

venue

NOVEMBER 2008



Goodbye!

venue departs for a bigger stage

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Time to head in a new direction

I'm a bit of a wanderer. When I get time I love wandering through places and streets I don't usually go to. My route home from work could almost be a straight line but instead I dodge in and out of backstreets and up alleyways. This has been known to cause frustrations when I have a friend with me. "Why don't you just walk in a straight line?" they protest. "It would be so much quicker!" That might be so, but I like my route home - the terraces and cute little boutiques and cafes I've discovered. It's more interesting than the direct path and it still gets me to my destination.

I've been reading Charles Nicholls' book, *Borderlines*. It's about his travels through South-East Asia and his quest to make it to a monkey temple in Northern Thailand, but ultimately it's about his journey and the people he meets along the way.

Nicholls sets out to go directly to the temple but en route he meets one guy who changes everything, Choppa. Choppa takes Nicholls off the beaten track and introduces him to the "real" Thailand. Nicholls knows what he's there for, to see the temple, he doesn't take his eyes off that but he is open to the possibilities around him; to meeting new people and seeing new things. Nicholls could have swayed from his goal and let the sidetracks distract him but instead he embraced the chance to wander a little on his way. What he found was a whole new world that he previously knew nothing about.

Sometimes we need to embrace the sidewalks and backstreets of life. It can be in these places that we learn the most. Often it's when we step off the easy, straight road that our sight is broadened and our goal, our dream, becomes so much fuller, so much bigger. Bits and pieces of our dreams change with time and as our sights are broadened, new opportunities open up.

For *venue* and the youth of The Salvation Army, a new opportunity has arisen. As the world

of technology is constantly evolving, the internet has become a place where young people spend much of their time. It's immediate, dynamic and interactive.

In early 2009, The Salvation Army is launching a new website that is especially for you, the youth of The Salvation Army. The website, "More Plus", will feature news, salvation stories, photos and more. It will be an interactive site that will encourage and enhance the mission of The Salvation Army among young people.

In saying that, this will be the last edition of *venue* as it stands. In this issue we look back at *venue* over the past nine years, how you've each contributed and how together the youth of The Salvation Army has grown and matured. This is an exciting step and we encourage you to make this site part of your everyday life. (See page 4 for more details).

Now we've come full circle and it's time to embrace the opportunities before us. Over the nine years *venue* has been going, many people have contributed to getting the magazine out. From staff writers to contributors, photographers and graphic designers - everyone's done their bit in developing and producing this magazine that is about you and for you, the youth of The Salvation Army. On behalf of the Communications Department, we send out a huge thank you to each and every one of you. *venue* wouldn't have come this far without your input.

My time here at *venue* has been a great blessing and I've loved bringing the magazine to you! And now, for me too new opportunities are around the corner.

What about you? Do you need to wander a path you've never previously walked to reach for your dreams? I think it's important to keep our eyes open to possibilities as we continue striving for our goals.

Joanne Brain
Editorial Coordinator

venue
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YOU WILL FIND OUR MAGS AT SALVOS.ORG.AU/CPRPRODUCTIONS



6



12



14

Goodbye, but God speed!

It's always sad to say goodbye. And that's how The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory's Publications Team feels about this November 2008 issue of *venue* – the very last *venue* ever.

As the magazine's Editorial Coordinator Joanne Brain announces in her editorial on page 3, the content of *venue* is moving to a much bigger and vastly more accessible stage – a new Salvation Army youth website that will be launched in the early part of next year. Please read her editorial for more info on the new website which will be driven and organised by the Army's Youth Team.

Venue has been an award-winning magazine, being recognised for both its layout and its content. It received the following accolades from the Australasian Religious Press Association which presents awards annually for excellence in religious journalism and publishing. Nearly 200 magazines contest the awards:

2003: Winner, Best Layout (Magazine)

2003: Runner-up, Best Magazine Cover

2004: Winner, Best Layout (Magazine)

2004: Runner-up, Best Feature Article

2006: Winner, Best Layout (Magazine) – *Pipeline* and supplements

2007: Runner-up, Best Layout (Magazine) – *Pipeline* and supplements

2008: Winner, Best Story by a New or Non-Professional Writer

That's an impressive list and an indication of the high quality that has characterised *venue* during the years since its inception in 2000 – both in design and content.

