

pipeline



GOD'S VALUES
MAGNIFIED AT
CHRISTMAS

.....
GENERAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY
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The Salvation Army's International Staff Band has played to packed auditoriums during its recent tour of Australia.

PHOTO • CAROLYN HIDE



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Season to celebrate freedom in Christ

SCOTT SIMPSON • MANAGING EDITOR

Earlier this year, in the March issue of *Pipeline*, our cover story featured a young man named Mat Kratiuk. It was an incredible story of transformation. Mat's life had been one of guns, extortion, violence, prison, anger, drug-taking and drug-running. Then, in early 2014, he booked into The Salvation Army's Dooralong (addiction) Transformation Centre on the NSW Central Coast, handed over his life to Jesus Christ and graduated this year to go into the world and make a difference for good.

Since then, we have kept in touch with Mat, marvelling in his progress as a young Christian. His story has appeared in the secular media and he has accepted many public speaking invitations, each time unashamedly testifying of the remarkable transforming work of Christ in his life. He attends a vibrant, healthy church and continues to work towards his ambition of becoming a pastor. And yet all the while there has lurked in the background, unresolved issues from his previous life of crime.

Last month, Mat made a brave decision to confront his past head-on. Knowing that there were outstanding warrants for his arrest in Queensland, he flew from Sydney to Brisbane and gave himself up to police. After spending the night in custody, Mat, supported by two Salvation Army chaplains, fronted court to have his case heard. He was told to expect a conviction and a hefty fine.

A barrister, who was also a Christian, was at the courthouse and, after hearing Mat's story, offered to represent him pro bono. Part of his "defence" was the *Pipeline* article about his life. Incredibly, after considering the evidence, the profound transformation in Mat's life, the fact he had flown to Brisbane, voluntarily surrendered to police and had already spent a night in custody, the magistrate dismissed all charges. Minutes after leaving the courthouse, Mat posted on his Facebook, "Praise God, I am a free man!"

It was one short sentence yet so multi-layered. Mat had not only been able to finally break the shackles of his criminal past, but had also experienced the freedom that comes from stepping out in trust and obedience to God. A heavy weight had lifted. Mat had handed his burden over to God who then worked another miracle in his life.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the moment God, in his Son, Jesus Christ, came to live among us. A baby born in a lowly manger in the little village of Bethlehem. It was the moment when, as the Christian songwriter Ben Cantelon penned, "love came down and rescued me", bringing freedom from the power of sin. Amid all the busyness and excitement of the festive season, may we take the time to stop and in deep wonder and gratitude, exclaim, "Praise God, I am free!" ¶

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Remembering the forgotten

CHRISTMAS IS AN IDEAL TIME FOR US TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS
AND REACH OUT TO THE LESS FORTUNATE OF THIS WORLD AND SHOW
THEM THE LOVE OF GOD

*COMMISSIONER JAMES CONDON IS TERRITORIAL COMMANDER
OF THE AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY*



Have you ever forgotten something that is important? I guess we all have, at one time or another, forgotten something. I read a story about a young woman who went away to college and left her plants and goldfish in the care of her mother. But her mother had a tendency to be forgetful. Mum's thumb was not green so the plants died and she had to break the bad news to her daughter. When the young woman called a week later, her mother confessed that the goldfish had died too. There was a long pause, then in a fearful voice the girl asked, "How's Dad?"

As we come towards the Christmas season, it is easy to forget. We forget what is important and we get our priorities mixed up. The true meaning of Christmas gets lost amidst all the trappings of Christmas like decorations, parties and presents. The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the wrappings, but in the gift. It is about the Gift – God with us (Matthew 1:23) and coming into the neighbourhood. The shepherds could be considered the forgotten people – marginalised, low-class, uneducated, no hope of promotion in their job – a job they would probably do for their whole life.

Life as a shepherd was tough and dangerous. They had to protect the sheep on the open hillsides from thieves and wild animals. Shepherds were considered unclean

and were not permitted to participate in feasts and holy days. They were forgotten. But when Jesus' birth was announced who should be the first to hear the good news? You would expect it to be the priests, synagogue officials, kings and military leaders – those who were influential. But God chooses differently from us. He chose the forgotten ones – the shepherds minding their sheep.

I imagine the shepherds would not have been expecting this, but Luke records in chapter 2 verses 10 and 11: "the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord'." God chooses the forgotten and weak to accomplish his purposes. In God's eyes, the nobody becomes somebody.

At Christmas, we have a wonderful opportunity to connect with the forgotten ones; those who are overlooked by society, family and friends – the elderly, outcast, homeless, the addicts, the abused, the accused. Jesus came as Saviour for all – the good news is for everyone. Let us intentionally seek out the forgotten ones this Christmas and share with them the greatest Gift of Jesus: the love, hope, joy and peace of Christmas.

May no one feel forgotten this Christmas. ¶

A new perspective

GOD'S VALUES MAGNIFIED AT CHRISTMAS

WORDS • GENERAL ANDRÉ COX

It is with hearts filled with thanksgiving and praise to God that we should enter this Christmas season. I hope we will all take time to reflect and contemplate the everlasting love and eternal plan of salvation that God has prepared since the beginning of time for all mankind. We certainly have had ample opportunity to reflect on the boundless love of God to The Salvation Army throughout this milestone year of the 150th anniversary celebrations. Once again, now, we think of the extravagant love of God who gave us the greatest gift of all, knowing full well that most of us would not realise the value.

Isaiah wrote: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem" (Isaiah 53:2-3). Despite it all, God still went ahead with his plan of salvation for the world! That is why Christmas is such a special time. The extraordinary revelation is that God sees things differently from us.

One of the first things Mary says in her song of thanksgiving to God is: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant" (Luke 1:46-48). We see here a clear distinction between the values of God and those of mankind. God is ready to give his all to save men and women like you and me. God is the God of eternity,



he is the Almighty and yet he shows his love and concern for weak, imperfect human beings.

The subject of great joy expressed by Mary is a subject of great joy for us all. Yet she continues with another outpouring of thanksgiving and joy: "For the Mighty One has done great things for me ..." (Luke 1:49). One of the elements of the Christmas story which never ceases to amaze me is to think that God is such a great and powerful being, yet he still is interested in us. That is why Mary rejoices and why we should rejoice as we look forward to celebrating the coming of Christ that changed the course of human history. God is ready to stoop down and even to use imperfect men and women to accomplish his plan.

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



"One of the elements of the Christmas story which never ceases to amaze me is to think that God is such a great and powerful being, yet he still is interested in us"

which is what the story of Christmas is all about. God turns the value scales upside down and shows his love for the small, the humble and the seemingly insignificant.

We need to examine our hearts as we prepare for Christmas so we can eliminate all thoughts of pride and any spirit of materialism because, in reality, whether we are princes or paupers – or the General of The Salvation Army – we are pretty insignificant! Christmas is about the fact that God came specifically to establish a relationship with us, and his glory is manifested in the lives of ordinary humble people. Christmas is a time of great joy and peace for all mankind.

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

General André Cox is the world leader of The Salvation Army.



Father, daughter reunited after 63 years

THE SALVATION ARMY'S FAMILY TRACING SERVICE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR LEE ANDONIAN TO SPEND HER FIRST CHRISTMAS WITH HER FATHER SINCE 1953

WORDS • BILL SIMPSON

The tender hug lasted only a few seconds. But it erupted all the emotions of a lifetime unexplained until that one brief moment. It was one of those amazing occasions – so special that it cannot be adequately explained by mere words.

Lee Andonian, aged 66, was being held by a frail father she hadn't seen since she was an infant. He was the father she didn't even know existed for at least half her life. They came face to face in her father's Perth home a few months ago through the impressive work of The Salvation Army's Family Tracing Service. Lee's father now has Alzheimer's disease. Unfortunately, their reunion was not all that Lee had wished. But the few seconds of recognition which ignited the emotion to produce the hug were enough to provide Lee with a precious memory for the rest of her life.

As she showed her aged and ailing father a photograph of herself as a baby, he said: "Oh, Johanne Lee [her birth name]. Where is she?" Lee (the name she now uses), replied: "She is right here, Dad." "Oh," he said. And he hugged his daughter. And as quickly as it came, the moment was gone. The memory had passed. Lee was again a stranger in her father's home. Even so – even so, Lee says, it was one of the most special moments of her life that she will always cherish.

Lee was born in Sydney. She was her parents' first child. The couple separated when Lee was three. She went with her mother, who remarried two years later. When Lee was six, a brother was born into the family. Home life was

not happy. Lee often suspected that she was "in the way". Her mother changed Lee's surname to that of her second husband. Lee always believed that the man who was her stepfather was, in fact, her birth father. She never knew the truth until years later.

When Lee was 15, her mother divorced her second husband and married a third. Lee was ordered by her mother to leave the home. Lee didn't understand. She does now. Lee's mother had a severe personality disorder. She has seen her mother only once since. She occasionally has contact with her brother. At only 15 years of age, Lee was alone, on the street, with a bag of clothes and some savings. She booked into a hotel and found a job with a legal firm. She was a clever girl. She did well at school and, even though only young, applied commonsense to its capacity.

Lee married on her 17th birthday (1967). Eight years later, with an eight-year-old daughter, her marriage was over. She worked hard as an employee and mother, and put herself through university. She worked her way up the chain of experience to become an executive producer at SBS television. Lee is now a clinical psychotherapist in Sydney.

SEARCH BEGINS

In 1985, she married her second husband, Raffi. She still has one daughter, and has added two grandchildren. Life now is much happier than the start she endured. But there was always something missing. She wasn't sure what it was until around the age of 33, when she needed a full birth



01

certificate for a new job. The certificate revealed – under Father – a name she did not recognise. It was the name of her real (birth) father – not the father her mother had told her she had. It started a search – an unsuccessful search – over many years. But in March this year, Lee’s husband discovered that The Salvation Army had a Family Tracing Service. They made contact. Emma, at the service’s Sydney centre, was engaged as Lee’s case worker.

“The Salvos were great,” Lee says. “It took only from the initial contact in March until June for them to find my father. He was living in Perth. Dad’s partner of the last 30 years contacted me. I went to Perth in July with my daughter [Terri Lee] to meet my Dad. It was wonderful. We had been warned that Dad had Alzheimer’s and that he might not have any memory of me. But I still wanted to see him.

