

WOMEN In touch



Captivated 2011
Seeing the God who sees me

Young

Women In Touch

Inviting friends to church
Aftermath – Hillsong United

Eternal extravagance

It was a dream come true for many women (and the occasional man). The tickets were much sought after; people going to desperate lengths to get hold of them. For me there was no effort, no entering ticket draws, and no waiting with baited breath. The ticket came my way as a gift only days before the event – entry into the *Oprah's Ultimate Australian Adventure* show.

There were 6,000 of us, all arriving at the venue at the same time – the Opera House, or as it was affectionately named that day, the “Oprah House”.

Everything about the occasion was lavish. Harpo Productions knew how to look after their guests, from the bottled water through to the pearl and diamond necklaces that were given away to everyone in attendance.

Oprah has become well known for blessing people, but to give 6,000 women a limited edition pink diamond Argyle necklace was totally lavish. Another 6,000 women at the earlier show were given pearls. Such extravagance! Well, she is after all, one of the wealthiest, well known women in the world.

The nameless woman

My thoughts couldn't help but go to another woman. A woman, not well known in name like Oprah and who in fact, remains nameless to this day. However, like Oprah, she is remembered for the extravagant gift she gave. I've read about her many times. The only description of her is that she was a sinful woman. That was until she met Jesus. Luke 7: 37-38 records:

“When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them” (*New Living Translation*).

Extravagantly, she poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. Jesus looked past her reputation and saw her sincere heart, her every gesture extravagant.

Perfume was very expensive and hard to come by in those days. Hosts often put a few drops of oil on their guests' heads as a show of hospitality. This woman, however, poured the perfume, and then washed his feet with her tears.

Gracious forgiveness

Jesus had transformed this woman's life, and so she came publicly to him to offer her love and worship. It was because of his gracious forgiveness of her many sins. It may not have been pearls and diamonds but the gift was extravagant, an expensive offering because

she had been freed from a painful past.

Jesus placed his hands on her head and said, “Your sins are forgiven, your faith has saved you, go in peace,” (Luke 7:50, *New Living Translation*).

In a little while after this, Jesus would pay an exorbitant price for our eternal freedom. It was in this moment that this unnamed woman gave all she had in gratitude for hers.

As the woman's tears cleansed Jesus' feet, his words cleansed her soul. It was her belief in Jesus that saved her. *The Amplified Bible* says in Luke 7:50, “Go (enter) into peace (in freedom from all the distresses that are experienced as the result of sin).” She was freed from a shameful past. She was freed to pour out praise.

Just as the woman with the alabaster jar poured out her praise and adoration to the one who set her free, she also turned from her sin and trusted her Saviour. She accepted God's free offer of salvation and expressed her love openly. Her tears, her humble attitude, and her extravagant gift all spoke of a changed heart.

Made complete

Just like the “sinful woman” who washed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and anointed them with perfume, Jesus forgives our sins, welcomes our worship and promises us peace.

Through Jesus we have much to rejoice about. We are redeemed, forgiven, and made complete.

In 1 John 4:9-10 we read: “God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins,” (*New Living Translation*).

What an incredible gift!

This gift is for the entire world. May we never lose sight of our mission – to tell the world of God's love and offer of forgiveness.

May we worship him extravagantly.

I will always treasure my gift from Oprah, the limited edition Argyle pink diamond necklace, but not as much as the gift I share with the unnamed woman. It will never compare to God sending his one and only son, that we might have eternal life through him.

Such undeserved extravagance!



Colonel Robyn Maxwell
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

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About this issue – from the editor's desk

Easter is just around the corner. What is on our minds and in our hearts as this special time of year approaches? For Christians, isn't Easter supposed to be a spiritual highlight of the year, a time of great hope and deep joy? Isn't Easter an opportunity to focus, with gratitude and relief, on knowing that our sins are washed away and that Jesus is alive within us, empowering us to live as he lived, strengthening us, leading us, encouraging us?

And doesn't Easter give us reason to rejoice in the assurance of knowing that, one day, we will have eternal life with him, experiencing a joy, freedom, and love we can hardly begin to imagine?

Shouldn't we be celebrating?

Easter is, indeed, a momentous time of hope and profound joy. It's a time of spiritual renewal and refreshing than can deepen our relationship with Jesus and motivate us to move forward in the power of his blood and resurrection.