We thank God for the Christian dedication and passion of young writers and believe that making this available to a much bigger audience – a worldwide readership of millions – is what God wants for us in this era of mass electronic communications.

The move will also be a great platform for emerging young artists to hook into The Salvation Army's new "2020 One Army, One Mission" campaign.

This powerful initiative is calling for people with creative skills to give a contemporary look and sound to biblical imperatives such as transformational living, holiness of heart and mind, justice, and reaching out to people who do not profess Christ or attend church (go to salvos.org.au/2020).

Congratulations must go to the Publications Team which has excelled in bringing this dynamic magazine to the Army's young people and their friends. But now, let's pray for the new website, coming soon ...

Captain Peter McGuigan,
Communications Director,
The Salvation Army
Australia Eastern Territory

W
E
D
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S
D
A
Y

more+

same mission. new generation. coming soon.



venue

2000 - 2008 THE HISTORY

2004

venue changes its look. Love That conference kicks off with more than 100 young people attending, with the slogan "dare to dream, dare to change the world," and venue is there to report on it all.

Nine years ago, The Salvation Army's Communications Department introduced a vibrant new tool to the youth of the Eastern Territory. A new magazine, *venue*, started with a mission to reach the youth of The Salvation Army and beyond, and now this vision will continue to unfold through an innovative new website, "More Plus". Here, we recap the life of *venue*.

The first issue: February 2000

It is the year many fear the Y2K bug is going to wreak havoc on the world. It is also the year Sydney hosts the Olympics Games, and it is the year that *venue* is launched.

2001

The 21st century "officially" arrives, the movie *Pay it Forward* hits Australian cinemas, the world goes into shock after the 9/11 tragedy in the US, and *venue* celebrates its first birthday and asks the question, "has God spoken?"

2002

Lives are transformed, Salvation Army youth councils' are on fire and sporting heroes are coming out about their faith. Rugby league player Jason Stevens even goes as far as releasing a book, *Sex, it's worth the wait* and *venue* covers it all.

2003

venue picks up some big awards at the 2003 Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) including best magazine layout (thanks to graphic designer Colleen Danzic). In 2002, Salvos join the Red Frog team and hotel chaplains to make a positive impact at Schoolies Week on the Gold Coast. 2003 *venue* brings you the news.

venue
MAY 2001

MISSION:
Look beyond
Paul Collins Eric

2005

This year was named the year of The Salvation Army's children and youth and with that, they take on the world. i.d was launched and *venue* reported on more camps, youth events and salvation testimonies than in any other year.

2006

Violent race riots erupt in Cronulla, in Sydney's south, making national news and affecting thousands of people. *venue* is in the thick of it chatting to Salvation Army chaplains in the area.

2007

2007 is a big year in the Australian music scene. *venue* catches up with some of the big names; Bertie Blackman, Pillar, Superchick, Guy Sebastian and more.

2008

The music scene continues to expand in Australia and celebrities grace the covers of *venue*. Big issues like alcohol and teenagers, gossip and self-worth cover its pages.

venue
MAY 2008

prints & e-cis
Creative Publishing Solutions

venue

2000 - 2008

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrities big and small, musicians, actors and ordinary young people doing extraordinary things have all graced the pages of *venue* over the years. Each of these people gave something of worth to *venue* and its readers. Here we bring you the best of it

"I've got a real heart for what The Salvation Army does and I love partnering with them." Singer/songwriter Guy Sebastian on the *Spirit of Christmas* CD, *venue* Feb 2007

"Flayva has opened up my eyes spiritually; shown me how blessed I am to serve in a church of young people. The potential I see in that room is overwhelming." Rockdale Salvationist Jess Grey, *venue* Feb 2007