“I couldn’t believe it, I am so much like him in personality. I look like him. Maybe that’s why my mother didn’t want to have anything to do with me; why she told me to leave home. I’ve even got some of his illnesses. It’s incredible how much alike we are. Even though he has Alzheimer’s, I could see in our meeting that he is a very loving and lovely man. His partner said that he had always been very much a loving man. She said that he had often spoken before his memory loss of the little girl he once had. That was me. He often talked about me, she said. That is so special for me to know.”

Lee said that meeting her father filled in the blanks in her life. “It felt so good to find that missing part. It has had



02

01. Lee and her father share a warm embrace after being reunited in Perth after 63 years.

02. A father, daughter and grand-daughter finally together. Lee and her daughter Terri Lee with Lee’s father at the reunion in Perth.

such a deep meaning for me. It explains why my mother was so negative toward me and why she hasn’t had anything to do with me since she put me out of our home when I was 15.”

TOUCHING MOMENT

Lee recently made a second trip to Perth to see her father. But he was too ill to spend time with her. She hopes to go again soon. Her wish is to spend Christmas with her dad. It would be their first Christmas together in 63 years – since she was three and he 23. Contact has also begun with her father’s 10 children from his second marriage. “It’s early days there, yet,” she says. “The families are spread across the country. We’ll see how that goes.”

Emma from the Family Tracing Service says that under privacy laws, The Salvation Army is not permitted to disclose how it found Lee’s father. “But I can say that it was a great joy for me to bring Lee and her father’s family together, and to know how much it means to her”. In a letter to the Family Tracing service after Lee visited her father for the first time, she wrote: “Thank you from the bottom of my heart for tracing my father for me. It has been a life-long wound, never having seen him since I was a baby. It was so healing to see him and to be held by him, and to have that moment of recognition, which was deeply touching.

“Thank you to you [Emma] and The Salvation Army for this wonderful service. You are making such a huge difference to people’s lives.” □

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Prison packs of hope

CHAPLAINS REMEMBER INMATES AT CHRISTMAS

WORDS • ESTHER PINN



Wayne Cook with some of the contents of the packs that are distributed to inmates at NSW and Queensland prisons at Christmas.

There are days when Wayne Cook arrives home in tears after his day at work. His work life is quite unusual. Unlike many professions, Wayne doesn't spend his days at a desk. Rather he roams the prison walls of the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC) in Silverwater, western Sydney – one of NSW's largest prisons – and ministers to the prisoners and staff. On these emotional days, Wayne says he is reminded of why he chose to work as a prison chaplain.

"As I get up and go to work each day, I recognise the responsibility which is mine to be a welcoming face to people," says Wayne. "In a world that says 'I want to shut you away because of what you've done and I don't want to know you anymore', somebody needs to walk and sit down with them and allow them to cry, allow them to share and allow them to pour out their heart. And the privilege of being able to walk with somebody when they tell you their story ... is a real privilege for any prison chaplain."

While there are many tough days at the office, every Christmas Wayne and other prison chaplains across NSW and Queensland are able to bring a ray of hope to the prison inmates. A small pack filled with a diary,

lollies, handkerchiefs, sport socks, a notepad, pre-paid envelopes and Christmas cards is given to 19,780 female and male prisoners across NSW and Queensland. The packs also include a pamphlet with information about The Salvation Army's recovery services. All packs are donated by the Army.

This is the only Christmas gift the prisoners receive. And each pack amounts to \$5. "This is a privilege and an honour that The Salvation Army gets to do this," says Wayne. "The positive comments from prisoners who receive the gifts are overwhelming. Many prisoners go away feeling that there are people who care about them."

One female prisoner said: "Christmas is pretty bleak but your Christmas pack brings a smile to our face and reminds us we're not forgotten." Another female prisoner said: "Thank you for your support that you provide us. The packs are provided at Christmas time, help us stay focused knowing that there are people who still care." Another female prisoner added: "Being in jail, we don't get a lot, but your Christmas packs are worth more than words can express."

The Salvation Army's Territorial Purchasing Manager, Greg Ferris, oversees the program and orders the Christmas pack items. The packs are assembled at Long Bay Correctional Centre in Matraville and packed by the prisoners. The packs are delivered by the Corrective Services network for free.

The Salvation Army has worked with prison inmates since the 1800s. Back then, Salvation Army officers would meet and assist men upon their release at the prison gate in Melbourne. Since then, the prison ministry has evolved. Across the Australia Eastern Territory there are 19 Salvation Army chaplains in both male and female correctional services. ¶

Hope at heart of Rosemary's ministry

FROM TROUBLED YOUTH IN SYDNEY'S KINGS CROSS TO LONELY RESIDENTS IN AN AGED CARE HOME, ENVOY ROSEMARY RICHARDSON SAYS EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING AT CHRISTMAS

WORDS • LAUREN MARTIN

Four years ago, Envoy Rosemary Richardson embarked on a "tree-change". After several years working on the streets of inner Sydney, offering hot drinks, blankets and a listening ear to homeless young people, she took on a chaplaincy role at The Salvation Army's Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre in the NSW country town of Parkes.

Christmas time at the aged care home, says Rosemary, is a mixture of joy and sadness. Many residents have lost someone close to them, some don't have family members to visit, and others don't have anyone to visit them. "Christmas is a time when we really ramp up our love and support of our residents," says Rosemary. "We make sure that everyone receives a gift and our staff go out of their way to prepare a beautiful feast, with table decorations, carol singing and other festive activities. It doesn't matter who you are – homeless on the streets of Kings Cross, or an elderly resident of Parkes – everyone is looking for the same thing at Christmas time: Hope."

The Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre is a world away from Kings Cross, says Rosemary. It's a modern, warm and

inviting complex spread across three levels and housing 70 residents. But her mission ethic, she says, is the same: "It's being a stable person in people's lives; being able to listen and to be there when you are needed." Rosemary says she loves her work. "It is very fulfilling work and quite busy with chapel services, resident outings, activities and pastoral care."

But most of all, she loves to sit with residents and listen. "Everyone has a story and I love to hear each of them, we spend a lot of time talking and sharing."

The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus is heavily invested in chaplaincy services across its 16 residential aged care centres in NSW, ACT and Queensland. Spiritual care is an integral part of its services which are available to all, without discrimination. "My goal is to bring daily purpose, quality and meaning of life for everyone," says Rosemary. "Because regardless of your age or circumstance, everyone deserves dignity and respect."

Go to agedcareplus.salvos.org.au to find out more about The Salvation Army's aged care services. ¶



WAYS TO SPREAD HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Salvation Army's Captain Mavis Salt offers some ideas to engage with older residents this Christmas.

- Find out what is already planned in your community for older people this Christmas – you and your family may be able to become involved.
- Call or visit an older person that you know, ask them if they need help with Christmas shopping or transport to and from Christmas events.
- Deliver a gift to older neighbours in your street, make sure they are invited and welcomed to any street parties or community social events you are involved in.
- Invite an older neighbour or friend to accompany your family to your local Christmas carols event.
- Older people still wish to feel useful – involve your older neighbours, friends or family in any volunteering that you are doing this Christmas.
- If you attend church, invite an older friend, neighbour or family member to attend with you on Christmas Day.



"Christmas is a time when we really ramp up our love and support of our residents."

01. Envoy Rosemary Richardson with a resident of the Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre.

02. The original building on the site, built in 1908 and used as a hospital for many years.

Captain Mavis Salt is The Salvation Army's Research and Resource Officer for Ageing Australia



Bandmaster Stephen Cobb led the International Staff Band on their first tour to Australia since 1995.
Photo: Carolyn Hide

Corps use ISB visit as mission opportunity

WORDS • ANNE HALLIDAY



Cornet soloist Carl Nielsen wows the crowd at Ballina RSL, in northern NSW. Photo: Captain Dale Murray

They might be the best of the best in The Salvation Army, but for the corps who hosted the International Staff Band during their recent visit to Australia, it was about making connections with their local community. The band, which last toured Australia in 1995, spent a week during October in the Australia Eastern Territory, performing in Brisbane, Ballina, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney. The 30-member band performed to around 2000 people across six concert events, as well as attracting a crowd during their Sunday afternoon performance at Circular Quay in Sydney.

Ballina Corps Officer Lieutenant Wes Bust said his corps used the concert to invite their local community, supporters and brass-band enthusiasts. "That meant there

were people at the concert who had been part of the Salvation Army for 50 years and others who had only just come in contact with the Salvos," he said. "They were only here for a short time but people are still talking about it. The lady who owns the motel where the band stayed attended The Salvation Army in the UK as a child. She made a real connection with them. The band planted seeds all the way down the coast and we don't know what fruit that might bear, but God is faithful."

Wollongong Bandmaster Lachlan Walker said their vision was also outward-focused. "It was not about bringing the best of The Salvation Army and showing off but about connecting the community through the excellence of what the ISB brings. Now it's about what we do with the connections we have made."

The band also spent time with members of the Sydney Youth Band, passing on skills and inspiration during a workshop. "This was an experience I will never forget," said SYB cornet player Jordan O'Brien. "When you sit next to players of that quality and play alongside them, you can't help but learn just from witnessing their talent first hand."

The last four of their concert events took the ISB to the Southern Territory, including Adelaide, Mt Gambier, Ballarat and, finally, Melbourne, where they were special guests at the Melbourne Staff Band's 125th anniversary concert. ►



Photo: Carolyn Hide

02

► Wollongong treated to something special

REVIEW • JANETTE SMART

The packed auditorium was alive with anticipation as the long-awaited concert of The Salvation Army's International Staff Band on its very first visit to Wollongong was about to begin. Wollongong Corps had envisaged the ISB's visit as a great opportunity to reach out into the community and bring in new people to hear the gospel in music.

Among local corps members and their friends were members of The Lamplighters Male Chorus and music students from local high schools – Smith's Hill and Kiama High – and members of the local U3A clubs. Half of the audience didn't quite know what to expect – they had never heard a Salvation Army band concert before. The

other half knew exactly what to expect. They believed that they would be hearing something very special.

