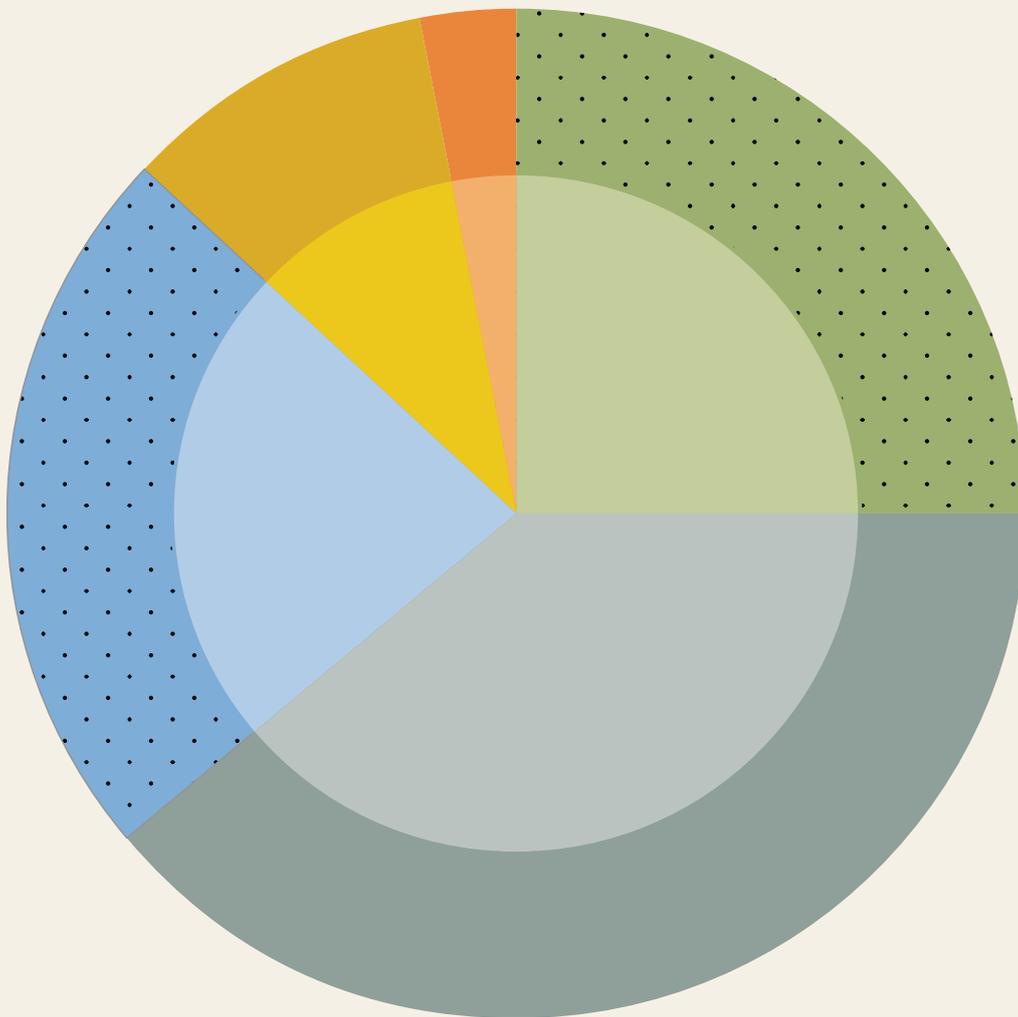


pipeline

What do Australians think of The Salvation Army?



New survey results confirm public trust

Full report inside



Thank you!

You gave...



Somewhere to sleep that wasn't a park

My daughter recovered from her ice addiction. It gave her kids their mother back

FRUIT, WHEN I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD IT FOR A MONTH

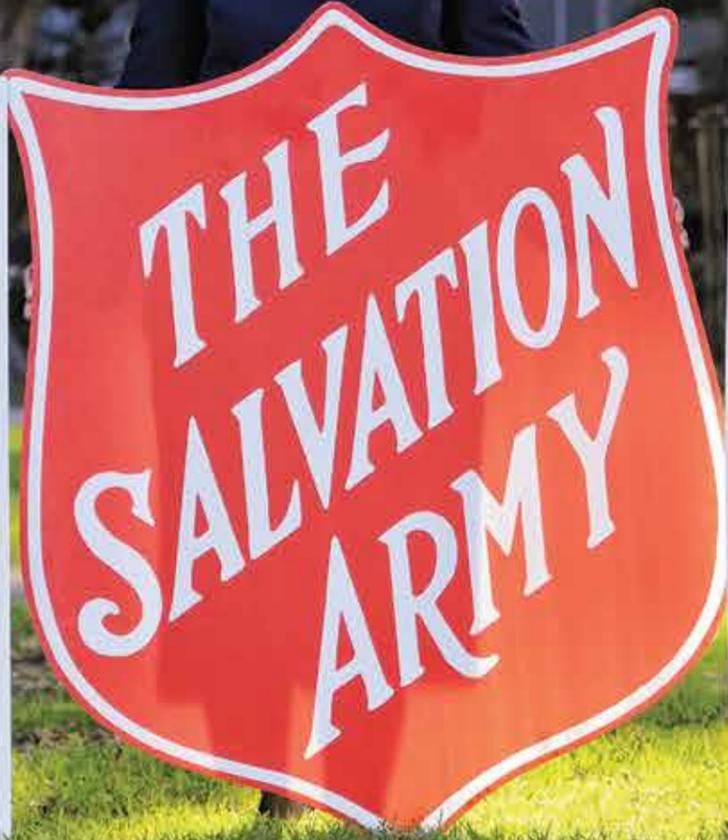
HUNDREDS OF VISITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

A chance to start over

A listening ear

A place to escape the violence at home

Chaplains who were there with us during the fires... And for years afterwards while we recovered



COMFORT WHILE I WAS IN HOSPITAL

A safe place when I was falling apart

You helped my son - again and again and again and again.

A community I can connect with

THE ONLY SMILING FACE I'D SEEN FOR MONTHS

I thought I was alone, but you walked with me all the way.

People who prayed with me in the Emergency ward

Understanding when I thought no one could understand

SOMEWHERE TO TURN WHEN I RAN OUT OF OPTIONS

FOOD FOR MY CHILDREN AFTER MY HUSBAND DIED

It was a small gesture of kindness, but it meant the world to me

A kind voice on the phone during the worst night of my life

A safe place for my kids to go after school

THE INVITATION THAT BROUGHT ME TO CHURCH

SCHOOL CLOTHES THAT FIT ME

Hope comes in many forms, and it can be the difference between disaster and recovery, breakdown and breakthrough - even life and death. Thank you for all you did during the Red Shield Appeal Doorknock to help keep essential services running. From frontline managers and the hundreds of thousands of people they'll help - THANK YOU.

MONTH OF CHANGE HERALDS NEW ERA

SCOTT SIMPSON MANAGING EDITOR

And so begins a new, exciting era for The Salvation Army in Australia. From this month, for the first time in almost a century, the Army has national leaders; Commissioner Floyd Tidd as National Commander and Commissioner Tracey Tidd as National President of Women's Ministries. It's all part of the initiative announced in March, to merge the Australia Eastern and Australia Southern territories into one national territory. The timeline is for the merger to be completed by 1 January 2019.

There's also further adjustment for the Australia Eastern Territory in the months ahead, with its leaders of the past five years, Commissioners James and Jan Condon, having entered retirement. Their official retirement ceremony was held at Sydney Congress Hall last month, led by the Condons' close friend and former world leader of The Salvation Army, General Linda Bond (Ret.) *Pipeline* was at this significant event and on pages 10-11 of this issue, in a special news feature, we bring you a full report and photos of the occasion.

June is also a significant month for taking time to reflect on our responsibility to care for the vulnerable, and for God's creation. On 5 June, we pause to acknowledge World Environment Day. The World Health Organisation predicts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and stress. The Salvation Army's International Projects Officer, Major Heather Poxon, is very aware of the effects of climate change on the daily

lives of the world's poorest people. In a special feature article, Heather challenges us to consider whether we actually think of others in the way we conduct our business and lead our everyday lives.

To highlight Refugee Week (19-25 June), we bring you the thought-provoking story of The Salvation Army's National Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Pho, who was forced to flee persecution in his homeland, Vietnam, in the 1970s. Samuel reflects on the warm welcome he received from Australians when he arrived in the country, and how those memories have helped shape his own response to the current asylum seeker debate. "Australia took a risk accepting us," he says of his arrival in the country almost 40 years ago. "Now, we need to again take risks in accepting others."

AND ANOTHER THING ...

After a period of development that began late last year, *Pipeline* has launched its new-look website (see ad below). This comprehensive online resource now allows us to bring you daily updates of Salvation Army news, feature stories, opinion, comment and reviews from around our territory, Australia, and the world.

It's all available at pipelineonline.org. So why don't you stop by at the site, take a look, and let us know what you think. 📧

pipeline



10 / Commissioners James and Jan Condon with The Salvation Army's former world leader, General Linda Bond (Ret.), at the territorial leaders' retirement ceremony. Photo: Shairon Paterson

The Salvation Army

WILLIAM BOOTH, Founder

International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria street London EC4P 4EP
André Cox, General

Australia Eastern Territory, 261-265 Chalmers St, Redfern, NSW 2016
Mark Campbell, Colonel, Chief Secretary-in-Charge

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PIPELINE IS NOW ONLINE
— WITH DAILY NEWS UPDATES! —

Get all your Salvation Army news plus feature stories, opinion, comment and reviews from around our territory, Australia, and the world, now updated daily at pipelineonline.org

THE SALVATION ARMY
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY

MISSION PRIORITIES

- 1 OUR PEOPLE MARKED BY PRAYER AND HOLINESS
- 2 OUR PEOPLE IN EVERY PLACE SHARING JESUS
- 3 CORPS HEALTHY AND MULTIPLYING
- 4 OUR PEOPLE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED TO SERVE THE WORLD
- 5 OUR PEOPLE PASSIONATE ABOUT BRINGING CHILDREN TO JESUS
- 6 YOUTH TRAINED AND SENT OUT TO FRONTLINE MISSION
- 7 SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF NEW SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS



ONE ARMY, ONE MISSION, ONE MESSAGE

BUILDING SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY FAITH COMMUNITIES

Forward Together mission plan at heart of transition



Colonel Mark Campbell is Chief Secretary-in-Charge of the Australia Eastern Territory

In this, my first article for *Pipeline* as Chief Secretary-in-Charge, I want to thank you for your messages of support, encouragement and prayers in the lead-up to my new appointment and for the days ahead. My wife, Julie (Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries/School for Officer Training, Principal), echoes these sentiments. We both feel honoured and privileged to be leading the territory and sense the Lord will sustain and direct all of us in these days of transition as we seek what God has for us in the Australia One Project.

On behalf of the territory, I also want to thank Commissioners James and Jan Condon, who are probably sitting back on the Sunshine Coast reading this issue of *Pipeline*, for their leadership of this territory over the past five years, and for the appointments that they held in other parts of The Salvation Army world during their officership.

Please pray also for Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd as they take up their new appointments as National Commander and National President of Women's Ministries, respectively. They are the right people for this time as they lead us in the transition to one territory. God has blessed us as a nation with their appointments.

The Australia One Project is about achieving an aligned vision, a united voice, increased innovation, stronger partnerships and better stewardship so that we may have a greater impact for the Kingdom. Please pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9).

Our territory's Forward Together mission plan – to see "people transformed by Jesus" through healthy faith communities, unified mission expressions and courageous stewardship – is central to

the success of our transition. I have been thinking a great deal of this mission plan since its launch last year. I believe that having healthy faith communities – in fulfilling the great commandments of loving God and loving others with the great commission to make disciples – is essential to the way forward in seeing his Kingdom come.

I also believe that the development of healthy faith communities is essential more than ever for us in 2016 and beyond. Spiritual health is critical for any God-directed movement. Health of the individual – whether you are an officer, soldier, employee or anyone who calls The Salvation Army their spiritual home or workplace – is vitally important. We need to be spiritually healthy if we are to be part of a growing expression.

I have heard it said that we need "healthy leaders leading healthy expressions and when a new work commences that it comes from a healthy place". What does health mean in this context? I believe spiritual health is having a rhythm in our life that consists of prayer, reading the scriptures, listening to the Holy Spirit, time out for resting and looking after ourselves physically. First and foremost, though, it's keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. Seeing what he is doing and partnering with him in his work. In short, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

Julie and I would continue to call you to prayer in these days through our 100 Days of Ceaseless Prayer initiative, which commenced on 1 June and goes through to 11 September (see P-18-19). The first edition of the Australia One Project information update (go to mysalvos.org.au) highlighted this critical point in saying, "We firmly believe that The Salvation Army is most effective when we are listening to, responsive to, and fully reliant on Jesus. Prayer and holiness are cornerstones of our DNA."¶

LIFE AS GOD INTENDED

Environmental crisis demands a spiritual response

WORDS CAPTAIN MELANIE-ANNE HOLLAND

—
 "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

A few years ago, I became transfixed by these words and wondered, "What does God's will look like on earth?" I have grown up in the Salvationist tradition and have shared in this prayer in faith community for decades, but on this day I was struck anew by the thought that God has intent for his earth, and as disciples we are called to seek and fulfil that intent in my living.

There is little doubt that the world is failing to flourish as God intended. Genesis 1 provides a stunning vision of the earth as part of God's inherently good creation, teeming with life and blessing. God proclaims an ecology of wholeness, with energy, elements, landscapes, vegetation and animals in right relationship with each other. And yet our world does not appear to be thriving – ominous rhetoric of drought, food-security risk, intensifying natural disasters, species extinction, soil depletion, pollution, disease, water scarcity and climate change give calamitous voice to what we know to be true. The human species has a precarious relationship with the earth which is entirely unsustainable.

For more than half a century, many scientists, engineers, politicians, community leaders, advocates and entrepreneurs have thrown their best at mitigating the unfolding disaster – but have failed to grasp the heart of the issue. Environmental destruction is a spiritual issue. While ever the prevailing culture of arrogance, greed, quick gain, personal comfort and indifference towards our neighbours drive our economies and communities, the earth doesn't stand a chance.