But perhaps for some of us right now, it's hard to feel any joy or hope at all, about anything – even about forgiveness, even about eternal life, even about God loving us so much that he sent his son to die for all mankind.

Perhaps we're doubting our relationship with Jesus, or are feeling confused because, right now, we don't feel happy and fulfilled in him. Perhaps we're feeling angry at him for something that has (or hasn't) happened in our lives.

We might be feeling guilty over something we may (or may not) be doing, or perhaps we feel unheard and alone.

And yet, we don't want to stay that way. We want to love and feel

loved. We long for a happiness and hope and meaning in our life that is real and deep and lasting. We yearn to feel the joy and peace that comes only from God, to know we are forgiven, accepted, cherished and have an eternal future with our Lord. And we want an intimate relationship with him now.

So what can we do? Where can we go?

Jesus understands our struggle and, despite what we are feeling or not feeling, we can go to him. That's what he came to earth for. That's what he died for – so we can go to him at any time, under any circumstance – and receive his understanding, forgiveness, encouragement, and his strength to continue.

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation,” David prayed in Psalm 51:12.

Sometimes we too have to pray those same words. That prayer, and the answer that will come, may not necessarily start us dancing around the house immediately, but it will give us the courage to take the next step, no matter how small that might be.

God the Father resurrected Jesus from the grave and so too can he resurrect our relationship with him. All we have to do is ask.



Simone Worthing,
Editor

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At the foot of the cross

The extraordinary power of the cross is that no matter where we've been or how far we've wandered away, we can kneel at the foot of the cross and be forgiven, redeemed, renewed, and restored by our crucified Saviour

At the foot of the cross

Horrible, frightening, devastating, amazing! What would it have been like to stand at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified? Consider three people who were there:

Mary Magdalene

I had been redeemed from a life of battling evil forces and became one of Jesus' most devoted followers. I had trusted Jesus for deliverance and he had answered all my prayers. As I stood at the foot of the cross, I watched what would have been unbearable to watch had my love for Jesus not kept me there through the desolation and darkness to the end. I stood at the foot of the cross, because for me it was a place of redemption, of freedom from sin. For everyone, it is a place of redemption and gives freedom from anything that keeps us from living a victorious life in Christ. Jesus, keep me near the cross.

Mary, the mother of Jesus

I knew what it was like to give birth to a precious new baby. I had experienced the pain and joy of being a mother through life's journey as my child grew from childhood to manhood. Now, as I was watching my son suffer and die on a Roman cross, "... a sword pierced my soul ...". I stood at the foot of the cross

and wept as I watched my son die, to forgive my sins, and the sins of each one of us. He did this for me and for you.

Jesus, keep me near the cross.

The centurion

I am a centurion and I am familiar with death and all that accompanies it. Today, I am on duty for the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. I stand at the foot of the cross, and I look up into the eyes of Jesus. I see him in terrible, excruciating pain, but he is suffering in silence. I have heard that he offered forgiveness to those who had sinned, he healed, he set people free from demons, and he is now suffering the worst kind of persecution that we can command. Those eyes I see looking down on me are filled not with hatred but with amazing love. These same eyes also looked with love on an adulteress in Jerusalem, a divorcee in Samaria, and many others. I see in his eyes forgiveness for what I am doing to him. I see his lips dry and parched, trying to speak now, and I hear him say these words, "Father into your hands I entrust my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

My heart beats madly, my hands are perspiring and I feel immense sorrow as I utter these words, "Surely this man was the Son of God". My

eyes have been opened to the love, grace and mercy of God. Jesus, keep me near the cross.

Captain Fran

*Keep me near the cross, near the cross, may I never stray so far That I cannot see what flowed down for me, at the foot of the cross.**

My name is Fran and for me, being at the foot of the cross is personally very meaningful and poignant. Major Lynn Whittaker from the Australia Eastern Territory has facilitated many prayer retreats and does so in a beautifully sensitive way that leads each of us who attend into the daily presence of God. Two of these retreats stand out as precious memories.

The first was in 2008 while I was stationed in Tamworth with my husband Mark. Each day we would have morning, afternoon and evening prayers with songs, Scripture readings, responsive readings, reflections and prayers.