From the first wall of sound, *On We March*, with the theme "Who Is On The Lord's Side?", the audience was treated to a brilliant and memorable concert that explored the broad depths and soaring heights of brass-band music in an extraordinary way. Some of the musical highlights included Jonathan Evans' smooth interpretation of the euphonium solo *Air 'N Variations* written by Stephen Bulla, the joyful *Jubilo, Jubilo!*, the cornet quartet *Fuego!* by Paul Sharman (who played with the ensemble), Richard Woodrow's beautiful and ethereal flugel solo *The Seal Lullaby* and the moving masterpiece *Kingdom Triumphant* by Eric Ball.

The rumble of excitement continued throughout the concert, right until the lightning strike of the last notes of *Fire In The Blood* which drove the audience to its feet in loud appreciation. No wonder there was a rush to buy the ISB's CDs afterwards – everyone wanted to take home a memory of a truly remarkable concert. □



Photo: Kyle Walker

03



04



Photo 04,05,06: Carolyn Hide

05



06

- 02. Jonathan Evans' euphonium solo was a highlight of the concert hosted by Wollongong Corps.
- 03. ISB band members took time out to visit the iconic Wollongong Lighthouse.
- 04. Bandmaster Stephen Cobb enjoys a lighthearted moment during the outdoor performance at Circular Quay in Sydney.
- 05. Melbourne Staff Band Deputy Bandmaster John Collinson (middle) joined the ISB cornet row, including Paul Sharman (left) and Nicola Redhead (right), for part of the tour.
- 06. A young girl spontaneously dances with delight during the band's performance at Circular Quay.

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Q: When will the next Self Denial Appeal begin?

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Q: Can I give my one-off Altar Service gift online?

A: Yes you can! Your gift will be included in your Corps' total.

Q: If I give online, can I still participate during the Altar Service at my corps?

A: Of course! Simply tick the "I've given online" box on your envelope.

Running for Rio

ALBERTO TAKES SETBACK IN HIS STRIDE

WORDS • SIMONE WORTHING

“It is not always the result on the track that makes you a true champion, but how you react off the track when faced with overwhelming disappointment,” said Salvationist Paul Staines, father of Alberto Campbell-Staines who last month competed in the International Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships in Doha, capital of Qatar.

Alberto, who came second in his 400m heat to win a place in the final – and move one step closer to his dream of competing in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – was advised to pull out of the race after the team doctor feared the chest infection Alberto had been fighting, and the asthma-like symptoms he was suffering after his heat, could permanently damage his heart and lungs and land him in hospital if he ran.

“While I was devastated, I know it was the right thing to do and I will live to race another day,” said Alberto. “Now I’m just going to focus on Rio. I know now that I can run with the world’s best and if I keep working hard, I’ll get my medal there. I qualified for a world championship final, and that is something I will be proud of for the rest of my life. And I continue to live by my motto, ‘Whether I win or lose, I give God the glory’.

Based on times and past performances, Alberto would have finished third and won a bronze medal. While Alberto had to medal to automatically qualify for the Australia team for the 2016 Paralympics, he still can qualify based on his performances and times in the domestic season in Australia. He remains on the “long list” for the Australian team for the Paralympics. “Alberto has faced many adversities in his life and overcome all of them,” said Paul. “He is seeing this latest one as just another one to run through. He is determined now, more than ever to work hard to achieve great things in Rio.”

Alberto, born in the Caribbean island of Jamaica, was adopted by Paul and Julie-Anne Staines who were then working as teachers in The Salvation Army’s School for the Blind. At the time, Alberto, although not visually impaired, was living in The Salvation Army’s orphanage on the grounds of the school, and Julie-Anne was his Grade 1 teacher. The family returned to Australia in 2003 and Alberto became an Australian citizen in 2006. Alberto runs with an AWD-T20 classification, meaning



Alberto Campbell-Staines competing at the 2015 Australian Athletics Championships in Brisbane.

he is an athlete with an intellectual impairment. However, Alberto also competes in “able bodied” competitions and, with his team, won the 2011 Queensland State Relay Championships 4x400m. He also holds T20 world rankings in the 100m, 200m and 400m events and has numerous Australian T20 records and championships to his name. Alberto is part of the Australian Institute of Sport’s “Winning Edge” program and is on scholarship with Athletics Australia at the “Podium Potential” level. He is also a member of the Queensland Academy of Sport.

“Just like Eric Liddell in the movie *Chariots of Fire*, I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast,” said Alberto. “And when I run I feel his pleasure. I love worshipping God when I run; running to me is worship. My Grandad [Captain John Tatters] taught me to say ‘run with the Spirit’, and this is what I do. Everyone at the track knows I’m a Christian and go to church. I worship God when I run, he is the one who made me fast. I always thank him after races, whether I win or lose, I run for God.”

For more information and to keep updated on Alberto’s progress, check out his Facebook page, [Alberto Campbell-Staines](https://www.facebook.com/acampbellstaines); acampbellstaines.wix.com/runningman; You can view the ABC 7.30 Report on Alberto at www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-23/jamaican-runner-on-track-represent-australia-world-championships ¶

Thrills and spills at Just Men conference

What do you get when you combine a pig on a spit, a billy cart derby and 160 men? Thrills, spills and a bunch of blokes hamming it up, of course! Combined with the potent challenge of church planter, entrepreneur and visionary Phil Wall, this year's annual Just Men Conference at Collaroy shifted up a gear!

Along with worship, teaching sessions and workshops, the weekend boasted the inaugural Just Men Billy Cart Derby. The derby included a time trial, won by Tim Gittins from Bonnells Bay Corps and a team-built cart race. Four original gravity-powered billy carts were entered in the race, which was won by Bill Geracia (Blacktown Corps) and Andrew Macillwaine (Narellan Corps).

The first of two Just Men conferences, the Sydney event, held at Collaroy at the end of October, was followed by the Queensland gathering on the Sunshine Coast, attended by 178 men in early November.

While the Queensland Just Men's Conference didn't feature any billy cart action, they dug deep collectively and donated \$10,000 to WeSeeHope, the African charity Phil Wall founded in 1997. The Sydney conference also gave generously, donating \$5240.

The audio recordings of the teaching sessions will be available at mySalvos.org.au/justmen





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- 01. Guest speaker Phil Wall brought a potent spiritual challenge to this year's Just Men Conferences in Sydney and Brisbane.
 - 02. Topher Holland is ready for action at the inaugural Just Men Billy Cart Derby at the Collaroy Centre.
 - 03. One of the brave competitors takes a spill during one of the races.
 - 04. Bill Geracia, from Blacktown Corps, has a winning smile as he powers his way to victory in the team-built billy cart race.
 - 05. A time of worship kicked off each session at the conference.
-



03



04

Bringing home the message of practical ministry

RETIRED OFFICERS RUN FOOD SERVICE FROM FRONT YARD

WORDS / PHOTOS • LAUREN MARTIN



01

01. Major Hilton Harmer assists a visitor to the drop-in food service which is held weekly in his front yard in Sydney's inner south-west.

02. Vera, at the age of 90, helps the Harmers every Wednesday with the food service.

A new Salvation Army ministry is helping to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in Sydney's inner-west. Run by retired Salvation Army officers Majors Hilton and Joyce Harmer, the Wednesday morning drop-in food service is an extension of the weekly boarding-house food-delivery service that the Harmers started three years ago.

Earlier this year, health issues interrupted the Harmers' ministry and they handed over the Tuesday night food-delivery service to Dulwich Hill Salvationists Bruce and Kerrie Chapman. While recovering from surgery, Hilton wrestled with the concept of "slowing down" and asked God to reveal what he had in store for him next. The answer came in the form of a question. "We had met people in the boarding houses," explains Hilton, "and then they moved into private rented accommodation, but still struggled to put food on the table and no longer had access to the boarding-house food-delivery service." There was always some food left over after the Tuesday night delivery ... but how could these people in need access it?

The resulting Wednesday morning drop-in service draws crowds of people to the Harmers' front lawn in Belmore each week. The atmosphere is warm and jovial, with gospel music playing, chairs set up and refreshments being served by 90-year-old neighbour and volunteer, Vera. Single parents with their kids, refugees, asylum seekers and the unemployed enjoy a hot drink and morning tea before helping themselves to lines and lines of boxes of food, toiletry items, donated clothing, toys and



02

other goods. "To bring 'strangers' to our front yard was a new thing for us; we have never done it before in our 53 years of ministry," says Major Hilton. "But it seemed the only logical thing to do to meet a real need."

Mother of two, Annie*, was told about the Harmers' ministry after attending Dulwich Hill Salvation Army's Mainly Music program. As a single parent who escaped an abusive relationship a few years ago, she struggles to make ends meet. "You can survive but then there's little things, like the kids have friends at school that have certain toys and I have to say, 'well, we're not buying toys until Christmas'."

Annie says meeting the Harmers was an answer to prayer. "A little while ago I sat down and prayed and said, 'God, I've only got \$2 in my purse and I need money to buy food'." Later that morning, a friend from Dulwich Hill Salvation Army called to tell Annie about the Wednesday morning food service. She drove around to the Harmers' home, not sure what to expect. "I came and he gave me a bunch of stuff [food] and a couple of gift cards ... I literally had only \$2 to feed my family and then you get an answer [to prayer] like that – it's just really obvious! As a single mum I've seen so many miracles met, just in small ways."

Major Hilton says his motivation to act comes from God, and cites Proverbs 3:27-28: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbour now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you'."

Despite his recent health scare, Major Hilton continues to respond to requests for assistance, whether it's to source furniture and furnish the unit of a domestic violence victim who is left with nothing, or to deliver groceries to those who can't make it on a Wednesday.

"I got a call-out to a women's refuge," he says, never short of an inspiring story of the work of God in his ministry. "The need was to supply food to a mother and her four-year-old little girl. When I walked up the stairs with the fruit, veggies and groceries [provided by Oz Harvest] the little girl looked into the box, and then she looked at her mother and said: 'Mummy, I prayed to Jesus for an apple,' and [pointing into the box] she said, 'there are some apples in there!' It was within the power of my hand to deliver that apple to the little girl. What if I had said, 'No, I am not going out at night, they can wait until tomorrow!'" □

*Not her real name

"I came and he gave me a bunch of stuff [food] and a couple of gift cards ... I literally had only \$2 to feed my family and then you get an answer [to prayer] like that – it's just really obvious! As a single mum I've seen so many miracles met, just in small ways."