"If Jesus was alive today he wouldn't be playing in church every Sunday. I imagine he would be out there with the people on the street, telling them stories as he used to do." Delirious, *venue* Feb 2002

"I want to challenge Christians to have a reason other than because." Rock band Pillar's front man Rob Beckley, *venue* May 2007

"God has shown me that if the goals I am working on are his, he will bring them to fruition." Sydney Salvationist Elyse Dickson, *venue* May 2007

"I love God. If I could have chosen to live another way, I wouldn't." Thelma Stace, Sydney Salvationist, *venue* Aug 08

"You can't satisfy everybody, so you've got to try to keep pleasing God. In the long run, he's going to be sitting in the judgment seat, nobody else is." Garth Hentzschel, Brisbane Salvationist, *venue* Nov 2003

"It's not all of a sudden. It's about the steps that are taken to get there." Musician Michelle Tumes, *venue* Feb 2008

"There is a belief in young people that they can do anything, which is very healthy." Hugh Evans, Young Australian of the Year, *venue* May 2004

"We're not just a product that they're selling ... it's our heart and our songs that you are connecting with." Superchick, *venue* Aug 2007

"I just try to stay open and stay obedient and try to keep my heart right along the way. We'll see what happens." Aussie musician Brooke Fraser, *venue* May 2005

"If you can listen to a song and then at the end of it not only be entertained but I guess be encouraged to change or think differently, then I think music's done its job, I've done my job." Aussie musician Nathan Tasker, *venue* May 2008

"I can't think of another organisation that gives so much to so many people." Aussie musician Pete Murray, *venue* May 2006

"We need more music that is passionate and meaningful and honest." Jerome Fontamillas, Switchfoot, *venue* Nov 2005

"People need to know that there are always people to care about them ... I want to see the world changed and serve Jesus every day of my life." *venue* May 2008

@faith

Don't be afraid
Love's on its way
It's true, it's true if you believe it
Dreams can come true
It might happen even to you
As long as you keep on believing

I believe it, I believe it...

Don't sit and wait
Go out there and play
And love will come your way if you
believe it
Don't block your way
Light up your day
And don't you stop believing

I believe it, I believe it

Believe it
Good Morning
Old Man River
2007

IF Jesus is a song, we need to learn to sing

By Paul Farthing

My fiancée and I are in wedding planning mode. When my fiancée agreed to my proposal I immediately began auditioning wedding ideas to mixed responses. I played her the song *Close To You* which I thought could be sung as we signed the register. As it played I turned to her with my eyebrows raised as if to say "what do you think?" and there I saw her eyebrows furrowed as if to say "you're kidding, right?"

I didn't get it, it's Burt Bacharach, pure class (kids, if you don't know the song look it up, consider it a musical appreciation research project). Sure the lyrics are a little schmaltzy but it's a wedding. It would fit in perfectly with the flower girl and the tiny edible bride and groom on the top of the cake.

So we talked it over and it became apparent that her only exposure to the song was in a *Simpsons* episode where the sleazy Artie Ziff recites the song to Marge Simpson at the high school prom. "Why do birds suddenly appear..." he whispers in her ear as they twirl around the gym hall-cum-ballroom. That scene ruined the song for my fiancée. I insisted that was a bad representation and she should reconsider.

If it puzzles us when someone doesn't like our music, it can straight up hurt if they don't like our Saviour. Even worse if they rubbish him, we can be totally thrown, lost for words or so full of them we don't know which ones

to say. If you have ever been at school eating your vegemite sandwiches and you hear the kid next to you say, "I aint gonna waste my time praying to the walls" or "church is full of child abusers" you will know what I mean.

So what do we do when someone rubbishes Jesus? Or Christianity? Or the Church?

The first thing to know is that you are not being persecuted. Chances are either this person or maybe their parents or even grandparents were hurt by the Church. Their experience may be that Christians cannot be trusted or that they will only judge them. Furthermore they may just be ignorant.