One morning at prayers there was a cross on the floor, with candles, laid out on a calico cloth in the centre of the room. We were invited to sit around the cross. We sang, *Be Thou my Vision*, and *Be the Centre* and we prayed, "... now day by day you open up to us horizons of hope and pathways of faith ...".

A thought came unbidden to my mind, "Are we being moved from our appointment where we felt loved and accepted by the corps and community?" I wrote these words down, "Wherever you may lead, I will follow. I have made the choice to listen to your voice."

Then, the first part of our final benediction was this: "From where we are to where you need us, Jesus,

now lead on. From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal, Jesus, now lead on."

Oh no! I knew then, we were leaving our appointment! I cried, I asked "why?", but I felt this overwhelming sense of God's peace and presence. I knelt down at the foot of the cross, and I gave thanks and praise to the Lord, who had given me a glimpse of the future. As soon as I left prayers, I rang Mark and said to him, "We are moving next year!" A little later, our Divisional Commander confirmed this.

The power of the cross

Last year we were stationed at Tuggeranong Corps in Canberra. I invited Major Lynn to lead a retreat, and she found a serene location on nearby Lake George. The final evening of the retreat came. Earlier I had seen Major Lynn preparing the room for the evening prayer time, and knew that the cross was again presented discerningly on the calico, with the candles, and also a crown of thorns. I had this overpowering need to be seated at the foot of the cross. I was running late and when I entered the room, the only empty seat left was at the foot of the cross.

I had been struggling with pressures, concerns and an overwhelming sense of helplessness. Major Lynn read these words to commence the evening: "We gather in silence to allow Christ to pray with us silently. The Psalmist reminds us, 'Be still and know that I am God'. Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity."

As we sang the words of one of the chants, "In God alone my soul can find rest and peace", I realised that

God was speaking to me directly. I had let worry in and was focusing on that rather than the many positive things I was seeing around me.

Three words were mentioned after that during the prayers of intercession – reconciliation, peace and healing. God was offering me all three. I knelt down at the foot of the cross, with my forehead resting on it, and at that moment, entrusted everything to Christ. I wept quietly, people prayed with me and I was again redeemed, renewed and restored.

The extraordinary power of the cross is that no matter where we've been or how far we've wandered away, we can kneel at the foot of the cross and be forgiven, redeemed, renewed, and restored by our crucified Saviour. We can then stand in the presence of our resurrected Lord.

Jesus, keep me near the cross.



Captain Fran Everitt
Corps Officer,
Tuggeranong Corps

**At The Foot Of The Cross, Words and music by Ray Boltz and Lawrence Chewning. © 1997*



Oh, what a story!

Every person on earth has a story. **Lieutenant-Colonel Miriam Gluyas** reflects on the stories Jesus is writing for every person in the light of his own story – being born on earth and dying on a cross for humanity then pursuing us in love and developing relationship with us

There is a story to be written for every person on earth. It's written every day. It's different for every person.

When God created each individual, he had all of the stages of our life thought out. The days of our lives were prepared. He had hope and a future for us. He desired relationship with us.

Psalm 39: 13-16 in *The Message* translation says:

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; You formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made!

I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, You know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, How I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; All the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared Before I'd even lived one day.

Discovery

Some live out those words every day of their life; others are yet to discover all that God has for them. How wonderful it is when that discovery is made.

It's the story of moving from an old way of life to a new way of life.

It's the story of our wonderful Saviour dying on a cross so that:

- sinners can be forgiven
- man is no longer separated from God
- the works of the devil are brought to nothing and his power over man is broken
- man is reunited with God
- we receive life and life in abundance
- Christ becomes the Lord of our lives and his life is our example.

Victory

It's the story of victory. It's the story of amazing grace.

It's the story of seeing the world won for Jesus.

It's the story of a love relationship with our magnificent Lord.

Many have discovered what it's all about. So many more are yet to make the discovery. John 3:16 makes it clear: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God wants everyone to be in his Kingdom. He wants the whole world saved.

He wants us to be living in relationship with him, and sharing him, so that everyone we know says, "I want what he/she's got".

There are two kingdoms in operation at the same time. The kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of light. Through Jesus, through the cross, people are able to enter into that Kingdom of light.