Tea for transformation

THE MINISTRY OF THE EARLY SALVATION ARMY WAS MARKED BY MANY ENTERPRISING VENTURES, NOT THE LEAST OF THESE ITS ENTRY INTO THE TEA MARKET

WORDS • MAJOR DAVID WOODBURY



01

By 1750, tea had become the national drink of England and in 1788 it was part of the cargo manifest on the First Fleet. It didn't take long for tea to also become part of the Australian way of life. There was money to be made in importing and selling tea and Commandant Herbert Booth, in command of The Salvation Army in Australia in the late 19th and early 20th century, saw the market as a means of financing the work of the Army, particularly its missionary work. In 1888, Commandant Booth appointed Adjutant Ashley Lamb to enter the tea market as a fundraising enterprise. Tea was to be marketed not only through the local Salvation Army corps and Salvation Army representatives, but also through a number of agents.

An advertisement in the Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate on Saturday 13 February 1909 from the local agent, a Mr Orr, clearly spelt out the philosophy behind the venture into the tea market:

*The Tea
WITH A DEFINITE OBJECT
"TO MAKE OTHERS HAPPY,"*

Because every penny of wholesale profit made by the sale of "HAMODAVA" is spent on that work. This includes the whole of the beneficent undertakings of The Salvation Army, which are directed to the helping of the needy wherever they may be found. Our Officers, day after day, year after year, spend their lives in searching in the villages, in country towns, in the suburbs of the great cities and also in the darkest slums for

01. Adjutant Ashley Lamb was appointed in 1888 to start a Hamodava tea fundraising enterprise in Australia.

02. The front page of *The War Cry* in Melbourne on 13 March 1897, launching Hamodava tea.

03. A wrapper from a Hamodava tea packet around the turn of the 20th century.



02

those to whom they can extend a helping hand. Mr Orr, Local Agent.

Adjutant Lamb's initial response was to acquire tea from local merchants and resell it from his office at territorial headquarters in Bourke St, Melbourne. So successful was the venture that a warehouse was purchased in Westwood Place, Melbourne, where Lamb, now a Staff-Captain, began to blend his own distinctive product now known as Hamodava Tea; Hamodava being a Singhalese word for salvation. So successful was the blend that larger warehouses were acquired, with a building in Smythe's Lane, off Lonsdale St, behind Her Majesty's Theatre still carrying a faded Hamodava sign.

As well as local agents, officers were appointed with the sole purpose of promoting and selling the tea. An advertisement in *The West Australian* newspaper of Saturday 14 February 1903, listed a number of meetings taking place around Perth. One advertisement promoted Captain Wyatt, Hamodava traveller, as the leader of a meeting at the Midland Junction Public Hall. The product was well received in Western Australia with the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of Thursday 21 September 1905, reporting that Hamodava tea was the popular and favourite drink of the miner.

With the success of the enterprise, coffee and cocoa were added to the Hamodava range. An advertisement in the *The Western Champion and General Advertiser for the Central-Western Districts* of Saturday 26 September 1908, by the local merchant Mr A Parnell in Barcardine, Queensland, advertised: Hamodava Essence of Coffee, per bot. 1/-; Hamodava Pure Cocoa, per tin 1/-.



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"Hamodava [tea], may be purchased at the barracks, 1s 4d and 1s 6d per lb. The profits from the sales go towards missionary work, the officers receiving a slight commission in furtherance of local work."

ENTERPRISING OFFICERS

Corps officers were encouraged to retail the product as part of their fundraising activities, with a percentage from sales going to the local corps. All manner of promotional ideas were utilised by corps officers, with the *Euroa Advertiser* in Victoria reporting on 21 January 1898 that: "Hamodava [tea], may be purchased at the barracks, 1s 4d and 1s 6d per lb. The profits from the sales go towards missionary work, the officers receiving a slight commission in furtherance of local work." In many harvest festival programs Hamodava tea tasting was part of the evening's entertainment.

There is no doubt that early officers were an enterprising bunch when it came to promoting The Salvation Army and its ministry. *The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate* of Wednesday 23 August 1899 ran the following report: "Fun in the Army – The humorous side of Salvation Army warfare' is to be treated in a lecture by Ensign Sam Renshaw at The Salvation Army barracks on Thursday evening. The lecture has been delivered in several other towns, and is described as one full of entertaining recitals of amusing adventures in the Army's work. A small charge is made for admission; in return for which, however, sample tins of the Army's famed Hamodava tea will be distributed to patrons."

The product continued until 1930 when competition from other importers made the enterprise unviable. However, during those years The Salvation Army had been able to assist peasant farmers in southern Asia to purchase their own land through a scheme financed by its Hamodava tea enterprise. ¶

The parent's guide to holiday flicks

There's usually only one shot per holiday to get it right with the choice of movie to take the children to see, and we're all keen to avoid casualties. *Pipeline* culture writer **MARK HADLEY** has come to the conclusion there are three things every parent will want to keep in mind this break: the movie, the mayhem and the message ...



Star Wars VII : The Force Awakens

RELEASE: 17 December

It's 30 years after the events of *The Return of the Jedi* in that "galaxy far, far away ..." and though Emperor Palpatine and the villainous Darth Vader are dead, the Sith are far from becoming history. Enter Andy Serkis as Supreme Leader Snoke who's seeking to hold together the remnants of the empire with the Stormtrooper legions known as The First Order, led by Kylo Ren. Kylo has embraced the dark side of the force, but is opposed by a new band of heroes including a reformed Stormtrooper called Finn, a desert scavenger called Rey and a hot-shot Resistance pilot called Poe. Together they reunite with old allies of the force – Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Chewbacca and Princess Leia – to reintroduce the universe to the benevolent power at the centre of all things.

Wise parents will be ready with an after-conversation about the force. George Lucas' original idea aligned the Jedi power with the Hindu life force that unites all things. However, since taking over the franchise Disney has used cartoon properties like *Star Wars Rebels* to translate the power to something more like self-confidence. "You've got the potential to be amazing!" – so long as you couple this talent with really hard work. It's worth getting ready to remind kids where the key to their real strength comes from. Not the force but, "With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall" (Psalm 18:29).

The Good Dinosaur

RELEASE: 26 December

"What if the asteroid that forever changed life on Earth missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct?" That's the premise for Pixar's next big animation, due to hit Australian screens on Boxing Day. *The Good Dinosaur* builds its story in an alternate timeline where those terrifying lizards of old have evolved into a thinking society of sauropods.

When a young Apatosaurus called Arlo gets lost in the woods, he finds himself as scared as any young child separated from his parents. But while trying to find his way across the Clawed-Tooth Mountains, Arlo befriends a human cave boy who he christens Spot. Humans, having never risen to become the dominant species, occupy something of a wild creature status. Yet a single act of kindness establishes a whole new relationship between these two species. Together they'll forge not only a path across the wilderness but a friendship that will change them forever.

So, what about the movie's message? Generally speaking, I'm cautious of any film with a prehistoric storyline because it inevitably involves a plot that uses Godless evolution as its foundation. However, the dinosaur thing is only scenery for a story Pixar has been telling since Woody and Buzz Lightyear bounced on to our screens. An unlikely friendship is the key plot device and though the production may lack any acknowledgement of the Creator, Christian mums and dads will have no trouble pointing out God's definition of real commitment. "Greater love has no one than this," says Jesus, "to lay down one's life for one's friends." Arlo and Spot both have a chance to demonstrate that message, though neither will rise to the level of sacrifice Jesus made for kids and parents alike.





Goosebumps 3D

RELEASE: 14 January

Goosebumps, aimed at late primary and early high school kids, falls into the children's horror genre, though the content is tamed to the level of thrilling rather than nightmare inspiring. Teenager Zach Cooper and his mother Gale move from New York to the fictional town of Madison, where they discover their neighbour is RL Stine, the legendary author of the *Goosebumps* series of books. Zach breaks into Stine's house, thinking he is rescuing the man's daughter. What he discovers is a library full of *Goosebumps* manuscripts where the fiends are forcing themselves out of the pages. As werewolves, yetis and killer gnomes rampage across the town, Zach and Stine realise they must write a new book to trap the malcontented monsters if they're ever to live normal lives again.

Goosebumps is holiday fun on the level of *Gremlins*, *Frighteners* and *Frankenweenie*. Stine attributes the success of his stories to his determination to avoid death, drugs, depravity and violence. But also be ready for a conversation that puts the supernatural in the correct perspective. In his own mock horror, *The Screwtape Letters*, CS Lewis wrote that humans generally make one of two mistakes when dealing with the supernatural – concentrating on it too much, and ignoring it altogether.

The most important thing to convey to your children is that though there is a spiritual world that operates alongside our own, it too is controlled by God. Whatever devilish forces might exist, they were conquered at the cross and Christ now rules over them. Any Christian facing that sort of fear, faces a defeated foe.

All ratings were still to be finalised by the Film Classification Board at the time this article was written. Please check with your cinema prior to attending.

Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie

RELEASE: 1 January

Charlie Brown has fallen head over heels for the Little Red-Haired Girl who has moved into the neighbourhood. He's desperate to gain her attention and manufactures a string of opportunities to impress her. But what Charlie Brown is best known for is his unbroken string of bad luck. Each time it turns his best plans upside down and wrecks his relationship with his myriad of pals. However, Providence ensures the girl of his dreams ends up choosing Charlie in the end.

As a movie, *Snoopy and Charlie Brown* is great fun, though on the mayhem side it might tempt some kids to be more inconsiderate with their pranks than they should be. However, the message is sound. Charles M Schultz, the creator of the beloved cartoon strip, was raised in a Christian household and spent many years involved with the church. The net effect is that *Peanuts* presented many pictures of life consistent with Christian theology.

Consequently, *Snoopy and Charlie Brown* is built around a philosophy central to the Gospel. In the end, the Little Red-Haired Girl chooses Charlie Brown because of his servant heart. She praises him for being an honest, caring and compassionate person, and so fulfils Christ's revelation that it's not the biggest, brashest or bravest who will win in the end: "But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first" (Matthew 19:30).