And this is where the world needs the gospel. We sing and boldly proclaim that God can change the hearts of men. Humanity needs a new ethic of humility, moderation and consideration to navigate the ecological crisis, and no amount of legislation can accomplish that. But Christ can!

The vision of the Kingdom of God, articulated in Jesus' teaching,

conveys an upside-down cultural revolution, where people are changed from the inside out. True repentance and regeneration by the Holy Spirit reform our values and lifestyles so that we move from selfishness to selflessness; stinginess to generosity; indifference to consideration; arrogance to humility. Our appetites are reformed by the compulsion to love God and our neighbour. As Paul exhorts the Church, "We are no longer conformed to the pattern of this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2).

To embody the Kingdom of God becomes a prophetic activity in our world, heralding the "now and not yet" rule of God. We consciously die to the old way of doing life – our pagan ways, the idolatry of greed and unmitigated consumerism (Colossians 3:5) – in order to embrace life as God intended, renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator (Colossians 3:10).

However, it is also true that change does not come readily, and the Christian faith tradition testifies that disciples need discipline. Richard Forster, the author of *The Celebration of Discipline* writes, "The classical disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm. They urge us to be the answer to a hollow world".

Earth-care as a spiritual discipline actively empties our selfish agendas and draws us to the heart of our Creator-Father, so that we are renewed in right relationship with the divine and all that he loves. This is the practice of being the light of the world, and Christ challenges us to let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16).¶

Captain Melanie-Anne Holland is the Territorial Environmental Stewardship Coordinator

Cause no harm page 24 ›



A Temporary Community Made Everlasting



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TRIBUTES FLOW AS CONDONS ENTER RETIREMENT

WORDS SCOTT SIMPSON / PHOTOS SHAIRON PATERSON

Commissioners James and Jan Condon have been praised for their 45-year “partnership” as Salvation Army officers, during their retirement service in Sydney last month. Fellow officers, Salvationists, family and friends travelled from Canada, the United States, Papua New Guinea, and across Australia to officially farewell the Australia Eastern Territory leaders, at Sydney Congress Hall on 14 May.

General Linda Bond (Ret.), who had worked closely with the Condons during her three years as commander of the Australia Eastern Territory, delivered a particularly poignant tribute as she presented them with their retirement certificates. “For many years, I have prayed for you both every day. And I will continue to do so until my dying day. James and Jan, I love you,” she said, her voice at times faltering with emotion. “I love you because we worked together, we laughed together, we had fun together. I love you because I have seen the best in Salvation Army officership in you two. I love you because when the chips were down I had you. I love you because you love Jesus.”

Tributes were also brought by the Condons’ two daughters, Alyson Tong and Sharon Turner, Commissioner Andrew Kalai (PNG Territory), Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas (on behalf of officers), Mark Soper (soldiers and youth) and Roger Corbett (Territorial Advisory Board). All made reference to the wonderful team that James and Jan are. There were also video messages from Boscombe Corps in the United Kingdom and from the PNG Territory, two places where the Condons had seen overseas service.

Commissioner Jan Condon acknowledged the presence throughout her officership journey of a faithful, gracious God who is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8), and made special mention of her passion for women’s ministries. “What potential and talent there is in women that is so often overlooked,” she said. “Women, you are like an army of warriors; strong and resilient, godly and wise, gifted and with great potential. God delights in you. Stay close to him.”

In summing up his 45 years of officership, Commissioner James Condon chose to use a quote from Dutch theologian, Henri Nouwen. “Every day, I get a daily devotional from Nouwen,” he said. “Some weeks ago, I read, ‘When we travel [through life] with the eyes and ears of God who sent us we will see wonderful sights, hear wonderful sounds, meet wonderful people, and then be happy to return home’. That has been my experience, and for

that I will ever be grateful to God, and to The Salvation Army, and to all who have shared the journey with me.

“Jan and I would want to leave with you the words of Psalm 115:1, ‘Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be glory, because of your love and faithfulness’.”

FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

James Condon and Jan Vickery entered Salvation Army officer training as part of the *Victorious* session of cadets, in 1970; James from Shoalhaven Corps on the NSW South Coast and Jan from Uralla Corps in the New England region of the state. They were commissioned as officers in January 1972; Lieutenant James Condon appointed as corps officer at Tenterfield and Lieutenant Jan Vickery as corps officer at Bingara. They were married in late-December 1972, Jan joining James as corps officer at Tenterfield.

Further corps officer roles followed in NSW and Queensland, including Auburn and Sydney Congress Hall, interspersed with appointments at the Officer Training College, and the Public Relations and Program for Growth departments. In 1995, they moved to the United Kingdom as corps officers at Boscombe, an appointment they held for three years.

They returned to Australia in June 1998 to take on divisional leadership roles, first of all in the Newcastle and Central NSW Division followed by the South Queensland Division. Overseas service called again when in September 2004, the Condons, now with the rank of lieutenant-colonels, moved to Papua New Guinea; James as Chief Secretary and Jan as Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries. Their more than three-year appointment to PNG would come to be one of the highlights of their officership.

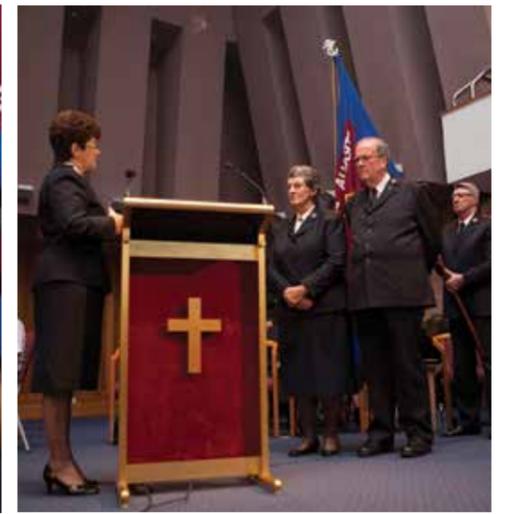
In early 2008, James and Jan were recalled to the Australia Eastern Territory to become Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries, respectively. They briefly served alongside then-territorial leaders, Commissioners Les and Coral Strong, and then Commissioner Linda Bond, for more than two years before a move back to the UK and appointments, with promotion to the rank of commissioners, at the Army’s International Headquarters (IHQ) in London; James as International Secretary South Pacific and East Asia Zone, and Jan as Zonal Secretary for Women’s Ministries South Pacific and East Asia Zone.

The appointment to IHQ proved to be short-lived, however, when just five months after moving to London they found themselves on a plane headed back to Sydney. With Linda Bond having been appointed the 19th General of The Salvation Army in April 2011, the Condons were tasked with the responsibility of territorial leaders of the Australia Eastern Territory, positions from which they would see out their active service as officers of The Salvation Army.

In retirement, Commissioners James and Jan Condon will live on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast and intend remaining actively involved in serving at Caloundra Corps.¶



01



02



03



04

01. New National Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, prays for the Condons.
02. General Linda Bond (Ret.) prepares to present the Condons with their retirement certificates.
03. Commissioners Jan and James Condon enter Sydney Congress Hall for their retirement service.
04. The Condons enjoy the company of two of their grandchildren during the service.

What do Australians think of The Salvation Army?

What do everyday Australians think of The Salvation Army? It's a question that has significant impact on our capacity to not just serve those in need, but reach out with the message of the gospel. *Pipeline* reports on a survey that reveals just how positively Aussies regard who we are.

WORDS ANNE HALLIDAY

Australia's trust in The Salvation Army continues to be strong, according to a recent survey. Since January 2014, the social research firm McCrindle has asked thousands of Australians about their perceptions of The Salvation Army and its work. The results have been extremely positive, showing that a majority of Australians surveyed see the Army as a respected, trusted, non-discriminatory organisation, helping people in our community.

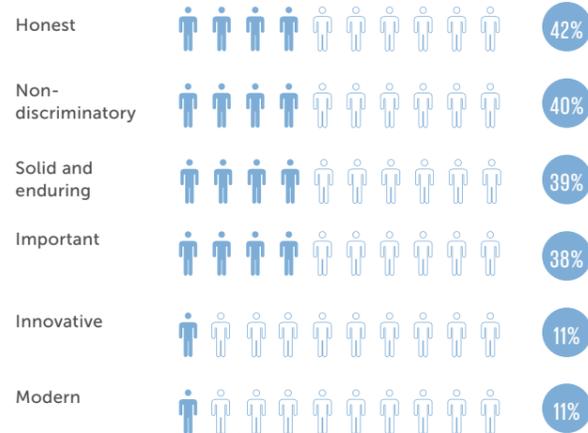
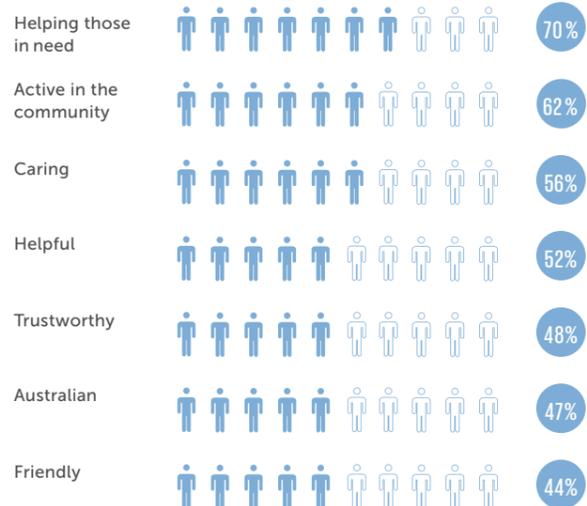
The most recent survey, in January this year, showed positive perception of The Salvation Army is strong. The survey included Australians from 18 years to over 70 years, with a majority of respondents (81 per cent) from the 21-69 years age bracket Overall, when Australians think of The Salvation Army, they associate it with highly positive words such as "Help those in need" (70 per cent - see graph below), "caring" (56 per cent), "active in the community" (62 per cent) and "trustworthy" (48 per cent). "The Salvos consistently come up as an organisation that Australians trust," says McCrindle Research Director Eliane Miles. "It is really as a

result of the strength of their work on the ground, that long-standing service they have provided which demonstrates that actions speak louder than words. Significantly, the survey reveals that the Christian faith at the heart of The Salvation Army's work and mission remains a positive aspect of their identity for many Australians (77 per cent of those surveyed - see graph top right).

Perceptions of The Salvation Army Red Shield logo, both evoked positive responses from those surveyed. When asked what best describes the organisation that is represented by The Salvation Army logo, 25 per cent of participants said "it transforms lives and really helps our community" (see graph bottom right). Another 39 per cent said: "It's a good organisation that makes a difference". A further 23 per cent said it was "worthwhile and does some good things", while 10 per cent said "it's an ok charity and probably helps some people". Only 3 per cent identified it as "a religious charity and doesn't do very much".

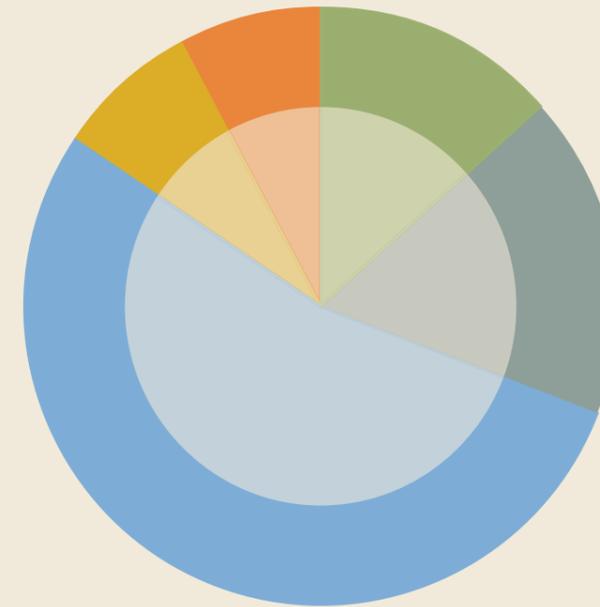
While there was little surprise that the Red Shield logo was

Which of the following words or phrases would you associate with The Salvation Army?

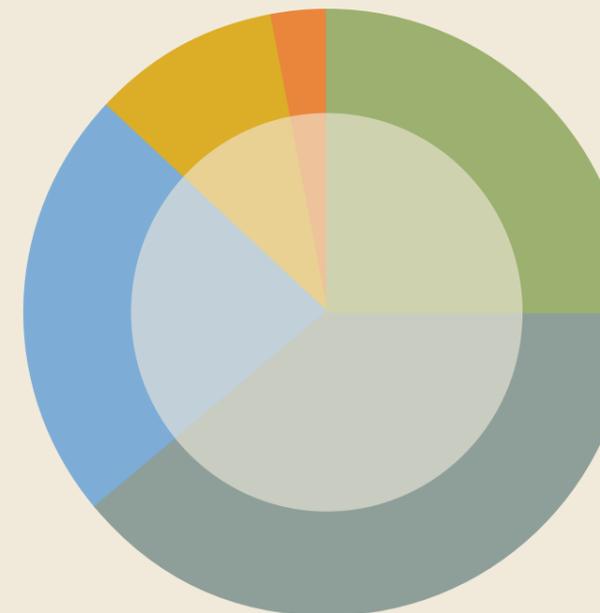


* All graphs based on information provided by McCrindle research

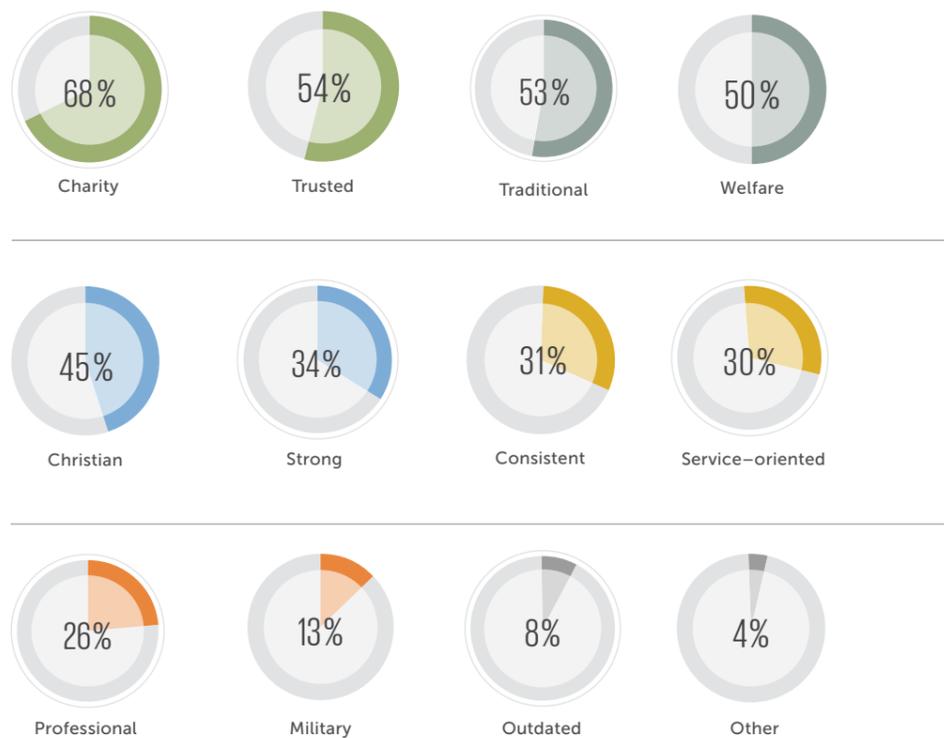
What is your perspective towards the Christian values and ethos of The Salvation Army?