Many people think rugby is just a bunch of ugly blokes wrestling, but those who play or study the game know otherwise. So rather than take their comment as an attack we should consider they may need evidence that causes them to reconsider their views.

It's all about evidence. If I told you the world's tallest man was sitting in the hallway you would not believe me until you could see for yourself. Just the same as nobody will believe Jesus died for them out of love unless they see some evidence of this love. That's only fair, right?

This doesn't mean we need to shower them in gifts, mow their lawns and give them free back rubs. There is of course a time for these things. Reaching out through service can work very well, but more often than not

the anti-Jesus rant came from a kid in school and they just need somebody to relate to, somebody they can like. The fact that they can count amongst their friends a card-carrying Christ lover will go a long way to changing their perceptions. Your being good evidence, a good representation.

The second thing to remember is you only have to be yourself. To be the light of the world Jesus calls us to be does not mean you have to be the martyr of the schoolyard. You don't have to make a bold announcement at assembly of prophecies you have received or break into a hymn during maths class. In fact the apostle Paul tells the Corinthians it's kind of difficult to hit non-believers with spiritual stuff they don't yet understand.

How we act externally should only be a reflection of how we are internally, and if we are full of the Lord's love it will show. It will be light, it will be evidence.

In a previous issue of *venue*, a 14-year-old girl named Karla Nicol told her story of bringing a friend to church. The first thing she said was, "All my friends at school know I'm fun and bubbly and that I am a Christian". Karla began by being herself, and when the time came for her to invite friends to church she knew that she had given them some good evidence to consider.

Jesus called us to be the light so when we meet somebody who has never seen a good version of Christianity, it's our time to shine.



More mission than band

They're one of the Christian music industry's most celebrated bands but as NATHAN BROWN finds out, the members of Jars of Clay are far more passionate about helping those in need

The bio on Jars of Clay's website includes a remarkable statement about a band which has been consistently among the Christian music industry's most successful and respected artists for the past 15 years: "While celebrated for its music and writing, Jars of Clay is most concerned with the needs in Africa."

Five million albums sold, three Grammy awards, and now on its own record label – but, according to the band's marketing blurb, it is "most concerned with" and focused on making a difference in Africa. And listening to band members talk to media at this year's Easterfest, it soon becomes obvious it isn't just marketing. Its charitable organisation – Blood:Water Mission – is a vital component of a group of guys more concerned with mission than being a band.

"Blood:Water Mission came about after a trip I had taken to Africa in 2002," frontman Dan Haseltine recalls. "We had been provoked by World Vision to begin talking about the issue of AIDS from the stage. So we did that for about a year, but didn't feel any closer to really

understanding what the life of a person wrestling with AIDS looks like, what it feels like, certainly not in the context of a place like Africa where the issue was so prevalent and growing.

"So we had the opportunity to sit down with people from a huge variety of backgrounds – from government officials to people just living in their huts – and got to listen to what life was like for them and what were the problems that having AIDS created, what it was doing to their communities and economies."

Haseltine describes the experience as stirring.

"One of the things I saw while I was there was crossing a bridge over a dry riverbed," he says. "And the people were digging holes and sticking their faces down into the holes to drink. That was the first time I had seen or even heard there was a water crisis in the world. I've since learned a great deal about that.

"So I came back from that trip and tried to share some of that with [the band] and they were open to it. They were then able to go to Africa and Blood:Water became this conversation about what it means

to take these stories to people and to try to find ways to transform the choices in our day-to-day [lives] and to help people recognise that the choices we make have an impact on Africa.

"Even though we're an ocean apart, the things we buy and the ways we spend our money are already grossly imbalanced and to think that they don't affect these people is just kind of ignorant. So what we wanted to do is try to tell stories and to draw people into the stories of people in Africa. And it's just grown."

Blood:Water Mission's first campaign was the "1000 Wells Project," based on the equation that one US dollar equals clean water for one African person for an entire year.

"Since then we've been able to facilitate, fund and build about 300 well projects in 11 different countries in Africa," reports Haseltine.