New releases

A Blood and Guts Good News Story ▼

AUTHOR • PETER PEARSON

"The title of the book says it all, really," explains Major Peter Pearson, about his newly released book *A Blood and Guts Good News Story*. "It's totally honest, and its purpose is to put the Gospel in human flesh so that real people will read it. I'm trying to get the Gospel into the hands of people who wouldn't normally read it and I hope that it's something Christians can share with family and friends who don't yet know Jesus – a real person for real people. This is also my conversion story – a life transformed."

Peter found it hard to slow down after he retired from active service as an officer. His sister-in-law suggested he start writing down some of the stories that had impacted him from his life and ministry. "It just seemed to make sense to write a story of stories and to weave the Gospel through it without preaching," he said. "The power of the story is incredible."

As Peter and his wife Helen travelled around Australia in their caravan, he would spend his early mornings and rainy days writing. "One of the key focus areas of the book is that it's not about religion, it's about Jesus," says Peter. "I highlight this in the story about my preaching at William Booth rehab centre where I say that I hate religion but love spirituality. That passage would ring bells with non-Christians. Transformed lives is also a main theme, including my own, which is still in the process of being transformed."

By being vulnerable and opening up and sharing the "blood and guts" part of his own journey, Peter hopes he has allowed others to respond in a positive way. "I have not been afraid to share my own struggles with temptation and even address a very

dark period where I nearly became the victim of a suicide attempt," he says. "It is not all 'blood and guts' though. There are many humorous stories told as well."

Peter has been encouraged by the initial response to the book and the orders he has received. "There is an amazing, overpowering sense that God has been in this," he says. "God has carried us through our journey, touched more lives than we could've imagined and it's a blessing to share this through the book."

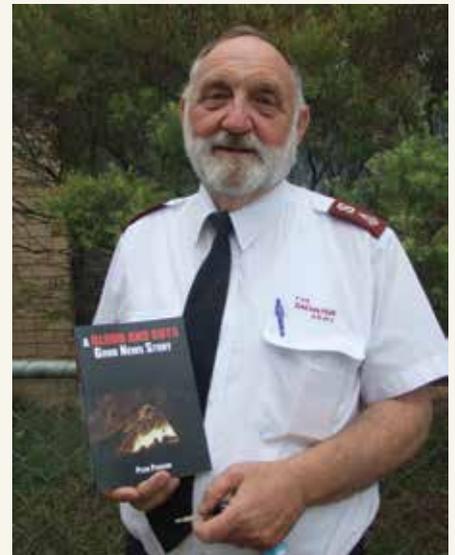
To pay for the printing of 500 copies of his self-published book, Peter worked in shearing sheds near Armidale for a few months during the year. "I was a shearer in my youth, but working in the sheds this time nearly killed me," he jokes. "It was good to see my old mates though, catch up, and raise money for the book."

A Blood and Guts Good News Story is published through InHouse Publishing and is available for \$20 plus postage and handling. If ordered before Christmas, postage and handling is free. For more information or to purchase the book within Australia, go to peterallanpearson.com. For international orders, go to amazon.com Major Pearson can also be contacted at peterallanpearson@gmail.com – Simone Worthing 🇺🇸

"One of the key focus areas of the book is that it's not about religion, it's about Jesus,"



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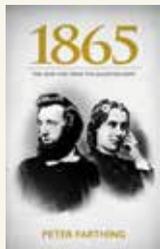
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01. Major Peter Pearson receives a copy of his new book from InHouse Publishing's Ocean Reeve.

02. Peter says the purpose of his book is "to put the Gospel in human flesh so that real people will read it."

1865 – The Year That Made The Salvation Army

AUTHOR • PETER FARTHING



"When I was in my early 20s," says Peter Farthing, author of *1865 – The Year That Made The Salvation Army*, I read Richard Collier's wonderful biography of (Salvation Army founder) William Booth, *The General Next to God*. I was tremendously stirred by his stories of the great adventurer for God.

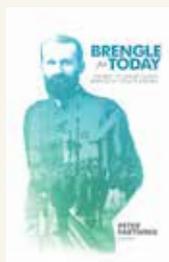
"In October 2014, the thought came to me, 'I wonder if there is a book to be written about 1865, to coincide with the Army's 150th anniversary in 2015. Maybe that would be a way to tell those stories to a new

generation'. Well, it turned out that there was a little book to be written, and here it is."

1865 – The Year That Made The Salvation Army is available from The Trade (thetrade.salvos.org.au) for \$10.

Brenkle for Today

AUTHOR • PETER FARTHING



Major Peter Farthing has released an updated version of his popular book *Samuel Logan Brenkle – Heart for God* with a new cover and title, *Brenkle for Today – The Best of Samuel Logan Brenkle in Today's English*. Brenkle was a Salvation Army officer of the early 20th century, a

renown holiness teacher and author who sold over a million books.

Major Farthing sums up the purpose of the re-print in his introduction when he states: "In *Brenkle for Today* you will be reading Brenkle in modernised language. Writers in his day could be wordy. Like Victorian furniture, their sentences wore a lot of ornamentation and flourish. I have pared Brenkle down to a more modern style. In parts, this almost a paraphrase – you might say, *The Message* version of Brenkle."

The foreword by the late General Eva Burrows is retained and in it she remarks: "I congratulate the author on this book which introduces us gently to the Brenkle writings and presents a fresh look at the deep and often radical things he had to say about holy living ... He (Brenkle) doesn't write like a theologian, but like a spiritual counsellor and friend. If it's your first time to read Brenkle, you will be delighted and challenged."

Brenkle for Today – The Best of Samuel Logan Brenkle in Today's English is available from The Trade (thetrade.salvos.org.au) for \$10.

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LAWS HONoured FOR DECADES OF SERVICE ▼



Lieutenant-Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge leads the retirement service of Lieutenant-Colonels Peter and Jan Laws at Campsie Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonels Peter and Jan Laws were honoured for 43 years of ministry with The Salvation Army at their retirement service on 15 November. Close friend and colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge (Secretary for Business Administration), led the retirement service at Campsie Corps. “Just your presence here this afternoon is an indication of the impact that Peter and Jan have had on so many people’s lives,” he said.

The Laws’ daughter, Karyn Lee, spoke on behalf of her two brothers, sharing how her parents always made family life a priority, their faithfulness to God and their caring nature. “We are all here today to congratulate you on your achievement of 43 years of officership and to show you that we support you and are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for your future.”

The Laws’ son-in-law, Steve Lee, read a number of congratulatory messages from people, including former Salvation Army world leader General Linda Bond (Ret.), NSW Premier Mike Baird and Army supporter and businessman Roger Massy-Greene. Lieutenant-Colonel Cheralynne Pethybridge spoke fondly of the friendship she has with the Laws. “Providing pastoral care is a pivotal thing of who they are and a priority for them not just as corps officers but also in their divisional and territorial roles they’ve had over the years.” Major David Soper echoed this same sentiment about the Laws’ pastoral care ministry when sharing at the service.

Territorial President for Women’s Ministries, Commissioner Jan Condon, read two letters, one for Lieut-Colonel Peter and the other for Lieut-Colonel Jan, written by Commissioner James Condon, Territorial Commander, congratulating the Laws on their service to the Army. Commissioner Les Strong completed the official part of the service by presenting the Laws with their retirement certificates.

The Laws then had an opportunity to respond, thanking both God and the people who have impacted their officership journey. Lieut-Colonel Jan reminisced on being called to officership at 14 at a Youth Councils event, her years at The School For Officer Training as part of the *Lightbringers* session of cadets and her many appointments over the years. “My officership might look ordinary to some. But my officership hasn’t been ordinary. It’s been extraordinary,” she said. “I’m still amazed that God chose me ... and I want to thank God for his faithfulness to me over these many years.”

– Esther Pinn

TRIBUTES FLOW FOR RETIRING MAJOR MILLINGTON ▼



Major Stan Evans presents Major Margaret Millington with her retirement certificate.

Major Margaret Millington was honoured for 30 years of faithful service as a Salvation Army officer during a retirement ceremony at Woodport Retirement Village, Gosford, on 30 October. Major Stan Evans conducted the ceremony, and written tributes to Major Millington’s life and work were given by Sharon Callister, Aged Care Plus

Chief Executive Officer, and many others including Salvation Army officers who trained with Margaret.

A letter of congratulation and appreciation from Commissioner James Condon, Territorial Commander, was read by the Woodport Chaplain Val Hopewell. After receiving her retirement certificate from Major Evans, Major Millington responded by saying: “I am grateful to God and The Salvation Army for the opportunities afforded me. Life is not always straightforward, and unanticipated things happen. But friends were always there to support me and encourage me. I have really been blessed by God, all the way.”

After serving as an Envoy at Mt Druitt, Lethbridge and Chester Hill corps, Major Millington was commissioned and ordained as a Salvation Army officer in 1988. A series of appointments followed at various corps, divisional headquarters (Newcastle) and appointments at Clulow Court women’s shelter where she was manager, and Miracle Haven rehabilitation centre where she was assistant manager.

Major Millington was transferred to Aged Care Plus in 2004 as chaplain at Woodport Retirement Village, and in 2008 she was appointed chaplain and director of mission at Carpenter Court in Newcastle, where she remained until retirement.

MAJOR STRONG INSPIRES SENIORS TO MISSION ▼



Guest speaker Major Maree Strong and seniors coordinator Roz Edwards at the Seniors Fellowship gathering in Brisbane.

About 100 delegates from all over the Australia Eastern Territory were treated to three inspiring days of great fellowship, teaching and entertainment at the Seniors Fellowship gathering at Bayside Salvation Army Community Church in Brisbane on 6-8 October. Seniors from as far away as the NSW South Coast, Canberra and Gympie were taken on an inspiring spiritual journey by the leader, Major Maree Strong, who used as her theme "The love of Christ compels us", taken from 2 Corinthians 5:14. She challenged the group to be on mission at all times, to be a disciple and to love others as Jesus loves us.

Proceedings got underway with a welcome spit roast dinner on the Tuesday night, the menu including music and song by Shelden and Louise Mathieson. Shelden's emotional

rendition of *You Raised Me Up* was memorable. Each day, which started with devotions, included many moments of sharing and fellowship, but it was the messages from Major Strong that had the most impact, according to one delegate Kevin Elsey.