When you picture The Salvation Army logo and think about the organisation that it represents, which of the following statements would you say best describes The Salvation Army?



Please select the words or phrases that you associate with the Red Shield logo:



recognised as a charity (68 per cent - see graph above), almost half of respondents associated the image with "Christian" (45 per cent) and significantly, with the word "trust" (54 per cent). Only a small number of respondents associated the logo with the word "outdated" (8 per cent).

Across a number of key survey questions, (see graphs facing page) the positive responses show how highly regarded The Salvation Army remains in the minds of ordinary Australians. "What is interesting to us is that while Australians are engaging less with a worshipping community, they increasingly want to engage with Christian providers such as schools and aged care. In some of our latest research, we have seen a shift, from 16 per cent to 26 per cent, in Australians likely to give to a Christian organisation. Australians believe Christian organisations are more likely to be trustworthy and add value to those services. So the church in Australia has a real opportunity and The Salvation Army is already leaps and bounds ahead in this area."

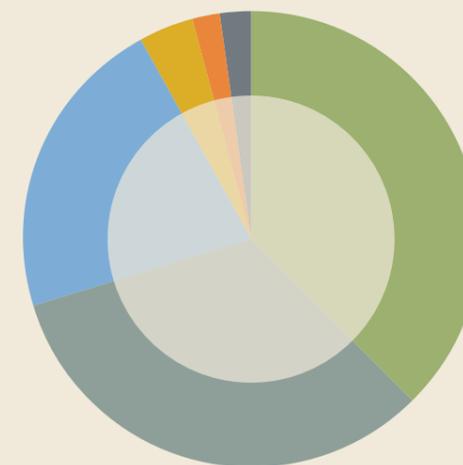
In an age where recommendation is a highly valued currency, 20 per cent of survey respondents were highly likely to recommend The Salvation Army to someone looking for a charity to support, one stating their reason was that "The Salvos are always available to help, without judgment and they genuinely care to their situation". In addition, 42% of respondents said they would be extremely likely to recommend The Salvation Army to someone in need of help. Ms Miles said maintaining the profile and positive regard of the Australian public would require a continuing commitment to engaging with generational and cultural

challenges. "The reality is that the work on the ground is only going to increase as the cost of living and housing affordability rises and issues such as loss of connection," she says. "In our Australian Community Trends (2015) it showed that 37 per cent of Australians are influenced to give to organisations with whom they have a personal connection. So there remains a key opportunity for the church to engage with their community in ways that will raise their awareness and profile." (www.mccrindle.com.au)

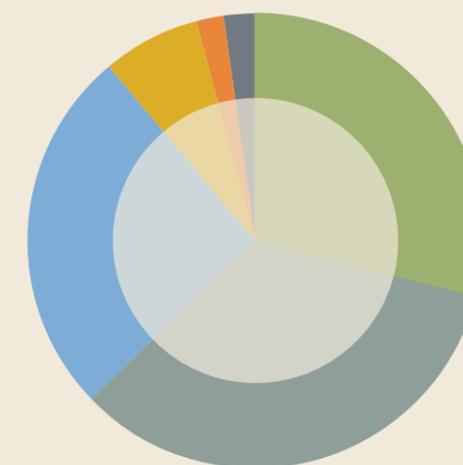
The Salvation Army's Chief Secretary, Colonel Mark Campbell, believes that while we should be careful that our focus on such survey results do not lead us to becoming preoccupied with what people think of us, or compromise who we are, these were very encouraging results. "There is a line that we need to draw that is being liked by the community and doing what God wants us to be and do in the community, which is an outworking expression of our healthy faith in Jesus," he comments.

"I think we need to keep our vision alive that sees people finding freedom in Jesus. Our corps and social work are missional work to break circles of poverty, addiction and debilitating habits, to name just three. We are gifted in the dark places and have an opportunity in these days as we courageously look at how we are stewards of God's resources. We need to plant new work and find out what that looks like in these days and the days ahead. The community is looking for outcomes not just outputs, they are looking for transformation, what difference, what impact, The Salvation Army is making. May God lead us and may we be open to seeing a new thing." □

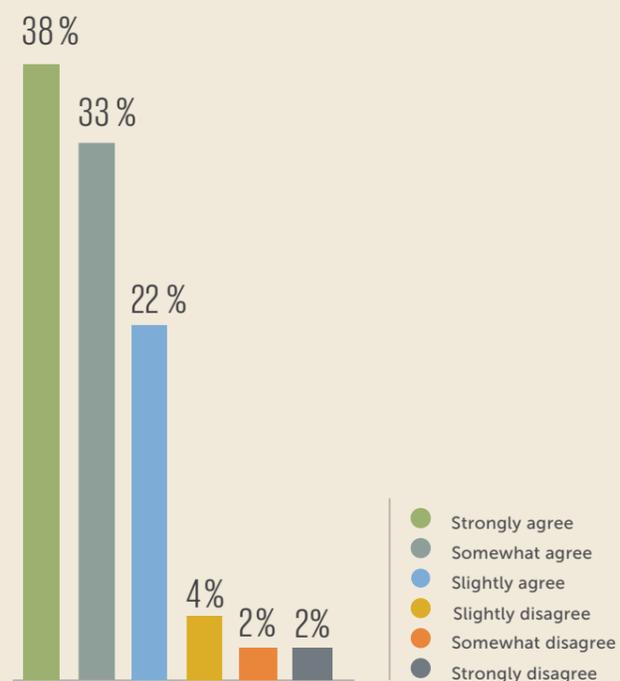
The Salvation Army is a well-respected Australian charity.



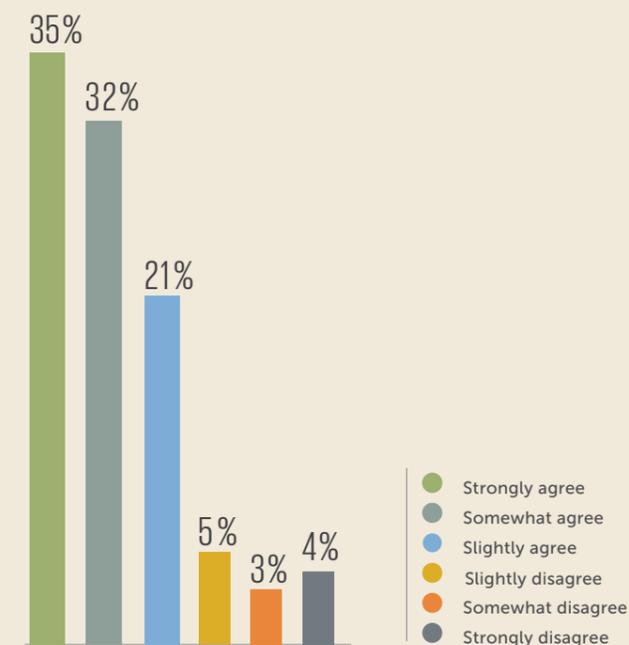
The Salvation Army is positively represented in the media.



The Salvation Army generously supports Australians in need.



The Salvation Army is non-discriminatory in who it offers its services to.





The refugee's advocate.

Samuel Pho knows what it's like to flee persecution, and to be warmly welcomed in a new homeland. Now The Salvation Army's National Secretary, he wants Australians to embrace modern-day asylum seekers with the same acceptance he received almost 40 years ago

WORDS BILL SIMPSON

An hour or two in conversation with Samuel Pho puts life into perspective. Samuel is a refreshing character. He knows adversity first-hand as a refugee, but he loves to look on the bright side of life. He likes to tell stories and jokes – it's how he learned English.

When he smiles – and he smiles often – he beams. Two hours in his company reminded me of servant leadership. Before, during and after our interview, he served my interest first. Samuel has a lot to teach us about attitude. Hopefully, his appointment this year as Canberra-based Salvation Army Australia National Secretary will expose us in the Eastern Territory to more about this man who says he owes his life to God.

Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Pho is a Southern Territory graduate. His principal role is to liaise with government – political and administrative – other political parties, diplomatic staff and non-government agencies. He has been prepared for the role through duties in public relations, media relations, extensive engagement with multi-cultural communities and leadership of The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command, which included liaising with the local and Chinese governments. As well as his native language, he speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, French and, of course, English. He is currently studying for a Masters degree in Spiritual Direction.

The first 20 of his almost 60 years were mostly unpleasant. He was born Xuyen Tam Pho in 1957 in what was then known as Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam. He later adopted Samuel as

his first name to make it easier for others to pronounce. At the time of his birth, Vietnam was ravaged by civil war between the south (backed by the United States and Australia) and the north (supported by the Soviet Union and China). Fierce fighting in the streets of Saigon was part of everyday life for the young Samuel.

He lived with his parents, three brothers and a sister. The family owned a Vespa scooter – their only transport. His father worked in insurance and later owned his own company. His mother was a school teacher. They lived comfortably, albeit never sure when tragedy might strike.

Religion was not a serious part of family life, especially in Samuel's early years. He and his siblings were sent to Sunday school as a "free babysitting" service to give their parents some free time. In his teenage years, Samuel was attracted to the Christian message. At 17, he was baptised. He already had a Christian commitment, but he saw his baptism as "the boy coming of age spiritually". It was the year that Saigon fell to the Communist north and was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in honour of the North Vietnamese Communist Party leader. Life for Saigon locals got even worse.

"I still remember the feeling of hopelessness," Samuel says. "It was like an iron curtain coming down on us. We lost all contact with the rest of the world. We had no hope. We had been brainwashed, of course, in the south that everything about the Communists was bad. Well, the Communists proved what we had been told once they took over."

"There was no freedom. We had to get official approval every time we wanted to congregate. So, if you wanted to hold a church service, you had to get permission. Dad had a birthday party at home with family and friends. Police circled our house. They thought we were having a secret meeting. They took him to the police station for interrogation. You even had to have permission if somebody was going to stay at your home overnight. We were constantly being watched. We lived in fear."

Food was rationed. Residents were provided with coupons to acquire food. People disappeared during the night. "The government said it was rebuilding the country. In the middle of the night, there would be a knock on the door and somebody would be taken away. The rest of the family wouldn't be told where their family member was taken."

Samuel decided he wanted to escape Vietnam for a better life elsewhere. His escape was organised by his father. He was aware that it could mean he would never see his parents and siblings again. He was sent to a rural area with a port.

He went under the guise of working to repair a weather-beaten fishing boat, which would turn out to be his means of leaving Vietnam. "I asked the crew if they had been to sea before. They said, no. I asked if they had a compass. They said, no. I asked where we would be heading. One of the crew pointed out to sea. They said they would follow the stars."

After three days, he was advised the boat would be sailing under the cover of darkness that night. He was excited, but afraid. The port was being closely watched for such activity. It was his 21st birthday. He and a friend who was going with him decided to have a "last supper" meal at a restaurant – just in case!

About 180 people were on board the boat built for a few dozen. There was little food or fresh water. Five days later, they arrived in Malaysia. "When I saw Malaysia, I cried; I cried like a baby. I had never been away from my parents before. I was scared; scared that I may never see them again. I took only a few essential documents with me. I don't even have any photos of me when I was young to show my own children now."



01

He was sent with other refugees to a Malaysian island and given official refugee status by the United Nations. On the island, he met three young people from his church back home. "God was looking after me," he says. Living conditions on the island were primitive. He shared a bamboo hut. There were no toilets. He applied for permission to travel to Australia as a refugee. He was approved for travel to Brisbane, but missed a flight due to a health issue and was sent later to Melbourne, instead.

LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

Don't be afraid of refugees, Samuel says to Australians today. "It wasn't easy to leave my country and my family. When you leave, you leave everything behind. There is no guarantee of safety; not even a guarantee of food or even a future.

"When we came, it was the same as today. We knew some people wouldn't want us in their country. There was talk of this 'yellow peril'. People looked down on us. But Australia took a risk accepting us. Now, we need to again take risks in accepting others. One of the reasons I am a Salvation Army officer today is a promise

"We knew some people wouldn't want us in their country ... People looked down on us. But Australia took a risk accepting us. Now, we need to again take risks in accepting others."

I made to God in Vietnam to serve him full-time. It's also my way of serving Australians in appreciation for accepting me."

When he arrived in Melbourne, he was settled into a hostel at Williamstown. He had his own bed, food and advice on assimilating into Australia. Various church groups, including The Salvation Army, worked among the refugees at the hostel. "I spoke very little English, but I was able to tell the church people that I was a churchgoer.

"One Sunday morning, a man from a church collected me and took me to his church. When we arrived, I saw the minister smoking a cigarette. I didn't like that. But that night, a Major from The Salvation Army picked me up at the hostel and took me to the Altona Corps. The first thing I saw was a Salvation Army crest. I didn't know what it meant. But when I went inside the building, I saw a big sign that said: Smoking Strictly Prohibited. I said: 'Hallelujah, this is the place for me'."