"We're going to be doing 300 more projects this year alone and it's been an amazing journey for us to be part of this mission that is not really about the band anymore. We are very much part of it but it is now a community of people

who take the vision seriously – sometimes more seriously than we do – and they are amazing."

And while tempted to regard the music as a footnote, Jars of Clay is no less a band for its focus on mission. A Christmas album last year – *Christmas Songs* – was its first release on its own record label and the band is working towards its next album on its own.

"It's a lot of work but it's also more freedom, more time to brainstorm about what we want to do and what's important to us," says Haseltine. "We have had a really great year. We had a blast making the Christmas record. So now we're looking at the next record and working towards doing it in the same way."

According to the band, its most recent album, *Good Monsters*, was written to be played live so the members have enjoyed touring it, during which time they have played with such mainstream artists as Matchbox 20 and Sting.

"Every time we get up on stage, we need to prove what we are saying is still relevant, that the music is still engaging and artful," explains Haseltine.

But, returning to songwriting, Haseltine says the band needs to be able to step away from such hype.

"There are a lot of those exterior things – like performing with different bands or even celebrity – we need to shut off when we are writing because the best songs are born out of much smaller conversations," he says.

"In order to be better songwriters, we've had to stop feeling like we had to play the role of an artist with a massive voice or any sort of large reach of influence. It's our job just to be honest in writing about things that are important to us and hopefully being kind of poetic when we communicate that."

Haseltine says the band is still sorting out themes for the new album. "But," he says, "we have had some very good conversations about what it means to submit ourselves to other people and community, to open ourselves and to reconcile the darkness of our hearts with the parts we want people to see, and try to bring the full weight of who we are as God made us to our life, our love and passion."

So how have they kept the band

together amid the many pressures of the past 15 years?

"One of the things I have noticed from record to record is that God has been gracious and put people in our path at the right moment to lean on," says Haseltine.

"Certainly since 1994, there have been plenty of opportunities where it would have been tremendously easier to say, 'It's been a good run, guys.' We have experienced a lot but I think in that moment with that question through happenstance, through other relationships, through the grace of God, we have acquired the self-discipline and we've been able to be honest with each other.

"The longer you have been with someone the more you trust them, so there's more to hope for. And when we write together, it seems like fun stuff still happens."

To find out more go to: www.jarsofclay.com or www.bloodwatermission.org

High School on life

Bundaberg teenager Aaron Evans tells *venue* about his passion for life, God and the youth of The Salvation Army

My name is Aaron Evans, but most people just call me Azza. I would like to tell you a bit about my life and how it's changed since I let God take charge of everything I do.

I have lived a pretty easy and privileged life growing up with all the love I could get from my parents, brother, sister, aunties and uncles and everyone around me, but most of all God.

I live in Bundaberg, Queensland and go to the Bundaberg Corps of The Salvation Army. We have the best officers in the world, Majors David and Jenny Evans (no relation). I am in Year 10 at Kepnock High School and I have an awesome circle of Christian friends.

I have been a Salvo boy most of my life and I have had many good people invest God's love and power into me and who have given me a

faith and passion I cling onto and cherish every day.

Life, however, hasn't always been so close to perfect. About a year and a half ago I stopped attending church and started riding motorbikes and getting extremely daring at it too! I got into the wrong crowd at the start of high school and was going to get into some stupid things if I kept going down this path.

During this time I felt really empty. I felt no love, I had no warmth and felt like I was in darkness all the time.

When I was a young boy I went to junior soldiers at the Bundaberg Salvos and I chose a prayer pal who is the most beautiful elderly woman I have ever met. During this whole time she stayed strong and prayed for me constantly. My family also continued to support me.

I had no idea about all this until

recently when God answered their prayers. I was urged by the Holy Spirit to go back to church. He did this by getting someone to invite me to a youth event at the church. I went to a few meetings and then more and more I gradually began to attend church regularly. I now go every week.