"In one of her talks, Maree told the biblical story of Caleb who was 40 when sent on a mission (Numbers 13), and then when he was 85 (Joshua 14) he was on another mission – still strong and vigorous because his strength came from God," Kevin said. "Another wake-up call in one of her messages was we seniors may look on retirement as the ultimate expression of all that we deserve after many years of work, when instead we should be asking God what do *you* want me to do for *you* in retirement? No rocket-science mission, no deep theology, just practise."

On the Wednesday afternoon, Major Strong split the delegates into their divisional groups to share what seniors were doing in respective corps. "It was encouraging to hear the extent of seniors activities going on, reaching out into the community, and the way seniors are running or helping with young people's activities, such as Cameo, music, outings, walking groups, Home League just to name a few examples," Kevin said.

On the Thursday the delegates were blessed by the South Queensland Divisional Fellowship Band, timbrel brigade, singing group and soloists. The Seniors Fellowship fundraising project this year was support for the opening of Salvation Army work in Vanuatu, which raised \$3200.

NEW BLOG CONNECTING SALVO YOUNG ADULTS ▼



Young adults aged 18 to 30 across The Salvation Army are engaging with a new online blog called *Salvo Young Adults*. Developed by the newly formed Territorial Young Adults Mission team, the blog was launched at the Australia Eastern Territorial's annual discipleship and creative arts conference, EQUIP, in Sydney in October.

The blog was initiated by a group of young adults from the Greater West Division to meet the needs of small pockets of Salvo young adults who were eager to connect with their

peers throughout the territory. "We are trying to roll with the times and encourage broader conversations around faith, life and mission and what that means in application to a young adult's life," said Young Adults Development Coordinator Lauren Mason. "So the blog aims to be very practical and personal, just a place where people can learn from each other." A Salvo Young Adults Facebook Group has also been launched.

A pool of 15 writers contribute to the blog, including Salvo young adults, officers, youth leaders and youth pastors. Lauren said the main aim was to directly challenge young adults about their spiritual walk with God and what it means to be a Salvo. She also said the blog will soon launch a video teaching series with mini sermons about the relevance of The Salvation Army in the 21st century. "I think more and more that young adults are actually proud that they are Salvo but we're trying to educate them on how do you actually have intellectual discussion around what is uniquely Salvo," she said.

To read the Salvo Young Adults blog, go to salvoyoungadults.com.au If you would like to contribute to the Salvo Young Adults blog, email Lauren Mason at salvoyoungadults@ae.salvationarmy.org. To join the Salvo Young Adults Facebook group, go to facebook.com/groups/salvoyoungadults

CELEBRATING MUSICALS WHICH INSPIRED THE ARMY ▼



Tim Harmer performs his cornet solo *I Am the Resurrection* during the Gowans-Larsson concert at Hurstville on 7 November.

A near-capacity crowd enjoyed an evening of memories and spiritual challenge as they gathered in the Hurstville Citadel on 7 November to recall the musicals written by John Gowans and John Larsson. Supported by the Hurstville band, soloists Warwick Kingston and Gaylene Millar, and pianist Margaret Ross, the fast-moving recollections kept the audience engrossed for over 90 minutes.

Presented by the Sydney Chapter of The Salvation Army Historical Society, the evening was part of the society's ongoing celebration of 150 years of ministry by the Army. Being almost 50 years since the first of the Gowans-Larsson musicals, *Take-over Bid*, the evening celebrated the impact the musicals have had on the Army.

The evening opened with Hurstville band, under Bandmaster Steve Reay, presenting the overture from *Take-over Bid* which was followed by a video clip from the late General John Gowans speaking of the unique circumstances that brought about the writing of the musical. This was followed throughout the evening by other video clips from John Larsson and John Gowans speaking about the various musicals and the events that led to them being written.

Vocal solos from the musicals were presented by Warwick Kingston and Gaylene Millar. An original member of the Australian production of *Take-over Bid*, Warwick presented *A Different Man* (*Take-over Bid*) and *I Don't Remember* (Jesus Folk). Gaylene, who had been involved in production of some of the musicals in New Zealand, presented *Out of my Darkness* (Jesus Folk) and *Love Cannot Fail* (Spirit).

Apart from the overture from *Take-over Bid*, Hurstville band presented selections from *Hosea* and *Jesus Folk* as well as accompanying audience participation. A cornet solo by Tim Harmer of an unpublished arrangement by John Woodbury of *I Am the Resurrection* (Jesus Folk) reminded all present of the great hope of the message of that musical.

The audience enthusiastically joined in songs from the musicals – *We Have a Gospel that Matches the Hour* (*Take-over Bid*), *If Human Hearts are Often Tender* (*Hosea*), *That's the Spirit* (Spirit), *Burning, Burning* (Spirit), *There's Only One Flag for Me* (The Blood of the Lamb), *When the Glory Gets into Your Soul* (The Blood of the Lamb) and *For Thine is the Glory* (*Take-over bid*). The evening closed with a challenging video to the words of *They Need Christ* from the musical *Man Mark II*.

BRISBANE CITY TEMPLE PRAISE THE LORD IN SONG ▼



Songster leader Chris Brindley and his brigade lead the congregation in song during the Songs of Praise afternoon concert on 1 November.

Songs of Praise was latest in a series of concerts presented this year by Brisbane City Temple Corps as part of its 130-year anniversary celebrations. The concert, on Sunday afternoon 1 November, took the audience on a musical journey, reflecting on the corps' past, celebrating the present and looking to the future and the great things God has in store.

A narration of the journey provided a backdrop to several congregation songs. These songs, enthusiastically sung, included *The Salvation Army is Marching Along*, *God's Soldier* and *He Came to Give us Life* from different decades of the Army. General Albert Osborn's description of his thoughts in penning the words to the song *I Know Thee Who Thou Art* gave increased meaning as the congregation progressed through each verse of the song.

The BCT band and songsters were featured, the band getting the concert started with a rousing rendition of *Land of Song*. The songsters presented two contrasting numbers, the first being the much-loved prayer *Shepherd, Hear My Prayer*. The second piece, *Yes, Jesus Loves Me*, was one of affirmation and was written by the corps' songster leader Chris Brindley.

The junior singing group enthusiastically presented *Amen, Praise the Lord* with the actions providing extra zest to the song. Stephanie Luhrs' contribution was a contemporary vocal solo *It is Well*. Many toes were tapping when the BCT band played *Youth's Ambition*, with the Worship Support Team contributing *Ten Thousand Reasons* and *Amazing Grace – My Chains are Gone*. As a fitting finale, the congregation stood to give a resounding rendition of *O Boundless Salvation*.

HAZEL HONOURED FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE ▼



Hazel Cooper celebrates her achievement by cutting a specially created cake.

Hazel Cooper, who has been volunteering for The Salvation Army for 66 years, was honoured for her long service during and after the meeting at Mackay Corps on Sunday 1 November. Lieutenant-Colonel Merv Rowland, Central and North Queensland Divisional Commander, read a congratulations letter to Hazel from Commissioner James Condon, Territorial Commander, and also presented her with her Long Service badge.

One of the highlights of Hazel’s service has been teaching Sunday School at Mackay Corps for 42 years. “I started teaching when I was just 12,” Hazel shared. “I was privileged to have God in my life and I wanted these other children to have him in theirs also. I would gather up other children as I made my way to church and would often have 10 or so with me by the time I arrived!”

Hazel also recently raised \$2000 for a Salvation Army International Development project. She was reading a Salvos Gift Catalogue and saw the option to provide “Clean Water for a Village” for \$2000. She thought it would be too much for her to raise on her own but with the support of the corps buying baked goods, jams and other items at sales, selling goods at local and community markets, Hazel reached her target.

BOBBIE A SMASH HIT AT SENIORS CARNIVAL ▼

Salvation Army Aged Care Plus resident Bobbie Millar, who turns 106 this month, donned her 1927 Wimbledon jacket to take part in the 2015 YMCA Seniors Sports Carnival in Canberra. Bobbie competed at Wimbledon three years in a row (1927-29) as a teenager.

Representing Narrabundah’s Mountain View Aged Care Plus Centre, Bobbie decorated her wheelchair as a tennis court to participate in events including relays, wheelchair obstacle courses, javelin and bocce in the annual seniors carnival at Tuggeranong on 22 October. Bobbie picked up a bronze medal in the “hot potato” event to help Mountain View to finish sixth overall from 16 participating aged care providers.

The aim of the annual event is to promote health and well-being for Canberra’s oldest citizens who reside in an aged care facility. Mountain View has been taking part in the event since 2002 and has had over 200 residents compete.

Mountain View’s Diversional Therapist Christine Peterson said Bobbie was an enthusiastic and dedicated participant. “Bobbie is still very active and never missed a training session, and to my surprise, on the morning of the event Bobbie came out with a white jacket on. It was her jacket from Wimbledon; she looked so thrilled,” she said. And Bobbie’s advice for longevity: “Getting active keeps you young.”



Bobbie Millar, sporting her Wimbledon jacket, and her tennis-themed wheelchair at the YMCA Seniors Sports Carnival in Canberra.

SERVICE CELEBRATES SALVOS LEGAL MILESTONE ▼



01

Salvationists and friends filled the Auburn Corps hall on 15 November to mark anniversaries of The Salvation Army’s legal service. It’s been 10 years since Courtyard Legal began out of the Auburn centre, and five years since Salvos Legal and Salvos Legal Humanitarian were established. The anniversary service was an opportunity to celebrate Salvos Legal’s progress since it first began with one compassionate lawyer, Luke Geary.

“He [Luke] had the dream but the actual genesis of it came from William Booth [The Salvation Army’s founder],” said Salvos Legal Chaplain, Major Susan Reese. “Luke caught the vision and felt the calling of that on his life. But to make it actually happen, and to turn it into to what it is now, has been the result of the commitment of a lot of people – the [Salvos Legal] partners, the staff, the volunteers and the corps who’ve supported and nurtured it.”



02

Many people were honoured, including Anthea Feilen, who has been voluntarily completing administration work for Salvos Legal for the past 10 years. Anthea’s mother, Beth, was also praised for being a faithful prayer warrior for the law firm for the past decade.