He became a Salvation Army soldier at Altona Corps in 1979, and entered the officer training college two years later. Samuel met his wife Donni – who also has a story of hardship and escape from Vietnam – in Melbourne and they married in 1985. Raised in an orphanage and one of 11 children in her family, Donni arrived in Sydney via Malaysia in 1979 and attended Campsie Corps. After meeting Samuel in Melbourne, Donni also became a Salvation Army officer. They have four adult daughters – Miriam, Phoebe, Naomi and Hannah.

In addition to 25 years building Chinese corps at Collingwood and Box Hill (Melbourne), Samuel has served as Southern Territory Media and Information officer, Assistant Territorial Public Relations Secretary, and, with Donni, officer commanding Hong Kong and Macau Command. Donni is now retired, due to ill health.

Samuel was able to reunite with his Vietnamese family. Eleven years after arriving in Australia, he succeeded in sponsoring his parents, a brother and sister to join him in Melbourne. All became Salvation Army soldiers. His parents have since been promoted to glory. Two other brothers live in the US. Samuel has seen them. "I am a very fortunate man," he says. "God has been good to me." □



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- 01 Lieut-Colonel Samuel Pho with Commissioner Brian Peddle during the international Chief of the Staff's recent visit to Australia.
- 02 Samuel met his wife Donni in Melbourne and they have been married for 31 years.
- 03 Samuel and Donni and their four daughters – (from left) Hannah, Phoebe, Miriam and Naomi.

An Army on its knees.

Salvationists called to 100 days of ceaseless prayer



Greetings,

As the newly appointed national leaders for Australia, we count it a "privilege to be partners together in the gospel" (Philippians 1:3-5), and anticipate all that God has in mind for Australia through The Salvation Army.

"Australia One" – the formal journey to one territory in Australia, officially commences on 1 June 2016. As The Salvation Army Australia embraces a new and exciting chapter, we believe that seeking God, recognising his voice and responding in obedience is of utmost importance. We firmly believe that The Salvation Army is most effective when we are listening to, responsive to, and fully reliant on Jesus. Prayer and holiness are the cornerstone of our DNA.

As a way to seek God and respond in obedience to his voice, we invite Salvationists across Australia to participate in 100 Days of Ceaseless Prayer. "100 Days" is an

opportunity for Salvos all over the country to come together in persistent and responsive prayer to seek first the Kingdom of God. The heartbeat of 100 Days is to ask, "What is God doing?" And "How can I be obedient to it?"

100 Days will provide a range of resources including daily prayer topics, social media updates, ideas and activities for prayer rooms, and email subscriptions. I invite all corps, centres, headquarters and expressions of mission around Australia to commit to hosting a prayer space for the duration of 100 Days. Through ceaseless prayer, we can come together as one Army obedient to God's unfolding mission in Australia.

Thank you for joining in this "100 Days" laying a firm foundation for the future together.

Blessings,

Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd

'Prayer is a privilege'

WORDS AMANDA MERRETT

When I was in my early teens, my corps officer asked if I would be willing to participate in an hour of 24/7 prayer. Being a newly enrolled soldier, I enthusiastically accepted the challenge and signed up to pray from 3am-4am that weekend.

I am not a morning person – it takes me a good hour before I am able to function. So when my alarm went off at 2.55am that Saturday morning, my enthusiasm was somewhat diminished. The next hour or so was a rough cycle of five-minute naps; jolting awake and remembering that I was supposed to be praying; and murmuring a vague, "God, help the world" prayer. I remember the relief when 4am arrived, but it was mixed with a sense of guilt that I had "broken" the 24/7 prayer chain. In my semi-conscious state, I was more concerned with seeing the hour out than the quality of prayer I was offering. On this particular occasion, prayer had become a burden.

Prayer is important to Christians. While we've all had moments where we feel like God is silent, or we struggle to connect, ultimately prayer is life giving. It's the way in which we relate with God and hear his voice; it is how we seek direction for our lives. We pray on behalf of others – sometimes they are strangers, and sometimes they are those closest to us. While it is our responsibility to engage with God in prayer, for ourselves, for others, and for our communities, prayer should not be seen as a chore or a burden. Prayer is a privilege.

At my corps, I lead a small group for teenage girls, most of who do not come from a Christian background. The first year of running the group was chaotic! However, there was a noticeable shift in the culture of the group when we spent an evening engaged in prayer stations. There was no direction from me and they were simply able to move between the stations. The girls felt like they had been able to connect with God and their worlds were slowly transformed by the realisation that they had a direct line to him. Now we run prayer stations every term and it's one of the highlights of the group. Providing an hour of unstructured prayer was one of the best things we could have done.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (KJV) tells us to, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The

statement "pray without ceasing" can seem like an overwhelming task – a burden perhaps – but the point of this command is not that we should be walking around literally uttering prayers 24/7. Commentaries indicate that the Greek is, "Pray without intermission"; that is, we are to pray without prayer-less voids. We don't turn to God just when there is a crisis, or just where we have a small moment of silence – interacting with God is a part of our everyday life. To pray without ceasing is to go about our everyday life, with a sense of God's presence in all our activities.

This sentiment is repeated in Romans 12:1-2 (*The Message*): "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering." To pray without ceasing is an opportunity to seek God regularly in those moments of our lives that we consider mundane and boring, as well as the enthralling and exciting highs. To pray without ceasing is to seek God in every part of our lives.

100 Days, which launched on 1 June, is an invitation to enter into ceaseless prayer. Social centres, corps, headquarters and individuals will be invited to host a 24/7 prayer space through this campaign. At the foundation of 100 Days is a desire to recognise and engage in the ways in which God is working to restore the Kingdom of God in Australia, and the invitation for The Salvation Army to participate in this. It is an opportunity for Salvationists and Salvation Army communities to identify and embrace God's will for Australia through persistent and responsive prayer.

Each day of 100 Days will feature a devotional based on one of seven themes. Additionally, each day people will be encouraged to interact with a daily rhythm of prayer - Seek: Come before God; Listen: What is God saying? What is God doing? Act: How do I respond? Imagine: What are the possibilities of a flourishing Kingdom? 100 Days is an opportunity to seek God, hear his voice and respond to what he is asking of us – both as individuals and as an organisation. It is an opportunity to restore the Kingdom of God in your community, your church and in your life.

Amanda Merrett is 100 Days of Ceaseless Prayer coordinator

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Sign up to pray for a period of time during 100 Days. Groups and individuals may commit to 24 hours, an hour each week, or 10 minutes each day. You can sign up through our website, or via your corps officer.

Download the monthly devotionals, or speak to your corps officer for a hard copy.

Set up a prayer room – 100 Days will be providing prayer stations and activities.

Consider the ways in which your existing programs and sections can make 100 Days a part of their regular routine? For example, can your youth group pray for an hour once a month?

Set an alarm for the same time each day and spend 10 minutes praying through the prayer topic for that day.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Get creative! Have you always wanted to paint or draw? Use 100 Days as an opportunity to creatively express your prayer requests.

Sign up to our daily email subscription. Visit the website for more information, at 100days.australiaone.info



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Celebrating
60 YEARS
1956-2016




The Salvation Army Papua New Guinea and Australia have had close ties for sixty years, sharing many experiences and memories.



Northern Region – Goroka
Thursday 23 June – Sunday 26 June (morning), 2016

Southern Region – Port Moresby
Sunday 26 June (afternoon) – Tuesday 28 June, 2016

You are invited to join us as we celebrate our God who is continuing to transform lives because of the mission and ministry of faithful Salvationists.
Men, women, boys and girls lives have been changed for the present and for eternity.

YOU WILL BE INSPIRED, CHALLENGED, EXCITED, AND SPIRITUALLY REFRESHED.

Our Contact: **The Salvation Army**, P.O. Box 1323, Boroko, N.C.D.
Territorial Headquarters | Angau Drive, Boroko
Telephone: **325 5522** | Facsimile: **325 3534**

For more information visit our website:
www.png.salvationarmy.org



SALVATION ARMY TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS IN PNG

Aussies to help mark occasion with northern neighbours

WORDS ESTHER PINN

Salvationists from the small Papua New Guinea town of Popondetta will walk for up to six days to attend the 60th anniversary of The Salvation Army's work in Australia's closet neighbouring country this month. They will be among thousands of PNG Salvationists, complemented by a smaller group of Australians, who will gather in Goroka from 23-26 June and then in PNG's capital, Port Moresby, from 26-28 June to celebrate the milestone.

The Salvation Army's world leader, General André Cox, and Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women's Ministries, will travel from London to be the special guests at the historic celebrations. Many local Salvationists will also make long journeys to attend the congress, with some travelling via canoe or catching a crowded Public Vehicle (an open-sided three-tonne truck).

The northern congress will host open-air meetings at Goroka's National Park, while the southern congress will be held at the Roy Bungay Memorial Hall at the Army's territorial headquarters in Boroko, Port Moresby. Songs of praises will be sung in various languages as Salvationists and soldiers arrive and begin to pitch their tents. Musical items are being prepared by local Salvationists for the official celebrations and a march of witness will take place at both congresses.

"There is a real sense of celebrating our God who is continuing to transform lives because of the mission and ministry of faithful Salvationists over the last 60 years," said Major Heather Unicomb, an Australia Eastern Territory officer who is the PNG Territory's Assistant Secretary for Program. "There is an amazing bond on the spiritual level between the Australia Eastern Territory and Papua New Guinea."

Ministry in PNG has always been close to the hearts of many Australia Eastern Territory officers. Pioneer officers from the Eastern Territory, then-Majors Keith and Edna Baker, officially began the Army's work in PNG in 1956.

When he first set foot on PNG soil, Major Baker declared: "God give me PNG or I die." Salvation Army ministry began with a meeting at Kila Kila Barracks on 21 October 1956. A short time later, PNG celebrated its first Salvation Army soldier, a young student named Kei Geo. The ministry continued to grow, spreading throughout the country and meeting needs such as education and medical services. PNG officially became its own command in 1994, and then in December 2000 was elevated to territory status, although continuing its strong ties to the Australia Eastern Territory. More than 350 Australian officers have served in PNG over the past 60 years.

The Army's NSW and ACT Divisional Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, spent three years serving in PNG as its chief secretary. "My prayer would be that they will rise up and see all that God has for them," said Lieut-Colonel Gluyas. "That they will live like Jesus and for Jesus, and live and walk in personal freedom, in a safe nation, and in the total freedom of Christ."

Lieut-Colonels Kelvin and Julie Alley, Australia Eastern officers currently serving in PNG, echo these sentiments. "I have been able to visit many health centres and posts in PNG," said Lieut-Colonel Julie Alley, Territorial Director of Health Services and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries in PNG. "It is so rewarding to see the extent to which The Salvation Army is a vital and essential part in the health and community life of the ordinary person living in the villages of Papua New Guinea."

Lieut-Colonel Kevin Alley, PNG Territory Chief Secretary, added: "It is my desire to see the territory become self-sustaining financially and for the Lord to bring a generation of officers through to leadership within their own territory, and for PNG Salvationists to capture afresh the joys of discipleship in order for The Salvation Army in this country to be a vital force for good and for godliness, making a difference to the lives of the people of Papua New Guinea." ¶

"God ... is continuing to transform lives because of the mission and ministry of faithful Salvationists over the last 60 years"

Cause no harm.

As The Salvation Army's international projects officer, **Major Heather Poxon** is very aware of the effects of climate change on the daily lives of the world's poorest people. The disruption to weather patterns is leading to significant problems with water supply and food-growing around the globe. She says that, for The Salvation Army as an international movement – and for its members and supporters as individuals – it's time to think of others in the way we conduct our business and lead our everyday lives

The Salvation Army's historical venture into the business of buying and selling tea is reflected in the lyrics of a song from the 1960s Salvation Army musical *Take-Over Bid*: "Oh, there's nothing like an Army cup of tea ..." went John Gowans' lyric. "They produce it on the spot from Hong Kong to Aldershot. Oh, there's nothing like an Army cup of tea!"

As far back as 1898, Commandant Herbert Booth launched the Missionary Tea League whereby members pledged only to drink tea supplied by Salvation Army operations in India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), under the brand name Hamodava – a Sinhalese word for "Salvation". Simultaneously, The Salvation Army purchased land in South Asia and employed indigenous tea farmers; an innovative foretaste of the Fair Trade concept, perhaps.

I've never been to Aldershot, but I recently visited Hong Kong, and my visit there reignited concerns about such ventures and their importance as part of the Army's holistic international ministry. Perhaps you prefer coffee to tea but, whatever your preference, please allow me to outline the background to my interest. Every year, I grow tomatoes in a little plot of land behind my house. Last year's crop failed to ripen, the tomatoes remaining green and then turning black – I couldn't even use them for chutney! I am reliably informed that

global climate change had affected many other tomato growers too – it wasn't just my efforts that failed. In 2015, here in the United Kingdom, we experienced bouts of unusually warm weather during winter, resulting in the early flowering of some plants.

Thankfully, those changes don't affect me too much. I am fortunate enough to be able to get replacement tomatoes from the supermarket and even buy chutney to my heart's content, but for others, globally, such alterations in temperature and crop management can have a significant impact on income and lifestyle. The tea farmer in India, or the coffee farmer in Uganda, for example, might lose entire crops because an unpredictable climate has altered flowering patterns drastically. Or a Kenyan farmer can be devastated when the maize seed she planted withers and dies because the rains don't fall.

Tuvalu's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Aunese Simati, talks about the need to secure safe places for displaced families: "You often hear people say to move to higher ground or to move inland. In Tuvalu's case," he explains, "there is no higher ground as we are an atoll nation, just over two metres above sea level. We don't have the luxury of higher grounds. If you move inland, you hit the other side of the island. The highest building is the three-storey



↑ Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo eat a paste made from the ground leaves of the moringa tree. Moringa (also known as the miracle tree) has leaves which are rich in nutrients and can be effective in stopping malnutrition. Growing these trees helps with reforestation efforts and reduces the effects of carbon emissions.

government building in Funafuti, which is used as an evacuation centre in times of natural disaster.”

