSM Dorothy Farrell (holding the flag) Peter Lethbridge

➤ YORK, WA

MAJOR DENISE ASHBY

On Sunday 30 August, Kenneth Brown was enrolled as an adherent. Kenneth is a volunteer at the York Op Shop

and invited 14 friends from York community to witness this special occasion.

L-R: Ken Brown, Denise Ashby and Ross Heasman

DECEMBER 2015

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd

- 6 Adelaide Congress Hall, retirement service Lieut-Colonels Rodney and Jenny Barnard
- 13 Opening of refurbished Kaniva Hall
- 13 Closure of Northern Victoria Division, Bendigo Salvation Army, 5.00 pm

Colonels Graeme and Karen Rigley

- 13 Closure of Northern Victoria Division, Bendigo Salvation Army, 5.00 pm

Melbourne Staff Band

- 13 Morning Melodies, Hamer Hall Melbourne (Vic.)

Melbourne Staff Songsters

- 11 Carolling at Ripponlea Twilight Christmas Festival (Elsternwick Vic.), 7.30–8.30 pm



about people

➤ APPOINTMENTS Effective 31 August:

Captain Charles **Watson**, principal chaplain Department of Fire and Emergency Services WAD | Major Brian **Corkery** associate chaplain Department of Fire and Emergency Services WAD | Captain Cymon **Brooks**, chaplain Crisis Service Network WAD. | **Effective 21 September:** Major Kingsley **Cochrane**, special projects MCD. | **Effective 26 October:** Majors Deidre and Ian **Dearing**, chaplains Bridge House, Non Residential Services and the Beacon WAD. | **Effective 1 December:** Lieut-Colonel **Xuyen** (Samuel) Pho, national secretary, Canberra. | **Effective 13 January 2016:** Dr Bruce **Redman**, national editor-in-chief | Major Andrew **Craib**, assistant territorial social programme secretary, Territorial Social

Programme Department | Majors Paul and Wendy **Hateley**, executive officers, Melbourne Staff Songsters (additional appointments) | Major Tracey **English**, state coordinator for chaplaincy, State Social Command (Vic.) | Major Ian **Platt**, chaplain James Barker House, State Social Command (Vic.) | Major Elizabeth **Wallis**, corps officer Gosnells Corps WAD (remain) | Major Stephen **Wallis**, territorial planned giving resource officer WA & SA | Captain Mike **Kemp**, officer and chaplain, Seaforth Gardens WAD (remain) | Major Joyleen **Stewart**, chaplain Broadmeadows Children's Court (SSC) | Captain Nari **McGifford**, Doorways Coordinator (additional appointment) (EVD) | Lieutenant Taryn **Castles**, system support officer (SSC) | Lieutenant Daniel **Smith**,

assistant corps officer, Adelaide Congress Hall (SAD) | Lieutenant Michelle **Smith**, assistant corps officer, Adelaide Congress Hall, (SAD). | **Effective 25 January:** Aux. Lieutenant Roderick **Brown**, associate corps officer, Launceston/Georgetown Corps (Tas.).

➤ **BEREAVED** Major Janis **Meredith** (PCC) was bereaved of her sister, Gwyneth **Taylor**, who passed away in Canberra on 11 November (sister-in-law to Major Alan **Meredith** (CBC)). | Lieut-Colonel Ian **Hamilton** was bereaved of his mother, Ivy **Hamilton**, who was promoted to Glory on 13 November (mother-in-law to Lieut-Colonel Marilyn **Hamilton**, grandmother to Captain Kylie (and David) **Collinson** (SAD)). | Major Lyn **Ballantyne** (WVD)

was bereaved of her stepfather who passed away in Adelaide on 20 November.

➤ **BIRTHS** Captains Graham and Julie **Moyle** (NVD) on the birth of their granddaughter, Lottie Joy Moyle, born 22 October. Daughter to Tim and Michelle and sister to Felix. | Captain Karen **McIver** (SAD) on the birth of her granddaughter, Mckayla Joy, born 3 November, to daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and James **Thompson**. Great-grandchild to Major Mary **Booth** (R) and Captain Vivien **Moody** (and Major Brian **Moody** (R)).