Testimonies were shared by three Auburn Corps members – Beatrice Dawo, her son Patrick, and David Delany on behalf of Nabieu Wallace and his family – each explaining how they were assisted by Salvos Legal. Auburn Corps Officer Major Paul Moulds then spoke about justice and challenged the congregation to use the gifts and abilities they’ve been given to help others.

Major Reese said the service highlighted how Salvos Legal successfully fulfils the Army’s “One Army One Mission” vision. “To me it was just a real celebration of how one Army works. It just really highlighted what can happen when we work together and follow the vision that’s been put into our hearts,” said Major Reese.

Salvos Legal assists governments, the business community and other individuals who have the ability to pay for a solicitor or conveyancer to meet their various legal needs. Revenue received from the commercial work funds Salvos Legal Humanitarian, which offers those who cannot afford the cost of a solicitor free legal advice and in some cases, court representation. For more information about Salvos Legal, go to salvoslegal.com.au – Esther Pinn

01. Salvos Legal chaplain Major Susan Reese (centre) with Tobias Tse (Salvos Legal) and Maladevi Atchuthan (Auburn Corps).

02. Salvos Legal managing partner Luke Geary speaks alongside Major Paul Moulds at the anniversary service at Auburn. Photos: Andrea Christie-David

HISTORY SNAPSHOT

Two Salvation Army officers were arrested in Grafton in 1891 for “loitering and obstructing traffic” while conducting a prayer meeting on a street corner. Go to the “Local History – North NSW – Grafton” link at salvos.org.au to read about the ensuing legal battle which nearly ended up in the Supreme Court.

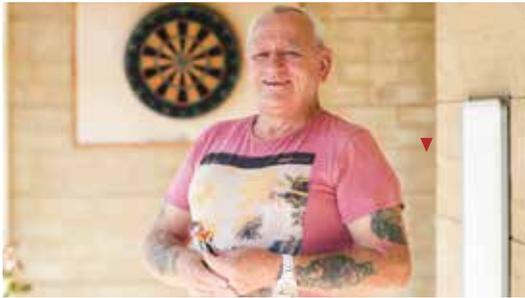
MORE AWARDS FOR AGED CARE PLUS ▼



01

Two programs offered at The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus for employees and aged care residents have been awarded Better Practice Awards from the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency. This achievement builds on the success of 2014 when Aged Care Plus received its first Better Practice Award.

The first award acknowledges the unique relationship-based, person-centred model of care provided at Montrose Aged Care Plus Centre in Balmain, Sydney, a specialist care home for men with mental health issues. This model of care meets the needs of a unique group of male residents who come from socially vulnerable, disadvantaged and often homeless backgrounds.



02

The second award is for an employee wellness program called Mind Yourself, Mind Others which provides 1400 Aged Care Plus employees with an exercise program, plus tools and resources. This is a unique holistic approach to workforce wellness which has resulted in improved overall employee wellbeing, contributing to an enjoyable and safe working environment and improved care outcomes for residents.

01. Salvation Army Aged Care Plus employees put their award-winning exercise program into practice on the job.

02. Phil Gilbey has been a resident at Montrose Aged Care Plus Centre in Balmain for the past 12 years.

“It’s great to be recognised by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency for our commitment to providing the best care to residents and our achievements in creating a happy and healthy workplace for our employees,” said Peter Bewert, Executive Manager Care Services, Aged Care Plus.

PARRAMATTA BRIGADE ON SONG IN TAMWORTH ▼



The Parramatta songsters in full voice during their visit to Tamworth in October.

Tamworth Corps Officers, said their community was blessed by the ministry of the songsters who performed three concerts over the weekend and took part in the holiness meeting on the Sunday morning.

The Saturday afternoon concert was held at Mackay House, a UnitingCare Aged Care Facility, where a most appreciative audience enjoyed the music and spoken word from the songsters. After a dinner, an evening concert was held at the citadel to a packed congregation.

The songster brigade presented a variety of music for all “ages including anthems, songs of worship, songs of praise and devotional songs. Soloists featured in the concert were Chris Plumridge, Margaret Poore and Marty Bust.

During the Sunday morning holiness meeting, the songster brigade made sensitive contributions to assist worship. Alan Hayes gave his testimony and Captain Grant Sandercock-Brown, the Parramatta Corps Officer, preached from Ephesians chapter 3. The meeting concluded with the songster brigade singing *Let us go in peace and serve the Lord*. The final gathering for the songster brigade was a visit to Moonbi House Retirement Centre, where a Sunday afternoon concert was held for the residents and staff.

The Parramatta Corps songster brigade, under the leadership of Tannie Kwong, provided a time of rich blessing and encouragement during their visit to Tamworth Corps on 3-4 October. Majors David and Cathie Rogerson, the

PINE RIVERS CORPS ▼



Major Rod Ainsworth enrolls Ian Brodrick (left) and Ross Gilbert as senior soldiers of the Pine Rivers Corps in north Brisbane.

Ian Brodrick and Ross Gilbert were enrolled as senior soldiers on Sunday 18 October. Both men gave their testimonies, sharing something of the journey that brought them to this point in their lives. “It was a wonderful and inspiring morning and we praise God for his work in the lives of both of these men,” said Corps Officer Major Rod Ainsworth.



BRISBANE STREETLEVEL MISSION ▼



Major Bryce Davies (pictured centre), Streetlevel team leader, recently accepted Akemi Kobayashi (right) and David Thomson (left) as adherents. Akemi has been volunteering at Streetlevel since 2009. “She is a beautiful ‘pocket rocket’ of love, joy and sacrificial service to God and our community,” said Major Davies.

David, who has battled addiction and mental health issues, is now a volunteer and group leader at Streetlevel. “This place for me has been the best expression of a Christian church that I’ve been to,” he said. “I’ve started to develop a relationship with Jesus, which is what it’s all about. Streetlevel has changed my life.”

COOMERA MISSION ▼



Lauren Forrester (left) and Emily Moore are enrolled by Marie Southall, who took the girls through soldiership classes.

Coomera Mission on the Gold Coast saw its first soldiers enrolled on Sunday 15 November, as Lauren Forrester and Emily Moore signed their covenants in front of family and friends. Both Lauren and Emily shared their testimonies during the meeting.

Emily spoke about some of the tough times she’s been through but that God had always been there for her. “There were times when I felt as if I wasn’t good enough or worth it,” she shared. “I’ve felt like I’ve wanted to give up, but I hear a voice telling me that it will be okay. That I am loved! I feel as if God is calling me to tell more people about Jesus every day. I want people to feel the freedom that I feel!”

Lauren spoke about how doing soldiership classes showed her that the commitment she was making meant a commitment to win the world for Jesus and be a warrior for God. “I want to show and tell people how magnificent God really is,” she testified.

GOLD COAST TEMPLE ▼



Major Andrew McKeown, Corps Officer, enrolled three junior soldiers on 25 October – (pictured left to right) Matthew Grice, Millie McCorriston and Brianna Marsh. The children were supported by their prayer pals, family and friends. “It is wonderful to see our young people making decisions to follow Jesus,” said Major McKeown.

FIRST SALVATION ARMY OFFICERS COMMISSIONED IN ROMANIA ▼

The Australia Eastern Territory’s Colonel Rodney Walters has had the privilege of commissioning Romania’s first Salvation Army officers during an historic service in late October. The Salvation Army officially began work in Romania in 1999, but the country had never hosted a commissioning until Cadets Romica and Laura Crişmariu were ordained on Saturday 24 October.

Colonel Walters, in his role as Territorial Commander of Eastern Europe, conducted the commissioning ceremony at Ploiesti Corps, north of the capital Bucharest. Salvation Army officials, Ploiesti and Bucharest corps members and other supporters participated in the church service, which was led by Lieut-Colonel Jostein Nielsen, Chief Secretary of the Eastern Europe Territory.

In moments full of grace and emotion, the cadets affirmed their faith in front of God and the congregation, with Colonel Walters appointing them as assistant officers at Ploiesti Corps. The mothers of the two new officers, with tears in their eyes, were congratulated by Colonel Wendy Walters on the their children’s commissioning and were presented with Silver Star pins, thus becoming part of the international community of officers’ parents and significant supporters.



Training Principal Major Judith Soeters (left) with Cadets Romica and Laura Crişmariu and their children at the historic Commissioning ceremony in Romania.

PEDDLES WELCOMED TO NEW INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES ▼



General André Cox addresses a gathering of distinguished guests at the official welcome of Commissioners Brian and Rosalie Peddle to their new roles at International Headquarters in London.

The Salvation Army’s Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, and World Secretary for Women’s Ministries, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, were given a warm reception as they began their new appointments at International Headquarters (IHQ) in London. Distinguished guests – including former international leaders Commissioner Gisèle Gowans, General John Larsson (Ret) and Commissioner Freda Larsson, and General Shaw Clifton (Ret) – joined IHQ officers and staff for the special occasion.

In his opening comments, the General greeted Commissioner Brian as his second-in-command. He spoke appreciatively

about the Chief and Commissioner Rosalie’s experience, vision, dedication and commitment, promising them that “God who calls you is more than able to sustain you”. Commissioner Brian revealed that becoming Chief of the Staff had not been on his “bucket list” but that when the General had asked him to take the appointment, “faith and obedience collided”.

Originally from Canada, the Peddles have served in their home territory, as well as the New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory, the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland and, for the past year, as zonal leaders for the Americas and Caribbean at IHQ.

GRACIOUS LADY ▼



Lieut-Colonel Elsie May McLachlan was promoted to glory on 2 November at Riverview Gardens Aged Care Plus Centre, Ipswich, aged 93. Her funeral service on 6 November was conducted by Major Rod Strong at Heritage Park Crematorium. This was followed by a celebration of her life and ministry at the Riverview Gardens Chapel, also led by Majors Rod and Denice Strong.

Elsie had planned the service, using her favourite songs and scripture. Family tributes from Alan Lingard (son-in-law), Ashley and Dean McLachlan (grandsons) were followed by a vocal tribute *When we all get to Heaven* from the grandchildren. A letter was read from the Territorial Commander, Commissioner James Condon, by Major Denice Strong. Major Daphne White, representative speaker for the residents of the Independent Living Units, paid tribute to Elsie's care and concern of others during her 23 years living at Riverview Gardens.