CLIMATE CHANGE

The media is overwhelmed with reports of increasing environmental migration by people fleeing drought or flood. The stark reality is, plants and animals – vital food sources – are becoming extinct or unsustainably rare. Disasters seem to be more frequent. Quite probably, we could all relate one story or another of strange weather patterns locally, nationally or internationally.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that this planet’s surface temperatures increased by 0.85 degrees Celsius between 1880 and 2012, and that this was most likely due to increased greenhouse gas emissions. This has led to warming of the oceans, melting of ice sheets, glaciers and Arctic sea ice, sea level rises, and more extreme weather events. This warming is predicted to rise if we continue to emit greenhouse gases at present rates. Ninety-seven per cent of climate scientists agree that humans are causing this climate change. Psalm 24:1 tells us: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” The apostle Paul reminds us that “all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17). When God created the world he said that it was good and beautiful (Genesis 1:31). He entrusted this world to our stewardship (Genesis 1:28).

Tragically, we have exploited it with our tendency towards a mindset of grabbing and growing without sufficient thought of reasonable limitations or the effects of such development and growth.

As God’s people, Bible believers, do we maybe need to revisit the idea that Planet Earth is our shared home? Is it possible we have neglected that concept, to the catastrophic detriment of innocent others? We human beings are interconnected; we cannot therefore pick and choose which parts of our behaviour we prefer without strong consideration of how that behaviour impacts the lives of individuals, families and entire communities whose needs are already great. It has been said it is only the sick bird that will soil its own nest. Human beings, uniquely, have soiled this stunningly beautiful and intricately complex planet.

It is not without significance that the words “ecology” and “economy” have a common root which means “housekeeping”. The implication is obvious! We cannot separate ecology and economy; neither may we continue to make decisions about what we buy or how we live on the basis of cheapest options or largest profits. In terms of ecology, that is a spectacularly dangerous economic philosophy. Frankly, someone, somewhere, will bear that cost of our decisions, and pay the price. Awfully, it is often those who can afford it least who bear the burden of shoddy housekeeping not of their making.

- 01. Shamadidi, from Yunnan province in China, boils water on her biogas stove. The Salvation Army is working with her community to encourage the use of biogas for cooking rather than wood. In the long term, this should help slow down the rate of deforestation, which in turn leads to erosion and desertification.
- 02. Dulia, from Yunnan province in China, harvests mulberry leaves to feed silkworms. As part of a Salvation Army project, mulberry trees were planted along the river instead of maize, which has shallow roots and is pulled up every year, leading to landslides when the rains come. The mulberry trees have good root systems and are left in place from year to year. Since the trees were planted there has been a noticeable reduction in landslides.

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- 03. Honest Gudu, a farmer in Kenya, with his maize crop which has been grown using conservation farming methods. These methods help to keep the structure of the soil healthy, moist and weed-free. They help farmers to withstand the negative effects of longer dry seasons and unexpected rains.

URGENT ISSUES

The maxim – the golden rule – must be: how will this affect others? Where, for example, does the chain of manufacture and purchase begin, long before I buy, say, a cheap pair of jeans? In an unregulated sweatshop in Bangladesh? How might my purchases affect generations who follow me?

Have you ever stayed in a guest house or hotel (or visited a Salvation Army hall!) where there is a notice on display requesting that the kitchen/bathroom/toilet be left as you yourself would like to find it? It’s not such a bad rule of thumb for dear old Planet Earth, and it only requires a modicum of thought beforehand.

So when we in the International Projects Section – and many other Salvation Army development workers around the world – work with conservation agriculture, for example, we work to leave a healthy/healthier earth in our wake. When we support agroforestry projects, intercropping, bee-keeping, caterpillar-raising (caterpillars are a cheap and tremendous source of protein!); when we encourage an increase in biodiversity and a decrease in the use of artificial pesticides, I believe we co-labour with God the Creator to care for (t)his earth. We also seek to mitigate against the inevitability of future disasters caused by climate change.

Thankfully, governments worldwide are (at last!) starting to take these urgent issues seriously. Last year, in Paris, representatives of 200 countries came together for intense discussion and agreed an encouraging and heart-warming deal on

the environment. They made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and to regularly review the progress of their plans. Finance will be provided to poor nations to help them cut emissions and cope with the effects of unusual and extreme weather. Countries affected by climate-related disasters and problems will be granted crucial financial and practical aid. Thank the Lord for such political will and action. Pray for more!

The renowned economist E.F. Schumacher said: “We still have to learn to know how to live peacefully, not only with our fellow person, but also with nature itself, and, above all, with those higher powers which have made nature and have made us; for assuredly we have not come about by accident and certainly have not made ourselves.”

Ultimately, whether or not the planet is significantly enriched by our being here, is it not perfectly logical for Christians to want to live in such ways that cause no harm to those with whom we share this existence? If righteousness for righteousness’ sake is sometimes our only motto and incentive, is not living simply so that others may simply live a sane and sapient mandate?

Martin Luther said: “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” What will we plant today, literally and metaphorically, for good or ill? □

This story first appeared in the April-June issue of *All The World*

As God’s people, Bible believers, do we maybe need to revisit the idea that Planet Earth is our shared home? Is it possible we have neglected that concept, to the catastrophic detriment of innocent others?



← Major and Mrs Gordon Fletcher with the very first Snowy Mountains Field Unit. Photo courtesy of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Heritage Centre.

SNOWY SALVOS PLOUGH ON EACH WINTER

Vital support for struggling workers

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

The Salvation Army has had a presence in the NSW Snowy Mountains since the late 1800s, but it wasn't until the 1950s that we found our niche in supporting migrant workers. The Army arrived in Cooma in the form of Captain H.B Steven, who made an entrance with his travelling ministry caravan, the Cavalry Fort "Aggressive". He pitched a tent in the middle of town and, according to an article in the now defunct Salvation Army publication *Full Salvation*, dated 1 October 1892, "set the work going with swing. Converts rapidly increased in number, and ... the fire spread ..."

Despite early enthusiasm, the work didn't last and it wasn't until the 1950s that it rekindled, due to the commencement of the Snowy Mountains Scheme which brought 100,000 workers from 30 countries into the area to build dams, roads, bridges and power stations. The Salvation Army deployed a Field Unit – a motor vehicle designed for outback ministry. Major and Mrs Gordon Fletcher – the "Snowy Salvos" as they were known – travelled from camp to camp, offering

workers practical and emotional support.

Conditions were tough and in a newsletter written by the pair in September 1955, they record: "Caught in blizzard two miles from Happy Jacks. Put on chains. Snowplough came out but bogged with snow over wheels. Turned back and tried to reach Adaminaby but couldn't make it ... Have been waiting

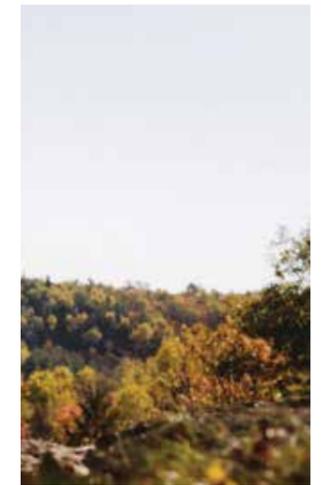
Struggling to afford three meals a day, they rely heavily on the servant heart of the Salvos who open the doors of the Jindabyne Community Centre to serve hot drinks and a three-course evening meal.

three days and no vehicles have come through. We have food and kerosine for another three days and we are melting snow for water ..."

Sixty years later, the influx of foreign

workers continues, although on a much smaller scale. Every year, hundreds of foreigners holding working-holiday visas arrive at the ski fields and in the surrounding towns. And, like those before them, they can still rely on The Salvation Army for support. The Salvo Snow Mission takes place during the winter school holidays, which run from the end of June into July. It's the start of the ski season and often there's not enough snow to attract large numbers of tourists and therefore not enough employment for seasonal workers. Struggling to afford three meals a day, they rely heavily on the servant heart of the Salvos who open the doors of the Jindabyne Community Centre to serve hot drinks and a three-course evening meal.

Last year, workers and volunteers at the Salvo Snow Mission supported struggling workers from about 20 nations. While it's a far cry from the very first Cavalry Forts, it's the same love and support that The Salvation Army is known for the world over.¶



MODELLING THE WARDROBE OF HOLINESS

How we respond to others is the real challenge

WORDS CHRISTINE IVERS

What are you passionate about? This question has been asked a million times during my lifetime. In the early years it was family, friends, music, my relationship with God – although there were times this suffered just trying to get the balance right. If you were to ask me now ... what are you passionate about? I would, say my marriage, my family, journeying with people through life issues and ... my relationship with God.

It is pretty obvious that being passionate about my family rates highly. You see, there was a stage in my life when my husband and I thought we would never have children, but God decided to bless us with three – two boys and a girl. I can appreciate, sadly, this is not always the case. Since then, our family has grown in number and the words of God to Adam and Eve become a reality where he says to them: "Be fruitful and increase in number" (Genesis 1:28). All of our children are married – we are further blessed with two grandsons and a granddaughter who give us great joy – plus two more grandkids on the way!

The significance of family is not taken for granted. As I reflect on the blessed life I have, I am fully aware of many who suffer fractured relationships, broken marriages and loneliness. Circumstances cause families to be torn apart by abuse,

sickness, addictions, grief and loss, drought and natural disasters, long working hours or, conversely, no work. The list is endless.

Unfortunately, that's life for many – including Christians. Heartbreak, sadness, anger, disappointment, regret, lost opportunities, unforgiveness and unwillingness to change, brings a dark dimension and an air of hopelessness. I recently came across a quote which challenges my responses to others when life is tough and feelings of hopelessness invade my life: "When you cannot control the situation, challenge yourself to control how you respond to the situation – this is where your power is! (Anonymous).

Control how you respond to the situation – Hmmm ... here is a challenge for all of us! When you think about it, our responses inevitably affect others – those we live with, those we work with, those we meet randomly and ourselves. D.L. Moody challenged us on our responses when he wrote: "A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian ... and most of all, his family ought to know."

The Apostle Paul gives us a great model for behaviour and how to respond when life happens, not only to us and our family, but in all of our encounters

with people. His model is for holy living – living like Christ when he says in Colossians 3:12-14: "Since you are all set apart by God, made holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a holy way of life: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Put up with one another. Forgive. Pardon any offences against one another, as the Lord has pardoned you, because you should act in kind. But above all these, put on love! Love is the perfect tie to bind these together." (*The Voice*).

This is not a passive reminder from Paul. He encourages us to actively engage in ensuring that our responses to life be holy. He reminds us to "put up ... put on ... clothe yourselves. As holy people called by God we are asked to clothe ourselves with the characteristics of one who is holy. Not only that – we are asked to forgive as we have been forgiven."

What does this mean for us? It means that whoever we encounter – family, friends, people from our church or workplace, people in the street – we are to be intentional about modelling the wardrobe of holiness so that others will encounter Jesus.¶

Major Christine Ivers is Queensland Divisional Personnel Secretary

KINDNESS A KEY FOCUS OF OTHERS WEEK

Following God's lead wherever we are

WORDS SIMONE WORTHING

"Heart to God, Hand to Man" is the vision behind The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory's annual "Others Week", held from 12-19 June. Kindness is one of the focus areas of this week. "We're looking to God, wanting to be people of God who are kind people through and through," says Fay Foster, Salvos Caring Coordinator who is overseeing Others Week. "We want to be following God's lead in this wherever we are. It's about the way we live, not just the acts of kindness we do."

Some expressions of The Salvation Army, such as Aged Care Plus and Salvos Stores, arrange specific activities for this week, while others focus on developing initiatives and approaches that are integrated into their corps or centre, simply as part of who they are and what they do. If needed, corps and centres can choose alternative dates for Others Week to best fit their calendars.

The Others Week team has developed a range of resources where almost every ministry area can find tools to help them with their activities, from encouragement cards, Others-related badges for SAGALA sections, the Kind Kids Club, Make Poverty History and a colouring competition, to devotionals, a Facebook photo challenge, and Others T-shirt.

For more information, go to toolkit.salvos.org.au/toolkit/contributors/mission-team (search for Salvos Caring or Others Week), the Salvos Caring Facebook page, or contact salvos.caring@ae.salvationarmy.org

KIND KIDS CLUB

The Kind Kids Club is a new initiative in the territory. The champion of the club is Captain Kindness, who inspires children everywhere to be kind and helpful to others. He gives children Kindness Missions to complete which could include helping at home, being kind to others in the community, being kind to children and teachers at school, and even helping less fortunate people in other countries.



To join the Kind Kids Club, children must complete one of these missions, and recite the pledge to be kind in all aspects of life and love God and others. Captain Kindness has taught many kids how important it is to be kind to others in Jesus' name, and now he has a special helper, his first sidekick, Kind Kid.

"During Others Week we will learn more about Captain Kindness' mission to change the world through one act of kindness after another, as well as how you can have Captain Kindness or Kind Kid visit your corps, centre or children's ministry," says Fay. "Captain Kindness is designed to be a local superhero and we can't wait to see people across our territory donning a cape, a mask and the Kind Kids Club logo to bring the message to their own kids!"

GOD'S CALL TO BE COUNTER-CULTURAL

Being good stewards of our whole income



WORDS CASEY O'BRIEN MACHADO

Fifteen years ago, when looking for a part-time, after-school job, I approached one of my favourite clothing stores to ask for an application form. I was surprised when the manager mentioned that I would also need to attach a photo of myself to the application. I enquired why. "We only hire good-looking people, of course!" came the reply.

A teenager at the time, I was infuriated. I told my friends in no uncertain terms that I would never spend my money there again. Each time they visited the store, I would sit outside, happy to tell anyone who would listen why I refused to shop there.

Today, I am no less infuriated by this policy, and am aware that it is now common-place in many retail stores. It is still not acceptable for people to be offered employment (or conversely, not offered employment) on the basis of their looks. The list of places at which I will not shop has increased over the years to include those stores which sell products which are demoralising to women, stores which openly discriminate against any particular group of people, or stores which I know are aware that their production practices are unsafe for workers yet refuse to change them.

In the big scheme of things, it makes little difference to those who own large retail chains whether or not I spend a small amount of money on their product. I hold on to a hope that others will also refuse to spend their money on brands with poor practices, however, my conviction goes beyond this. Widely respected author and educator Anna Lappé writes, "Every time you spend money, you're casting a vote for the kind of world you want".

The type of world I want to live in is one where your ability to gain employment is based on your capability and commitment – not one in which your ability to gain employment is based on how you look. The type of world I want to live in is one where all feel valued and respected – not one where women are demoralised, where

people are discriminated against or where some are exploited so that others can have the latest clothes. The type of world I want to live in is one where the values of the Kingdom of God are upheld – where grace, joy, mercy and love are the norm, where people are treated equally regardless of their circumstances, and where there is provision for all. I want to spend my money in ways that support this kind of world.