State of confusion

This part of my life was the first real hiccup in my Christian walk. I was walking strong for a while and having many prayers said for me. Then, after I started attending church again, my prayer partner found out that she had terminal cancer. This shook me up a whole lot and I was so confused. I couldn't understand why my God wanted to take away from me one of the best people in my life and a firm rock that I stood upon.

However, over time and after a lot of praying I have come to terms with the fact that it is God's will for this to happen and that he is calling her home. She has served the Lord in her life and he is now calling her to be by his side in his Kingdom. I see God is putting her into a better world free from pain and free from all the bad things this world has. God will be my rock and I will stand firm in him.

My prayer partner is still in and out of hospital. She is okay but still in a bit of pain. I pray for her and I know she still prays for me.

I have been to so many life-changing youth conferences over the last two years; Planetshakers, Youth Alive and our youth church at Bundaberg. Each time I have deepened my understanding and my faith in Jesus. All it took was that one step out of the boat and into the open and then

God just scooped me up and took me to where I am now.

I am now a senior soldier of The Salvation Army at Bundaberg. I am one of the crazy leaders at our kids group, I have run prayer meetings and helped at some of the youth churches and I'm soon going to preach at one! I attend everything I can and I just believe that my God is with me and he is keeping me warm, keeping me fuelled and aflame, keeping me in the light, keeping me full and shining his love through me.

Passion for youth

I have a new-found passion for youth ministries, I can't wait to get to the church on Friday night for our youth group. I get up on the stage and we play DVD music and just go crazy.

Seeing the kids enjoy themselves and worship their God, I just have this good feeling inside which I can't hold back. I pray that these kids never leave the church like I did because you miss out so much and I don't want anyone to miss out. God is fun and exciting and he is there for us, all we have to do when we are lost is call upon his name and he will be waiting there to just reach out and give us a big hug and then just hold us under his wings and protect us. We just have to make that first step of faith with our arms open and reaching out and he will lift us up.

God has since shown me a vision which I know is going to be difficult but I am trusting in him and by the little things I will make a change. God wants me to take a stand in my high school in Bundaberg and I know I am going to be shown the way and he will protect me. Please pray for me. God bless each and every one of you.



(from left) Aaron takes to the stage at Powerhouse; with his prayer pal Lyn Moore; and with fellow youth leaders at a kids event.

Love That 2008



Sydney

Elyse Dickson

Every year, the Love That conference gives young people in Sydney an opportunity to encounter God, learn more about our world, catch up with friends and meet some new people. With the theme for this year's conference being "not what you'd expect", we had the opportunity to do all these things in some new and creative ways.

The conference kicked off with a dance and drama that creatively portrayed the freedom and life that a relationship with Jesus gives. The *Dropped Life* videos that played before each session featured a few guys being dumped in the ocean in an inflatable boat, falling down stairs and other crazy stuff. We were blessed to have the band from the Brisbane Love That conference to lead us in worship with music throughout the weekend. A number of speakers over the weekend shared the Word of God with us, the highlight being James Murray on Saturday night.

Love That In Action this year was not what we expected.

Instead of going out into the streets as we had done in previous years, we had the option of reflecting on what God was calling us to do in response to injustice in our communities and in our world.

For the first time at Love That there were also a number of other workshops, such as Living in the 21st Century and Youth Ministry.

To help everyone to network and interact with each other, there was a "getting to know you" session with a difference. After being put in groups with a bunch of strangers and knowing them for a matter of minutes, we found ourselves trusting their celebrity knowledge and getting up close and personal with the united goal of winning a bag of marshmallows.

It was a tiring but great weekend and I look forward to what next year has in store.

Brisbane

Nadine Sorenson

Love That Brisbane 2008 lived up to its name. Filled with uplifting, passionate and challenging speakers, youth from all over Queensland gathered together to worship our God.

The atmosphere was inspiring and moving. We were confronted with issues of human trafficking in a way that was frightening and won't easily be forgotten. The worship team lifted the roof and created an atmosphere of true worship. Throughout the weekend young people allowed

God to begin a work through them to change this generation for his purpose.