➤ **PROMOTED TO GLORY** Commissioner Donald **Campbell** was promoted to Glory from Cherrybrook, NSW on 14 November, aged 92 years.

## a friendly word from the dept. of youth

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given'—Isaiah 9:6a

Everyday life can be repetitive, predictable and often boring, but Christmas really ratchets up the fun and bizarre moments. While Christmas can sometimes be a struggle—with the shopping, the family get-togethers and all that running around—here are five ways you can rediscover your Christmas joy this year:

**1—Kissing under the mistletoe.** It happens in the movies but it doesn't seem to pop up in real life so much. If you do wanna get smoochy with someone special and don't wanna wait until Valentine's Day, then carry a twig of mistletoe with you and spring it on your unsuspecting crush. Call it Kisstmas.

**2—Food coma.** Go to church, exchange gifts with family and celebrate the day, then eat so much that you sleep until New Year. Eat turkey and mash and pudding and pies and sweets and eggnog then commit to the Zzzzz.

**3—Hats and heat.** How many summer days are adults expected to sit around a table and wear colourful, paper headwear? Make the bang noise, pocket the plastic novelty, hatch the hat and then sweat into the crown.

**4—Magical tree in the living room.** There's a tree in the living room. In! The! Living! Room! It's got tinsel and baubles and angels and the very special ones have some fake snow. Finally, you get to break house rules and garden indoors.

**5—Jesus.** It's his birthday after all. Christmas is the time where we remember the coming of Christ and all that he has done for us. Take a moment to remember Jesus amongst the fun and bizarre, the true joy of Christmas.

*The Department of Youth*



## reflecting and refugees

We often take time at Christmas to look back at the year that was. That experience might be particularly sad this year, as we recall that brutal image of three year-old Aylan Kurdi's body resting on the shore of a Turkish beach in September.

Aylan, a Syrian refugee, drowned along with his mother and brother while trying to reach the Greek island of Kos by boat. As a result, the Federal Government announced an intake of 12,000 Syrian refugees to help respond to the crisis.

The UNHCR reported on last year's World Refugee Day that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide has exceeded 50 million for the first time since World War II. We've seen this in the Mediterranean, where thousands fleeing conflict in Libya tragically died in the waters near Italy. Australians might think that our government has 'stopped the boats', but tens of thousands of asylum seekers on the oceans have demonstrated that refugees remain in danger no matter how cruel our domestic policies are.

### Jesus the refugee

The story of young Aylan Kurdi reminds us of the story of Jesus and the flight to Egypt. In Matthew 2:13–23, Joseph fled to Egypt with his wife Mary and the infant Jesus when King Herod initiated the 'massacre of the innocents'.

In the same way that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has attacked his own people and caused refugees to flee across the oceans, Herod's violence caused Jesus' family to seek refuge. Jesus was a refugee child as well.

This Christmas, as we reflect on the year and remember the tragic death of Aylan Kurdi—and countless other refugee men, women and children—let's remember that Jesus can symbolise the plight of the refugee and that his image is within all who are suffering (Matthew 25).

### Want to help out?

For those who want to help respond to the Syrian crisis and support refugees, check out the following resources:

- Give to the efforts of those working in Syria: [www.worldvision.com.au/global-issues/world-emergencies/syrian-refugee-crisis](http://www.worldvision.com.au/global-issues/world-emergencies/syrian-refugee-crisis)
- Speak to your local MP about supporting refugees in our communities and ask what your corps can do to help.
- Work with church movements who are fighting for refugee rights in this country: [www.commongrace.org.au/asylum](http://www.commongrace.org.au/asylum)
- Pray over Deuteronomy 10:17–19 and consider what it means for Australia to 'love the foreigners among you'.

# Save the date!

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