This goes beyond just our shopping habits. The issue with money is not purely about where we *don't* spend it, but where we *do* spend it. Often, when we receive our pay, we divide it into 10 per cent God's (tithe), and the rest is ours to do with what we want. However, the reality is that if we are surrendering our lives to God, the money is 100 per cent his. We are expected to be good stewards of *all* of our pay, not just the part we allocate to the church.

We need to challenge the idea that our money is anything other than a blessing which we must use to further God's Kingdom on earth. We need to become practiced at asking God what he wants us to do with the money we earn and receive, rather than being on autopilot and doing with it what we always do. We must consciously make choices that line up with God's will for our lives, not our own. This is part of what being counter-cultural is about.

God cares about every detail of our lives. He cares about our money and what we do with it. His good plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11) include plans that he has for our money. The choices we make not only have impact on the wider world and those in it – those choices also have the capacity to see God's Kingdom come in the world. May we be good stewards of all the gifts he has given us, and may our choices further the Kingdom of God on earth rather than hinder it.

Casey O'Brien Machado is Territorial Social Justice Coordinator



+
**Alice Through
The Looking Glass**

RATING: TBA
RELEASE DATE: 26 May



Tim Burton, one of Hollywood’s most eccentric directors, has returned to the works of Lewis Carroll for a second chapter in the life of *Alice In Wonderland*. However, the madness that enthralls his work may have affected the plot too deeply, suggesting that our devotion to friends is worth any sacrifice – including the sacrifice of everyone else.

Mia Wasikowska reprises her role as the befuddled but headstrong Alice, who finds herself testing the bounds of reality again when she pushes her way through a mirror and to herself in the much-neglected realm of Wonderland. Alan Rickman’s caterpillar Absorem warns her that one of her most valued relationships is suffering and significant steps need taking: “You’ve been gone too long, Alice. There are matters that might benefit from your attention. Friends cannot be neglected.”

It turns out Johnny Depp’s Mad Hatter is dying of a broken heart. He believes his family, long presumed dead, are alive because of the appearance of a singular hat. Our heroine is determined to rise to the occasion and sets off to persuade Time (Sacha Baron Cohen) to lend her his chromosphere so that she can delve into the past and discover the truth about the Hatter family’s fate. But Time is unmoved by her entreaties, so Alice decides to steal the time-altering device, putting her on a collision course with familiar villains like the Red Queen (Helena Bonham-Carter), and imperilling every single moment in history.

Burton’s version of *Through The Looking Glass* will come as a disappointment to Carroll fans because of its distinct departure from the original novel. There’s hardly a story element left intact save for the characters. Depp manages to lend the same lunacy he’s brought to bear on previous incarnations like Willie Wonka

and Captain Jack Sparrow, but for all his spark and the delightfully weird CGI scenery Burton imagines, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* still comes off as distinctly bland.

Part of the problem has to be what’s driving the plot. Alice is risking everything for the sake of her truest friend, but there’s a point where even this justification starts to seem as crazed as the Hatter’s hair. Time warns Alice that she cannot hope to change the past, only learn from it. In fact, if she takes his chromosphere it will lead to the collapse of time itself and the non-existence of everything and everyone, including Alice. Yet our heroine’s headstrong nature doesn’t hesitate at the risk and so everyone else is held ransom to her decision.

If there’s a positive point in the plot, it comes about when Alice realises that Time is not in fact her enemy: “I used to think time was a thief but *you* give before you take. Every second is precious.” The intimation is that every second represents a valuable opportunity worth taking advantage of. Many people have railed against God, similarly accusing him of stealing things away. But, like Alice, we might all do well to remember that whatever good we might have lost came from his hand in the first place: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows,” (James 1:17) – and so every good thing represents an opportunity to know him better.

But honestly, that’s a long bow even for the crazy tale that is *Alice Through The Looking Glass*. It lands instead on the idea that friendships are worth every sacrifice, including unwilling ones you have to compel from others. And that, I’m afraid, is as mad as the proverbial Hatter.

- Mark Hadley.



+
**The Hunt For The
Wilderpeople**

RATING: PG
RELEASE DATE: 26 May



The Hunt For The Wilderpeople is a wry New Zealand adventure that well reflects the laconic sense of humour thriving on both sides of the Tasman “ditch” – but it will be a tragedy if viewers only see it as another kitsch comedy. This story about a troubled boy and a misfit old man discovering a bond that withstands society’s worst criticisms, provides a perfect illustration of the unity oddball Christians also enjoy.

The Hunt For The Wilderpeople is based on the novel *Wild Pork and Watercress*, by New Zealand author Barry Crump. His story concerns an overweight Maori boy called Ricky Baker who has been shunted from foster home to foster home before finally arriving on the farm of Bella Faulkner.

Ricky is destined for juvenile detention if he can’t make this last placement work, but this would-be “gangsta” can’t think of anything else but escape. However, Bella and her husband Hector (Sam Neill) are also “people without people” and they set about creating a family where Ricky can really belong. When a tragic event snatches Bella away, and social services threatens to move Ricky on, he and the curmudgeon Hector are forced to discover how strong their new ties will be. The pair head bush and the chase that follows is laugh-out-loud funny. Yet it’s also endearing as Ricky and Uncle Hector forge a new definition of family – the Wilderpeople.

Writer/director Taika Waititi has done a brilliant job crafting a story that will draw guffaws from kids and parents alike. Waititi also does a wince-worthy cameo as a minister of religion whose funeral service well encapsulates the sort of nonsense non-Christians have heard from preachers who’ve left the Bible behind: “So let’s pray that Jesus will make it a bit easier to get

through those doors and get to [his] bounty of delicious confectionary.” It’s a pity the only presentation of Christianity is a negative one though, because the very essence of family the film offers up is one that’s been at the heart of God’s community for 2000 years.

The basis for their family rests on a shared love for Bella and an acceptance of each other that transcends society’s standards of success. Like the apostle Paul’s description of the early church, their weaknesses actually make room for something much, much stronger: “Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong,” (1 Corinthians 1:26-27).

The Hunt For The Wilderpeople has a few words that might be unsuitable for young ears, but it presents a picture of family Christian parents will have no trouble getting behind. We don’t build on what others think of us, but on what someone has done for us. In this case our weaknesses become all the more valuable because they serve to display the love and strength we find in God and each other thanks to a shared spirit.

In the case of the Wilderpeople, this is a desire to put family before everything else. In the case of the church, it’s the Holy Spirit that takes that same motivation and transforms it into an eternal security. Bella might have passed on from Ricky and Hector’s lives, but Jesus persists in offering himself as a foundation for a family that will exceed even Barry Crump’s “majestical” glories of the New Zealand bush. - Mark Hadley.

+ LISTEN

He Is – Sydney Staff Songsters

WORDS PHIL REES, SYDNEY CONGRESS HALL

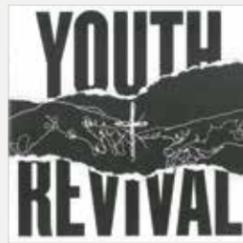
I recently was given an advance copy of the new recording of the Sydney Staff Songsters, *He Is*, and I have been listening to it quite a lot, especially in my car. I have accompanied the songsters on a few occasions and it has been very clear to me that they have a real ministry of encouragement, especially in the smaller communities that they visit, and I have noted that the Sydney Staff Songsters have a strong following who keenly anticipate their next release.

Over a number of years they have established a repertoire and style which works for them, and their album continues this tradition. There are 11 tracks ranging from a very intimate and sensitive setting of *God So Loved the World* through to up-tempo and gospel-style songs.

My first reaction was that the album is very well engineered, the backing band is tight and sounds very live, but the vocals sound further away, giving it a commercial, rather than the expected choral sound, but my ear quickly adjusted to it. Ashlee Metcher, Brooke Sellers, Lauren Howes and Ash Sellers all deliver their featured solos with passion and intensity.

My favourite tracks are the last two, *Lead Them Home* and *God Be With You*. This is a good album to have in the collection, and well worth buying a second one to give as a gift.

He Is is available for \$16.99 on iTunes or \$13.99 on Google Play. Alternatively, a CD can be purchased for \$20 from any Sydney Staff Songster member at their concerts. Go to [facebook.com/sydneystaffsongsters](https://www.facebook.com/sydneystaffsongsters) for updated information regarding their events.



Competition winners

Congratulations to Elizabeth Johnson, who has won our giveaway copy of Samuel L. Brengle's *Holy Life Series*, and Major Keith Hampton, who receives a complimentary copy of Stephen Court's *Holy!*.

+ LISTEN

Youth Revival – Hillsong Young and Free

WORDS ESTHER PINN

Hillsong Young and Free are making their mark in the Christian music industry with their second album *Youth Revival*. This energetic 12-track praise and worship album hits their millennial-targeted audience. Filled with dance-worthy and lively loop tracks, Young and Free are delivering worship for a new generation.

Youth Revival matches the popular styles of today's modern music with passionate godly lyrics. The album opens with electronic dance numbers, *Where You Are* and *Real Love*.

While the album's midsection begins to slow things down with more deliberate worship songs such as *Face to Face* and *Trust*, the modern electronic sound remains present amongst these tracks. Listeners can also hear a hint of the trademark Hillsong sound with the worship ballads *Never Alone* and *When The Fight Calls*.

The back half of the album brings together a mix of styles including electronic pop praise and worship songs, *Falling Into You*, *This Is Living*, and in *Your Eyes*. This is followed by another Christ-centred worship ballad, *Passion*. The album closes with a bonus 13th track, a radio version of opening song, *Where You Are*.

Young and Free's goal to bring powerful worship music to a new generation of youth and young adult worshippers, which was birthed in their first project, *We Are Young and Free*, has been achieved in their latest musical offering.

Youth Revival can be purchased for \$16.99 on iTunes or a CD/DVD version is available at Koorong from \$24.99. www.koorong.com

A 'big hello' welcomes Syrian refugees to Australia.



Millions of Syrians have been forced to flee their homeland because of war in their country. The Salvation Army is helping to resettle just some of these refugees in Australia.

Two groups of volunteers have been undertaking training, to prepare them for the role they'll play in "The Big Hello", an initiative run by The Salvation Army's Syrian refugee program. The initiative, part of the Australia Eastern Territory's Multicultural Ministries, is a response to the Federal Government's announcement in September last year to resettle 12,000 Syrian refugees in Australia.

The Salvation Army is jumping on board to assist with the resettlement of the refugees, by making sure they receive a warm welcome to the country within the first couple days of their arrival. Volunteers will host welcome barbeques and help the refugees to connect with social services. Local community members and services will be invited to attend the barbeques to assist with this process. The Syrian refugees will also receive care packs filled with toiletries, sponsored by Salvos Stores, toys for children, local services information in English and Arabic, socks and snacks.

Syrian refugees who are already living in Australia were invited to the first welcome barbeque on 22 May at Liverpool Corps, followed by a second barbeque on 4 June at Bankstown Corps. These are just the start; "The Big Hello" is an ongoing initiative and more welcome barbeques

will held over the coming months.

The Salvation Army's Syrian refugee program is looking to recruit and train up 300 volunteers, in particularly people who can speak Arabic. Volunteers are needed in three key areas:

"The Salvation Army is jumping on board to assist with the resettlement of the refugees, by making sure they receive a warm welcome to the country within the first couple days of their arrival."

- Packing Volunteers – Preparing care packs for adults and children, and preparing care packs to be transported to local Salvation Army corps.
 - Greeting Volunteers – Being part of a roster to meet and greet new arrivals, and to pick up and deliver care packs and invitations to barbeques.
 - Barbeque Volunteers – Helping local Salvation Army corps to organise their "Welcome Barbeque".
- Long-term, the program will offer employ-

ment opportunities, partnering with The Salvation Army's Employment Plus service and a family integration program, where each Syrian family will be connected with two or three Australian families to help resettle them in Australia.

For more information or to volunteer for "The Big Hello", go to thebighello.salvos.net -Esther Pinn



The Salvation Army has been working with refugees in Europe for more than a year. That work is now being extended to Australia.

THE SALVATION ARMY
THE TRADE

Now Open



Level One inside the new Territorial Headquarters at 261-265 Chalmers St, Redfern.



**Open 9am-4pm
Monday to Friday**

Lismore unearths vibrant past in celebrating 125th anniversary.



Number one soldier on the Lismore Corps roll, Harold Taylor plants a shrub as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations.

In the late 1800s, the local council took The Salvation Army to court when it “opened fire” on the streets of Lismore, prosecuting the officer in charge for “hindering traffic by kneeling down and praying on a public thoroughfare”.

Lismore Corps was again under the watchful eye of the local council when recently celebrating its 125th anniversary, but this time with great approval. In fact, Lismore Mayor, Jenny Dowell, recorded proceedings and used Facebook to commend the event to her many local government contacts. And if that was not enough, the mayor attended a second performance on the same day to officially welcome visitors returning to Lismore for the celebrations, at the same time expressing her appreciation for what the church has done locally, is still doing and will continue to do in the northern NSW town.

Anniversary celebrations began with a street performance by the Brisbane-based Revelation Big Band, followed by a grand musical extravaganza in the evening, boosted by input from husband-and-wife vocal team Shelden and Louise Mathieson. The Mathiesons and band also shared leadership of Sunday worship

and took part in an after-lunch session of more vocals and music.

Lismore literally got into the swing of things via the big band’s unique style of serving up great gospel music favourites. The rhythm may have been different, but the soul-saving message was the same. Long will the city remember the Mathiesons’ final number, You Raise Me Up, on the Sunday afternoon.

Weekend guests included NSW and ACT Divisional Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, and the NSW North Coast Area Officers, Majors David and Lea Palmer. Visitors came from as far away as the United States and New Zealand, reliving past connections with the local corps, some captured in a display of photographs and newspaper clippings that went right back to the Army’s local beginnings.

Anniversary celebrations were also marked by the planting of a native Australian shrub in The Salvation Army grounds by the corps’ oldest soldier, 94-year-old Harold Taylor. The weekend was recorded on video and copies are available to anyone interested by leaving a message with contact details on (02) 66247326. – Kelvin Elsley

History Snapshot

An article in *The Bulletin* magazine from 1883 states: “The Salvation Army is trying to make a start in Cootamundra. But the Cootamundra people don’t trouble about such small matters as salvation. The elite are up to their neck in lawn tennis!” Read more about the beginnings of The Salvation Army in Cootamundra at salvos.org.au/cootamundra

Salvos Academy a training ground for soldiers.