The weekend finished on a high when the Love That youth combined with the adults from the Unlimited conference in a time of mutual forgiveness and support of each generation.

The weekend changed my life as I made a true re-commitment to do God's work and allow him to live through everything I do.

what's on

YOUR GUIDE TO SALVO YOUTH EVENTS
ACROSS EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Central & North QLD

16-18 Dec: Kids Holiday Club, Capricorn Region

13-15 Jan: Kids Holiday Club, Atherton

6-7 Feb: ID Townsville

20-22 Feb: SAGALA camp, Capricorn Region, Yeppoon

Greater West

8-9 Nov: Youth Rally Orange

15 Nov: Guard and Ranger outing

22 Nov: Laos

28-30 Nov: Adventurers/Sunbeam Camp

27-31 Dec: Cricket Carnival

North NSW

1-2 Nov: DYS visits Moree

8-9 Nov: DYS visits Port Macquarie

16 Nov: DYS visits Ballina

23 Nov: DYS visits Grafton

28-30 Nov: SAGALA camp, Bowral

Newcastle & Central NSW

14-16 Nov: Journey Camp (12-16 years)

28-30 Nov: Territorial Sunbeam/ Adventurer Camp

21 Feb: Divisional Aquatics Carnival

South QLD

7 Dec: Commissioning of cadets

27-31 Dec: Cricket Carnival

21 Feb: FUEL

Sydney East & Illawarra

18 Oct: Youth Network Meeting - North

26 Oct: Regional Youth Meeting

31 Oct - 2 Nov: Impact Camp (10-14 years)

7-8 Nov: I.D weekend

14-16 Nov: DFL weekend

15 Nov: Youth Network Meeting - Central

17 Nov: Children's Network Meeting - Central

22 Nov: Flayva, Youth Network Meeting - Illawarra

24 Nov: Children's Network Meeting - Illawarra

28-30 Nov: Sunbeam and Adventurer Camp NSW

26-31 Dec: Interstate Cricket Carnival



book review

The urgency of now
Duncan Green and Isobel Allan

★★★★

By Joanne Brain

We are living in a time of economic instability and extreme inequality. "From cradle to grave, a person's life chances are dominated by the extraordinary levels of inequality that characterise the modern world. A girl born in Norway will almost certainly live to old age. If she is born in Sierra Leone, she has a one in four chance of dying before her fifth birthday." That is the premise of Duncan Green and Isobel Allan's new book.

Published through Oxfam International, *The urgency of now* is a small book that came out of Duncan Green's report, *From Poverty to Power*. It sets out some of the greatest challenges the world is facing today; inequality, poverty and the threat of environmental collapse.

It's an illustrated book that is easy to read. As you would expect, *The urgency of now* is packed with facts and figures but it also puts a human face on things and presents the facts in a relatable way.

The last chapter shows you how to use the power you have in the fight for positive change.

While it is a small book, it's hard-hitting and touches on many things society so often dismisses or just throws in the too hard basket.

It's an informative look at the current global situation but more than that, *The urgency of now* generates hope that ordinary people, through organised action, can make a change.

It invites you to become part of a movement of people who believe that inequality can and should be challenged. And it stresses the urgency of doing that now.

To grab yourself a copy, log on to: www.oxfam.org



cd review



Tell Me What You Know

Sara Groves

★★★★

By Lauren Martin

Sara Groves' second album with producer Brown Bannister doesn't disappoint. *Tell Me What You Know* is full of catchy pop but with a lyrical depth that many pop songs lack.

If you liked Groves' last album *Add to the Beauty* then you'll like her new addition – it's more like a sequel than a new offering – as the singer continues to ask questions that delve into the heart of faith and love.

I really like Sara Groves' ballads and her ability to not only write songs that are great to listen to, but songs that also make you think and question your ideals and values.

There are quite a few stand-out tracks for me on *Tell Me What You Know*, two of them being *In the Girl There's a Room* and *Love is Still a Worthy Cause*.