The second twin of three children, Elsie

Foley was born in Tingha, NSW, on 21 October 1922. Her parents, Norman and Grace, were active local officers at the Tingha Corps for many years. Elsie with her twin sister Miriam, and her brother Herb, were involved in various areas of corps life. After leaving high school, Elsie was employed as a telephonist at the Tingha post office.

In 1942, she joined the *Steadfast* session of Salvation Army cadets for officer training in Sydney. Following her commissioning in October the same year, she was appointed to Gulgong, Forbes and Lambton Corps prior to her marriage to Captain Ronald McLachlan on 23 March 1946 in Inverell, just five days after Ron's return from war service.

Elsie's officer service, in partnership with Ron, encompassed responsibility in corps leadership as well as divisional and territorial roles in the Australia Eastern Territory. In 1973, the then-Major and Mrs McLachlan with their son David, departed for Papua New Guinea with the responsibility for Salvation Army work. Elsie loved her work, which was mainly with the women of PNG. It was a very

challenging time, the year of PNG's self-government, then the early years of independence.

Since retirement in September 1983, Elsie continued to be involved in service, including relieving with Ron in PNG and various other centres. In the Toowoomba Corps, Elsie was interested, involved and enjoyed the extra time spent with the family in Toowoomba and Brisbane. After eight years they moved from their much-loved home in Toowoomba, owing to Ron's need of continual specialist treatment, and settled into Riverview Gardens.

This has been home for the past 23 years for Elsie, and her grandchildren have been a constant delight. At the end of 2014, Elsie moved into the Hostel at Riverview Aged Care. She will be remembered as a gracious and caring lady who was vigorous in her personal faith and visible in mission and making disciples.

"I have fought the good fight, I have stayed on course and finished the race, and through it all, I have kept believing." 2 Timothy 4v7 (Voice).

NO TOLERANCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

The Salvation Army is committed to providing a safe place for all children and the vulnerable in our care. Let me state in the strongest terms our **no tolerance approach** to any form of child abuse or, indeed, the abuse of the vulnerable.

I also want to reaffirm our commitment to persons who suffered sexual abuse in a Salvation Army corps or children's home. If you were abused, please tell us. You will be received with compassion and a careful restorative process will be followed.

If you feel you need to make a complaint, please contact us at our Centre for Restoration.



Phone: 02 92669781
Email: centreforrestoration@aue.salvationarmy.org
Mail: **CENTRE FOR RESTORATION**
 The Salvation Army
 PO Box A435
 Sydney South 1235

Commissioner James Condon
 Territorial Commander
 The Salvation Army
 Australia Eastern Territory



Hope in the midst of despair

WALKING WITH THOSE WHO GRIEVE



CASEY O'BRIEN

Every year, The Salvation Army's Sydney Congress Hall Corps leads carol services in Martin Place in the city centre. These services, held under the huge decorated tree in the nights leading up to Christmas, are loud, joyful and full of life. However, last year, just days before our first carol service for the year was scheduled, a man held 18 people hostage in the nearby Lindt Café. Two people were killed and many traumatised. The mood in Sydney, and especially in Martin Place, changed overnight as the city grieved not only for those lost, but for a sense of security and safety which it felt had been lost.

Those of us who assist with organising our carol services were presented with a dilemma: how do we effectively present a message of hope in a world that is so deeply hurting and broken? How do we look people in the eye in the midst of their very real suffering, and expect them to receive our message that there is a God who came to bring joy to the world? I think this is a question that many of us ask, in varying ways, on a daily basis.

At Sydney Congress Hall we could have gone ahead as usual – singing

joyfully and laughing loudly – yet to do so would have done a disservice to those who were grieving. Instead, we went ahead placing centre-stage a physical, constant acknowledgement of the pain and the hurt. Yes, there is a place for hopefulness and positivity, but there is also a place for hurt, for grieving and for really feeling what life is throwing at us.

As author Ebony Johanna writes: "Hope goes hand in hand with despair. I despair and agonise over the current situation as I hope for a redeemed, victorious future." Philosopher Cornel West echoed this sentiment, when he wrote: "Those of us who truly hope, make despair a constant companion who we outwrestle every day owing to our commitment to justice, love and hope. It is impossible to look honestly at our catastrophic conditions and not have some despair – it is a healthy sign of how deeply we care".

Our faith does not call us to have a blind "everything will be OK in the end" attitude. In fact, it is this very attitude that has, at times, caused the world to see Christianity as ignorant or irrelevant in times of suffering. Instead, our faith calls us to look at the world around us – to really look – and to feel with those around us. Romans 12:5 tells us to "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those

who mourn". As long as we live in a world which has abuse, terrorism, discrimination, violence, war, disease and many other things, we are surrounded by people who will hurt. As long as we live in this world, we ourselves will hurt - yet we find our hope in the midst of the hurt. Rather than skipping over the bad, we usher in God's Kingdom through our everyday actions which display our solid hope in a future that we know *will* be revealed – a future where the good outweighs the bad and where our present sufferings are nothing but a distant memory.

This Christmas, as we look a hurting world in the eye, let us remain hopeful. Let us grieve with those who grieve, and hurt with those who hurt, while declaring with confidence our hope that says that Christ came so that this world will become what it was intended to be. Let us say with gladness that our God came to this earth in order to restore it. Martin Place heard the following words last year, as we expressed our solidarity with those in pain and our hope for the future:

"O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel." ¶

ABOUT PEOPLE ▼**ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Major David Twivey, Recovery Support Officer North Queensland, Territorial Recovery Services Team, effective 7 January.

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 16 November: Lieutenant Kate **Cathcart**, Corps Officer, Atherton Tablelands Corps.

Effective 1 December: Lieutenant-Colonel Xuyen (Samuel) **Pho**, National Secretary.

Effective 7: Captain Christine **Gee**, Projects Coordinator to SPEA Zone, SAID.

Captain Joy **Lotty** will continue in her appointment as Chaplain – Territorial Headquarters; Captain Ray **Lotty** will continue in his appointment as Territorial Chaplaincy Coordinator and Territorial Coordinator, Positive Lifestyle Program; Austin and Nayomia **Anderson**, Corps Leaders, Umina Corps.

BEREAVED

Major Isabel **Gates** of her brother, Bob Martin; Lieut-Colonel Simone **Robertson** of her brother, David **Riley** on 18 November.

MARRIAGE

Major Tracey **Schutz** (South Queensland Divisional Headquarters) and Derek Wicks were married on Saturday 19 September.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Lieut-Colonel Elsie **McLachlan** on 2 November; Commissioner Donald **Campbell** on 14 November.

RETIREMENTS

Majors Rodney and Leonie **Ainsworth**; Majors Kevin and Valmae **Holland**; Major Pauline **Staples**; Major Jennifer **Stringer**; Major Stephen **Metcher**; Majors Jo-anne and Ross **Brown**; Major Joy **Goodacre**.

SCHOOL FOR OFFICER TRAINING

The following people have been accepted for training in 2016 in the *Messengers of the Gospel*. Session 2016-2017: Rachel **Mina** and Paul **Anastasiou**, Athens Corps, Greece; Dillon **Wu** and Rong **Fu**, Burwood Chinese Corps.

The following people have been accepted for training in 2016 in the *Messengers* non-residential training program: Matthew and Jaqueline **Gluyas**, Maroubra Corps.

The following person has been accepted for training in 2016 for the *Joyful Intercessors* as a second-year cadet: Ayly **Haupt**, Campbelltown Corps.

TIME TO PRAY ▼**29 November – 5 December**

Colonels Andrew and Yvonne Westrupp, Papua New Guinea Territory; Lieut-Colonels Ian and Wendy Swann, Hong Kong and Macau Command; Colonels Edward and Deborah Horwood, Tanzania Territory; Captain Kaye Barber, Australia

Southern Territory; Major Eva Phillips, Western Australia Division; Major Alison Cowling, Canada and Bermuda Territory; DYS Consultative Forum (30 Nov-1 Dec).

6-12 December

Lieut-Colonels Bruce and Cheryl Carpenter, Caribbean Territory; Colonels Rodney and Wendy Walters, Eastern Europe Territory; Captains Glenn and Julia Price, Eastern Europe Territory; Majors Graeme and Heather Craig, Ghana Territory.

13-19 December

Colonels Wayne and Robyn Maxwell, The Philippines Territory; Katherine Dale, Ghana Territory; Captain Kathy Crombie, International Social Justice Commission; Majors Bruce and Gwenda Pratt, Papua New Guinea Territory.

20-26 December

Majors Peter and Gail White, Mozambique Territory; Lieut-Colonel Miriam Gluyas, Papua New Guinea Territory; Majors Norm and Isabel Beckett.

27 December – 2 January

Majors Philip and Deslea Maxwell, International Headquarters; Major Mark Watts, International Headquarters; Majors Kevin and Heather Unicomb, Papua New Guinea Territory; Majors Stuart and Donna Evans, The Netherlands and Czech Republic Territory.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR ▼**COMMISSIONERS JAMES (TERRITORIAL COMMANDER) AND JAN CONDON**

*Canberra: Wed 2 Dec – National Freedom Partnership Launch.
 *Canberra: Thu 3 Dec – Church Leaders meeting with the Prime Minister.
 *Maroubra: Sat 5 Dec – Christmas community lunch.
 Stanmore: Mon 7 Dec – Christmas gathering.
 Dooralong: Mon 7 Dec – REACH homechurch.
 Sydney: Thu 10 Dec – THQ Service Recognition and Christmas Event.
 Melbourne: Mon 14 Dec – Inter-Territorial Leaders Consultation.
 Tuggeranong: Sunday 20 Dec – Carols in Town Park.

* Commissioner James Condon only

Commissioner Jan Condon only

COLONEL MARK CAMPBELL (CHIEF SECRETARY)

Stanmore: Tue 1 Dec – TPMC Christmas Dinner.
 Sydney: Thu 3 Dec – Christmas functions for Major Donors and Honoured Friends.
 Sydney: Thu 10 Dec – THQ Service Recognition and Christmas Function.
 Melbourne: Mon 14 Dec – Inter-Territorial Leaders Consultation.