A partnership between The Salvation Army’s Social Justice and Young Adult teams has birthed a new training initiative known as Salvos Academy. Territorial Social Justice Coordinator, Casey O’Brien Machado, and Young Adults Coordinator, Lauren Mason, have come up with a way to educate Salvationists about the Army’s positional statements in a creative and engaging way.

“We often discuss the importance of educating soldiers, making sure we’re all on the same page as an Army, which is where the academy idea came from – that it’s actually a training ground. So it’s ongoing education in what we believe,” Casey said.

Salvos Academy has been running university-style lecture and tutorial sessions and panel discussion at Stanmore House in Sydney once a month since March, focusing on a different topic each time. “The Salvationist and Alcohol” and “Christianity and Mental Health” were just two of the topics on offer in the first semester. The sessions are also live-streamed and are open to all age groups.

The speakers and discussion facilities for each session include Army officers, soldiers or employees who are both educated and passionate about specific ministry areas. “We really want it to be educated discussion led by people who know what they’re talking about,” said Casey. Lauren added: “We want to raise the profile of people in the Army. Part of it is actually valuing the voice of our officers and providing a ministry space for them.”

So far, the Salvos Academy team has received positive feedback about the first semester’s interactive sessions and would like to see Salvationists equipped with the knowledge and tools for ministry work in their local communities. “I want to see a Salvation Army full of people who are certain of what they stand for and understand ways they can love out the kingdom of God today,” said Casey.

Semester One was completed earlier this month and Semester Two will begin on Wednesday 10 August. For further information about Salvos Academy, email socialjustice@ae.salvationarmy.org – Esther Pinn

CWA partners with Salvos in fight against drugs.



(Left to right) The Salvation Army’s Gerard Byrne, Major Christine Martin and Lieutenant Mark Townsend with Tanya Cameron and Ruth Cargill from the Country Women’s Association. Photo: Dubbo Liberal Daily

The Country Women’s Association (CWA) has donated a \$277,874 cheque to The Salvation Army to help in the fight against drugs in rural Western NSW. The funding will provide a two-year pilot program which will include support, assessment and educational services for those who are caught in drug and alcohol addiction, and their families.

The Rural Alcohol and Drug Support Service (RAODSS) will provide a mobile and responsive weekly service directly into the Dubbo, Cobar, Bourke, Walgett and Narromine local communities. The service will be based in Dubbo. “It’s really innovative of the CWA to look at funding such a service,” said Gerard Byrne,

Salvation Army Recovery Services Operations Manager. “Access to drug and alcohol support services in country NSW is difficult and I think it’s great the CWA has recognised that and is putting resources there to help people in rural communities.”

Tanya Cameron, NSW CWA President, said that the organisation is pleased to be making the donation, after raising concerns about the impact drugs and alcohol are having on regional communities. “We have been vocal about a lot of services that are lacking in the bush and it’s always been our aim and objective to fix that inequity that exists,” she said. – Simone Worthing

Plaque commemorates Founder’s tree.

Territorial Commander, Commissioner James Condon, unveiled a plaque at The Salvation Army’s Riverview Farm on 16 April, to commemorate the planting of a Hoop Pine tree on the spot 1899 by General William Booth during his second visit to Australia.

The tree, which stood for 115 years, eventually succumbed to disease and was cut down in 2014, leaving only a large stump. Furniture and memorabilia, located across the territory, has been constructed using the timber from the original tree. A small group of Salvationists and friends gathered for the ceremony, including former children from the Riverview home.



Commissioner James Condon unveils the plaque commemorating the tree planted by General William Booth in 1899.

New store builds community spirit in Dalby.



The Salvation Army’s new Family Store in Dalby.

Another Chance, The Salvation Army’s latest Family Store in Queensland, opened in Dalby on Saturday 2 April. The store, replacing a much smaller shop which closed in 2011, will sell a variety of clothing, jewellery, toys, household items and bric-a-brac. Eight volunteers run the store, which is open four days a week in the Darling Downs town, 200km west of Brisbane.

“The store has a strong community atmosphere, as we saw with stacks of people coming to the opening,” said Captain Mark Bulow, Dalby Corps Officer. “We treat everybody as the most important customer in the shop. Importantly, 100 per cent of our profit goes back to the local community, so no funds actually leave Dalby. It all goes back into the community to assist in various ways.”

Salvos Legal partner picks up major award.



Salvos Legal Humanitarian Queensland Partner, Michael Anglin, was awarded Australia's Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year at the 2016 Lawyers Weekly Partner of the Year Awards on 28 April. Held at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel, Michael said he was caught off guard when he discovered he had been nominated for the award and even more surprised when he won. "I found it a privilege to realise the vision of William Booth as the poor man's lawyer," he said at the awards ceremony.

Michael (pictured) has been running Salvos

Legal Humanitarian's Queensland branch since 2012, but he initially turned down the position. It wasn't until Michael assisted clients who had been affected by the 2011 Queensland floods that he knew it was the right time to move into full-time pro bono work. "It's always been my passion as a lawyer to assist those people who just didn't have access to legal services," he said.

Salvos Legal Humanitarian averages 120 cases across Queensland per month. For further information about Salvos Legal, go to salvoslegal.com.au

Army supports men's violence research project.

The Salvation Army in Tasmania, through its Safe from the Start project, has partnered with the University of Tasmania to conduct a research study titled: "How can we increase men's awareness that family violence has a harmful effect on their children?"

This research, conducted by Dr Peter Lucas, Research Fellow, School of Health Sciences, commenced in mid-2015 and aims to identify evidence-based resources being used in men's behaviour-change programs and other similar groups to increase men's awareness about the possible harms that exposure to family and domestic violence can have on children. The intention is to develop a best-practice education module, based on these resources, which could be used in a variety of settings.

The final project report, launched last month, includes 35 recommendations relating to four key themes: awareness raising, program content and delivery, resourcing, and ongoing research. A proposal for an action research project to trial new training strategies and resources has been lodged.

Safe from the Start is an early intervention, evidence-based project that aims to raise awareness of the effects on children aged from birth to five years who witness family violence and abuse. In Australia, more than 1000 workers have attended training and more than 750 resource kits have been distributed throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore and the United Kingdom. For more information, go to salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart

Presentation recalls Anzac legend's impact.

Can a non-Salvationist tell us anything we don't already know about our very own Anzac legend, William "Fighting Mac" McKenzie? That was the challenge posed by Chair of the Australia Eastern Territory Historical Society, Major David Woodbury, at a recent meeting in which Associate Professor of History at Avondale College, Dr Daniel Renaud, presented his recently published book, *The Man the Anzacs Revered*.

In a lively, humorous presentation, Dr Renaud captivated his audience with many familiar tales about the Salvation Army World War One chaplain. He enlightened them on the findings of his research into not only the man himself but his impact on the troops and the extent of his fame, which has now faded outside of church circles.

Dr Renaud challenged the legendary status of stretcher-bearer John Simpson (of Simpson and his donkey fame), saying that he was not that well known in Gallipoli, whereas William McKenzie was loved and revered not just at Gallipoli, but in Egypt and France as well. After reading hundreds and hundreds of soldiers' diaries and letters home, he found that references to McKenzie far outweighed those of Simpson. "And for 20 years after the war it didn't matter where McKenzie went he got mobbed ... he was adored," he said.

The associate professor spoke about William McKenzie as if he was an old friend, such is the bond he has established with the subject of his passionate research over many years. Yet there is one thing he is still yearning to find out about his hero: if anyone knows the tune to Fighting Mac's trademark *Sunshine Song* he would love to hear from you. You can contact him at daniel.reynaud@avondale.edu.au – **Lauren Martin**

History Snapshot

Local hoodlums interrupted some of the early meetings on the NSW Central Coast, at one stage throwing a home-made bomb at two local officers who were conducting an open-air meeting one evening. Read all about it and other stories about The Salvation Army's beginnings in this region at salvos.org.au/earlyopposition

Networking initiative launched in Maroochydore.



Captain Daniel Ross (left) Maroochydore Corps Officer, and Ben Brewer, Regional Coordinator – Doorways South Queensland, attended the launch.

The Maroochydore Corps launched its Community Agencies Network, a new initiative to help local service providers work together to meet client needs, at a breakfast meeting on 4 May.

Dianne Spencer, who works at Maroochydore Corps on Queensland's Sunshine Coast as Community Engagement Coordinator, was delighted with the response from local agencies. "We had more than 30 people, including representatives from Centrelink, the police, St Vinnies, Integrated Family and Youth Services and mental health attend," she said. "It was a good cross-section of services."

After the meal, Dianne led a role-play scenario – a client case study acted out with questions asked of the different agencies as to how they

would respond and what they could do to assist. "Everyone participated and got involved, offering resources and ways their agency could help to meet the needs of the client," she said.

Dianne will be instrumental in the network, linking clients in with other agencies and knowing what is available in the local area. "This includes Salvation Army services, government departments, employment agencies, community and neighbourhood organisations, and clubs and associations," she said. "If all these agencies are networking and know what each other offers, then we don't double up, and we work together to more deeply address the many, growing and complex needs of our clients. We also see where the gaps are in what we offer and which services we are lacking."

SAGALA research project

Major Glenda Hentzschel, secretary of the Brisbane Chapter of The Salvation Army Historical Society, is researching the history of SAGALA and is keen to hear from people who may be able to assist with the project. She would also like to speak with anyone who is familiar with the history of the Life Saving Guard or Boys' Legion.

Major Hentzschel would like to hear from

those who have been involved in SAGALA, have memories of key events and developments over the years, have copies of photos they are willing to share or who have received the Territorial Guards and Scouts of the Year or the Edith McCarthy awards.

To contact Major Hentzschel, email ctp.nanna@hotmail.com or write to PO Box 9397, Pacific Paradise, 4564, Qld.

New Salvos Store opens in Brisbane.

Salvos Stores has opened a new community op-shop in the south-west Brisbane suburb of Sherwood. "We are opening this new store as a result of increased demand and support from the local community," said Salvos Stores Brisbane Area Manager, Stuart Estreich.

Brisbane City Councillor, Nicole Johnson, officially opened the 600sqm store, located in a busy market area at 1/450 Sherwood Road, on 12 May. This was followed by a grand-opening sale, with bargain prices on about 10,000 recycled garments and household items.

The store, which has a dedicated Salvos Street Boutique section, will be run by two fulltime employees and about 20 volunteers. The boutique exists to attract fashion-savvy, budget-conscious consumers. Eco stylist and TV fashion commentator, Faye De Lanty, who partners with the Army, styles on-trend fashion for the boutiques. "By shopping at the boutique the consumer saves money and at the same time achieves a one-of-a-kind look," says Faye. "The boutique will become an important part of the store which will continue to provide a wide selection of affordable pre-loved clothing, furniture and other household items at affordable prices."

All profits from Sherwood Salvos Stores will go towards the running of Army programs, which assist the less fortunate. To donate to Salvos Stores, phone 13 SALVOS (137 258) and have your donation picked up or deliver donated goods to your nearest Salvos Stores during business hours. To find your closest Salvos Stores or to shop online, go to salvos.org.au/stores



Councillor Nicole Johnson inside the new Salvos Stores complex at Sherwood.

Orange Corps.



New junior soldiers at Orange Corps (from left) Harriet Grounds, Rebekah Ayling, Alexandria Routh and Emily Ayling.

Captain Tahlia Grounds, Corps Officer, enrolled four junior soldiers on Sunday 21 February – Emily and Rebekah Ayling, Harriet Grounds and Alexandria Routh.

Three of the new junior soldiers have come to the corps through the Just Brass program, established a few years ago by previous Orange Corps Officers, Majors Karen and Greg Saunders. “The Ayling girls’ grandmother was a soldier, their mum a junior soldier, and now they have all reconected with the Salvos through Just Brass,” said Captain Grounds. “The Routh family now all attend the corps, having started with Just Brass, and are active in the corps.”

This year, the corps has linked with many families through Just Brass and has been able to walk with them through some difficult challenges, as well as celebrate successes and joys. “Our Sunday School has grown from just a handful of kids to a noisy 20-25 kids,” said Captain Grounds. “We now have a small youth group and our corps band has benefited as well, with up to 14 playing for worship. We also have eight new parents attending worship. Some have joined a small group, others have completed Christianity Explained. God is moving. Orange Corps has one clear mission – we want people to meet Jesus. Everything we do we do with this as our focus.”

Maitland Corps.



Three generations of soldiers (from left to right): Grandad Ron, junior soldier Michael, and dad Jason Jenkins.

Major Ian Channell, Corps Officer, enrolled Michael Jenkins as a junior soldier on Sunday 17 April. Michael is a fifth-generation soldier and one of five junior soldiers enrolled at Maitland over the past year, three of whom are also generational soldiers. “Michael loves the Lord and wants to be involved in the corps,” said Major Channell.

Tuggeranong Corps.



Captain Mark Everitt enrolls Emma Clarke as a senior soldier. George Atherton is holding the flag.

Captain Mark Everitt, Corps Officer with Captain Fran Everitt, enrolled Emma Clarke as a senior soldier on Sunday 24 April. “During her enrolment, Emma testified to having given her life to Christ and wanting Jesus to be reflected in all she does,” said Captain Fran. “She knows that he will help and give her strength as she lives out the promises she has made.”

Captain Fran prayed for Emma in her spiritual walk and her enthusiasm and passion for helping others. Emma knelt at the Mercy Seat, as she signed her Soldier’s Covenant, with her friend Elise Paull, who invited her to youth group a few years ago.

Emma is an active member of Tuggeranong Corps. She is a songster, timbrelist, teacher in Kids Church and involved in SAGALA. She is also the leader of the young people’s worship group and is passionate about humanitarian justice issues. Emma and Elise run a fair trade stall every month at the corps, raising money for The Salvation Army’s International Development annual projects. Emma and Elise have also been members of the Snow Mission for a number of years and will soon travel to East Timor as members of a mission team with The Salvation Army.

Send us your enrolment stories

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

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

Shoalhaven Corps.

Commissioner James Condon enrolled Harriet Thomson-Bennett as a senior soldier on Sunday 24 April. The enrolment was part of a corps visit to Shoalhaven by Commissioners James and Jan Condon, one of their last corps engagements as territorial leaders.

“As Harriet and the Commissioner stood together on the same stage, we could only be excited about her future as she serves God,” said Lieutenant Matthew Sutcliffe, Shoalhaven Corps Officer. “We also gave glory to God for the Condons, these humble servants, and prayed for them as they enter ‘active retirement’ in Queensland. Just as a fun fact, it was the Commissioner’s last enrolment as an active officer, and he himself was enrolled at Nowra, now Shoalhaven, Corps, almost 50 years ago!”

During her testimony, Harriet thanked those who have supported her, including Craig and Jacqui Frew, who led soldiership classes, Don Saunders, Ted and Suzanna Hodge, family and friends. “Harriet is keen to learn more about her faith, to go deeper and discover new things to serve her Lord and Saviour the best she can,” said Lieut Sutcliffe.



Commissioner James Condon enrolls Harriet Thomson-Bennett as a senior soldier at Shoalhaven Corps.

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Tackling Christian ethics over coffee.



Ladies from the Gold Coast Temple Corps made the trip to Brisbane for the coffee morning at Wynnum.



From left to right: Major Julia Metcher, Lieutenant Bronwyn Lithgow, and Major Christine Ivers enjoy a light moment at the Townsville coffee morning.

The Christian response to refugees, sharing God's love in local communities and keys to letting love open the door were the topics of discussion at the five women's ministries coffee mornings held throughout the Queensland Division last month.

Major Christine Ivers, guest speaker for the mornings in Rockhampton and Townsville, spoke on the territorial and divisional women's ministries theme – doors and keys – with a focus on allowing the love of God to unlock the doors of our hearts. Major Ivers, Divisional Personnel Secretary, shared from her experience journeying with the elderly at an Aged Care Plus facility – speaking on some of the multiple losses elderly people suffer and the doors that were locked for them in culture, tradition, and taboo areas.

"Listeners were challenged to use the keys of relationships, trust, listening, care, respect, authenticity and love; highlighting the love of God and love for others as the master key to unlocking our own doors, and those of others, to let God's love in," explained Major Julia Metcher, Divisional Salvos Women Coordinator in North Queensland. Major Ivers had made gifts for each of the women – scripture cards adorned with keys and hearts – which were

given to all the women who attended.

In Rockhampton, Major Metcher interviewed Myrtle Gospel, who spoke about her community service at the gem fields, nursing homes, street ministry, show collecting and visitation over the last 20 years. Myrtle shared how she called for The Salvation Army when her husband was terminally ill, and felt she had found her spiritual home. After the death of her husband, she became a senior soldier and began to serve God in any way she could. Myrtle remarried last October at the age of 89.

In Townsville, Gemma Stone gave her inspiring testimony, sharing how she recently found The Salvation Army and faith, during hard times, through the witness of a friend.

In the Brisbane region, Captain Emma Johnson, Bundamba Corps Officer, was guest speaker for the three morning events at Gympie, Toowoomba and Wynnum. Captain Johnson spoke about her passion for ministry with refugees and asylum seekers and dispelled some of the common myths held around illegal immigrants, boat people and unlawful entry. She also shared about the programs, such as English classes, the social enterprise plant nursery, sports teams and general assistance, run by Bundamba Corps, to support

refugees and asylum seekers. Captain Johnson spoke about the biblical mandate Christians have to care for displaced people and refugees, as outlined in Leviticus 19:33-34. "We need to treat people with respect, loving people as we love ourselves," she said.

In Gympie, Stephanie Savage, Cadet in Training, spoke on how showing love and acceptance to people in the community is bringing hope and freedom to many. Lieutenant-Colonel Olive Lucas spoke at Wynnum, sharing her experiences of living and serving internationally, and her current volunteer work as a language tutor and making friends with all races and religions in her corps and local community.

Major Rowena Smith, Divisional Salvos Women Director, launched the Women's Ministries Project 2016 – raising money for both The Salvation Army's Safe House for Trafficked Persons in Sydney, and assisting four young women from Papua New Guinea to come to The Salvos Discipleship School. The Queensland Divisional Project was also explained – settlement packs for women refugees and their families. In 2015, the women of the division raised \$69,054 for territorial, divisional, community and corps women's ministries projects. **–Simone Worthing**

WANT TO BE THE FIRST TO SEE THE LATEST ISSUE OF PIPELINE? THEN SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT

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Matupi Home League group holds inaugural rally.



The women ate breakfast together; a simple meal of rice cooked with spices and tea to drink.

Major Christina Jeppsson writes about a unique gathering of women high in the mountains of Myanmar

"The first time ever" could have been the theme for the Home League rally in the Matupi District, Myanmar Region, earlier this year. Captain Lalnun Mawii, Divisional Director for Women's Ministries, organised the rally, which followed the 2016 Women's Ministries theme *Joyfully His* (John 15:1-15) which is used in many parts of The Salvation Army world.

It was a first-time experience for 35 women, a handful of babies and some supporting husbands. They were blessed by spending three days together. It was also the first time that Matupi women from the five Salvation Army corps high up in the Chin Mountains could come together like this, and that the women's ministries could self-support an event of this size.

It took most of those who attended at least a day's travelling to reach the remote village deep in the forest. It took me three days and two nights, from Yangon. It was the first time that I, as a foreigner, have been given permission from the authorities to stay in a remote village. In fact, it was the first time that a foreigner has been allowed to overnight at that village.

The program for the meetings included drama, group songs, Bible competitions, games,

good food and, importantly, somewhere for everyone to sleep. Spread out among the houses of Salvationists, home hospitality provided a good time to rest in fellowship away from daily responsibilities and challenges.

"My Home League members have experienced the opportunity to kneel at the mercy seat for the first time ever, surrounded by sisters from neighbouring corps."

The testimonies were many, sharing about changed lives, new possibilities and healing. One corps officer shared after the close of the meeting that: "My Home League members have experienced the opportunity to kneel at the mercy seat for the first time ever, surrounded by sisters from neighbouring corps. They very much appreciated the encouragement from new friends. I am sure we will have a refreshed spirit and new inspiration once we are back home."

Major Christina Jeppsson is Myanmar Regional Director of Women's Ministries, Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.



01



02

01. Captain Hmangaihi leads the ladies in prayer.
02. One of the soldiers from Tuship Corps shared her story of how God had upheld her family during a time of serious illness.

General rallies US soldiers to be ‘mobilised’.



Dozens of senior and junior soldiers and adherents were enrolled during the General's visit.

The Salvation Army's world leader, General André Cox, told Salvationists from the Southwest Division of the USA Western Territory that they were "born to be mobilised". His words of challenge came during a Beyond Boundless divisional soldiers rally in Phoenix, Arizona, that was held after the conclusion of

the National Advisory Organisations Conference in the same city, at which the General and Commissioner Silvia Cox (World President of Women's Ministries) had been special guests. The international visitors, USA National leaders Commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey, territorial leaders Commissioners James and

Carolyn Knaggs and almost 1500 Salvationists from across the division were welcomed by Divisional Commander Lieut-Colonel Joe Posillico. Music support was provided by the USA Western Territory Staff Band.

The diversity of the division was celebrated from the beginning through opening prayers in English, Korean and Spanish. One of the highlights of the meeting was the triple enrolment of 44 junior soldiers, 35 senior soldiers and 14 adherents from corps across the division.

Picking up on the Beyond Boundless theme, the General recalled the Boundless International Congress in July last year. "It was not about patting ourselves on the back," he said, "but giving glory to God for what he has done through the Army. I am amazed what God has done through his imperfect Salvation Army. But have we become complacent, too ready to enjoy ourselves in comfortable halls? An Army confined to barracks does not make sense. We were born to be mobilised, to bring change and transformation.

"Where The Salvation Army is growing, it is out in the community, visible. That's what we were designed to be. God knows our feelings of inadequacy as well as the difficulties. But in the messiness, dangers, uncertainty and problems God reveals himself to us and grants us the grace to continue to stand." – Lieut-Colonel Allen Satterlee

Salvation Army launches emergency response to Canada bushfires.



Major Brian Beveridge serves emergency services personnel at Fort McMurray. Photo: Larry Wong, Postmedia Network

A major emergency response was deployed by The Salvation Army in Alberta, Canada, early in May following bushfires that led to the complete evacuation of the city of Fort McMurray – affecting nearly 90,000 residents and workers. The Salvation Army sent four community response vehicles to the scene to support more than 1100 firefighters, police officers and other emergency personnel with the provision of cold drinks, snacks and full meals.

The area affected by the fires covered some 850sq km and led to at least 1600 buildings being destroyed. The Salvation Army's established and well-rehearsed emergency protocols ensured

that they were ready to mobilise quickly after the fires began. A dedicated disaster response was established at the Alberta and Northern Territories Divisional Headquarters in Edmonton in order to coordinate The Salvation Army's work.

Before the fires intensified and led to a city-wide evacuation of Fort McMurray, The Salvation Army was providing food and water, clothing and hygiene packages to displaced residents. All Salvation Army officers and staff in Fort McMurray were safely evacuated, and additional personnel were drafted in from elsewhere in Canada.

About People

Additional Appointment

Effective 6 June: Major Clayton Spence, Consultant, Strategic Change Unit.

Appointments

Effective 6 June: Lieutenant Nicola Poore, Placement Coordinator, Booth College; Major Annette Keane, Administration and Pastoral Support Officer, Samaritan House, effective 16 May.

Effective 11 July: Major Tracey Wicks, Manager, Samaritan House, Mackay; Captain Grant Kingston-Kerr, Coordinator Aftercare Services, Recovery Services, Program Administration.

Birth

Lieutenants Jodie and Matthew Sutcliffe, a son, Joshua Samuel, on 13 April.

Promoted to glory

Envoy Norman Liddell on 6 May; Major Margaret Law on 7 May.

Bereaved

Major Margaret Price of her brother, Allan Smalley, on 14 April; Major Don Gates of his sister, Gweneth Peterson on 18 April.

Time to pray

29 May-4 June

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

5-11 June

Westlakes Corps, Lake Macquarie Hub; Central West NSW Area; Ba-

thurst Corps, Broken Hill Corps and Broken Hill Social Programs (Algate House and Catherine Haven), all NSW Country Hub.

12-18 June

Cowra Corps, Dubbo Corps, Forbes/Parkes Corps, Lithgow Corps, Orange Corps, Wellington Corps, all NSW Country Hub.

19-25 June

Sydney Wide Area, NSW; Bankstown Corps, Belmore Corps, Burwood Corps, Campsie Corps/Salvos Connect Centre, Hurstville Corps, all South West Sydney Hub.

26 June-2 July

Auburn Corps, Blacktown City Corps, Dural Corps, Granville Corps, Hawkesbury City Corps, Hornsby Gateway Corps, Parramatta Corps, Rouse Hill Corps, Ryde Corps, Job Link, all Parramatta/Hawkesbury/Hills Hub.

3-9 July

Campbelltown Corps, Fairfield City Corps, Greater Liverpool Corps, Macquarie Fields Mission, Narellan Corps, Southern Highlands Corps, all Outer South West Sydney Hub; Chifley Mission, Penrith Corps, all Nepean and Blue Mountains Hub.

Engagement Calendar

Colonels Mark (Chief Secretary-in-Charge) and Julie Campbell

Parramatta: Sun 5 June – Divisional welcome to National Leaders, Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd

*Sydney: Sun 19 June – Celebration in Brass

* Colonel Mark Campbell only



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TAKING OFF THE MASK

How the Salvos helped me find the key to love and peace

WORDS JULIA DIETE-BLISS



← Cadet-in-training Nat Frame introduces Julia Diete-Bliss (left) during the recent women's Captivated conference in Brisbane, where Julia shared her testimony. Photo: Kathy Hughes

I grew up in a mixed and blended family. I had a half-sister and two half-brothers that I adored. Then Mum got bowel cancer. She accepted her fate, never got treatment and never got better. She believed God had a plan for her. I was nearly six. After she died, my sister ran away, Dad remarried, and I hardly saw my brothers again. I felt alone and scared.

My recollections of Mum are echoes and shadows of memories. My aunt, Mum's favourite sister, would tell me stories of what she had said and done, so I knew her a little. I struggled in my teenage years. I didn't fit in with my new family. They were friendly enough, but I was definitely the black sheep. They sometimes even made jokes at my expense. I tried so hard to fit in, but it was a mask, always someone else.

I didn't get to see Mum's or Dad's families much. I didn't see my sister for 10 years and I was scared of where she was headed and the choices she was making. I wanted to follow her, yet the fear I felt wouldn't let me go down that dark path. I knew about

God. My family were all religious, but I didn't feel like God was good to me. I felt he was taking all the good part of my life away and it was hard to connect to him. Friends got me through high school. Then the only aunt who had made me feel welcome in my step-family died suddenly of a brain aneurysm. I was out of whack and couldn't focus. I left university and went to work. I am not proud of what I did in those years – I was going through the wrong doors, even though the right ones were just there.

I went to TAFE, got a Diploma in Business Administration and moved near the Salvos Bayside Community Church, south-east of Brisbane. I started volunteering there through the Work for the Dole program, and finished in mid-2015. But I wanted to stick around.

Through the program I met Nat and Scott Frame, the corps leaders, and their team, and God used them to open many doors for me. Nat invited me to women's camp, and that changed so much for me. I

realised that I wasn't alone; that there were genuine people out there who really cared for me. I made new friends and I found the key to unlocking my potential, opening the door that I had slammed shut. I realised that I was locking myself out of God's kingdom, out of his peace and love. As I talked with the other women and heard their stories, I could just feel the love of God and knew he cared for me.

It's 2016 and I am in a better place. I am studying for a Diploma of Applied Fashion and Design Technology at TAFE and putting time and energy into my beautiful church. Things that used to make me anxious and worried I can now leave at God's feet. I may not be there yet, but I am at peace with myself and the best I have felt in years.

The Salvos were there when I felt there was nobody. They were so willing to help and they opened up the Kingdom of God to me. They are the most genuine, honest, loving people I have ever met. I can honestly say, thank God for the Salvos. ¶

SHE

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