In John 10:10 Jesus reminds us: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

There's a battle, but there's a victor! Jesus has already won the victory. Each one of us is now to live the life, share the Saviour, and show the world that there is nothing better than being in relationship with Jesus, nothing better than life in abundance because of him. It's not just about heaven – "pie in the sky when you die" – it's about the here and now, enjoying relationship with him! Don't you find that amazing – the God of heaven wants relationship with you and with me?!! And yet it's true.

Already, so many stories to tell. So many stories still to come!

Walking the talk

Jenny grew up in a Christian home. At a very young age she came to know Jesus. She's loved him ever since. She's given her life to sharing him with others. She loves relationship with him. People look at Jenny and know that she lives close to Jesus. She's shared this wonderful Saviour with everyone that she comes in contact with. She walks her talk, and what she says counts.

Everything changed

Dave grew up in a Christian home but

rebelled against all that his family stood for. He went his own way. He was involved in the party scene for a long time. He did drugs, drink and many other things that weren't part of his upbringing. He loved this life – for a long time. People continued to pray for him. After many years, he found that life didn't have the meaning that he was looking for. He had an encounter with Jesus that he can't explain. He found himself in church. He heard the word of God that morning and everything changed. He encountered Jesus

and what it was like to be in relationship with him. Her friend had the delight of leading Kylie to Jesus. She's a different lady today.

Life and purpose

Guy was in heaps of trouble at school. He didn't fit in. There were troubles at home. He found it all too difficult. He had even contemplated suicide. He was invited to a weekend away with other young men. He didn't really know what it was all about, but he decided to go anyway. He found himself

written every day. Many of us have Jesus as the most important part of our story! We want the whole world to know who he is.

People need to hear the "real story". It's not a list of what we don't do – "we don't smoke, we don't drink, we don't do this, we don't do that".

It's the story of this wonderful Saviour, who pursues us and loves relationship with us. So, what's your story?

Will you be part of shaping someone else's story?



like never before, and wanted relationship with him. God pursued Dave. Dave responded. He now knows life in abundance. Everything changed.

A different person

Kylie had never had anything to do with church or God. Her life was in a mess. Her relationship with her husband was on the rocks and eventually ended in divorce. A friend of hers, who was a Christian, stood by her during this time. They did coffee each week. The friend didn't come on strong about Jesus, but she mentioned him. The friend also made sure that her friend knew that she was praying for Kylie. At the right time, Kylie's friend asked her to a group that she thought would be helpful. There she built relationships with others. One day, many months later, Kylie asked more about Jesus

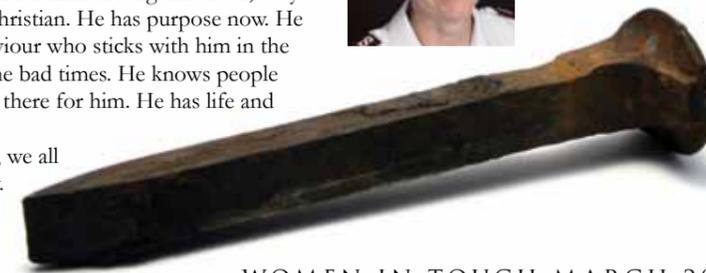
with a group of men who seemed to really care about what happened to him. That weekend he heard stories of people who had gone through the tough stuff and come through. He got to be part of some extreme sports. He heard the gospel. He didn't come to know Jesus that weekend but he got to trust some guys who did. One of those young men stuck with him, through the good and the bad times, prayed for him, did life with him, shared Jesus with him in a way that was OK for him. A long time later, Guy became a Christian. He has purpose now. He knows a Saviour who sticks with him in the good and the bad times. He knows people who will be there for him. He has life and purpose.

You see, we all have a story. It is being

It's all about relationship – with Jesus and with others. We are about winning the world for Jesus – so that everyone might have this beautiful relationship with this wonderful Saviour who pursues us in love.



Lieut-Colonel
Miriam Gluyas
Secretary for Program



The Cross Room

The young man was at the end of his rope.

Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer.

“Lord, I can’t go on,” he said.

“I have too heavy a cross to bear.”

The Lord replied,

“My son, if you can’t bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then open another door and pick any cross you wish.”

The man was filled with relief.

“Thank you, Lord,” he sighed, and did as he was told.

As he looked around the room he saw many different crosses; some so large the tops were not visible.

Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall.

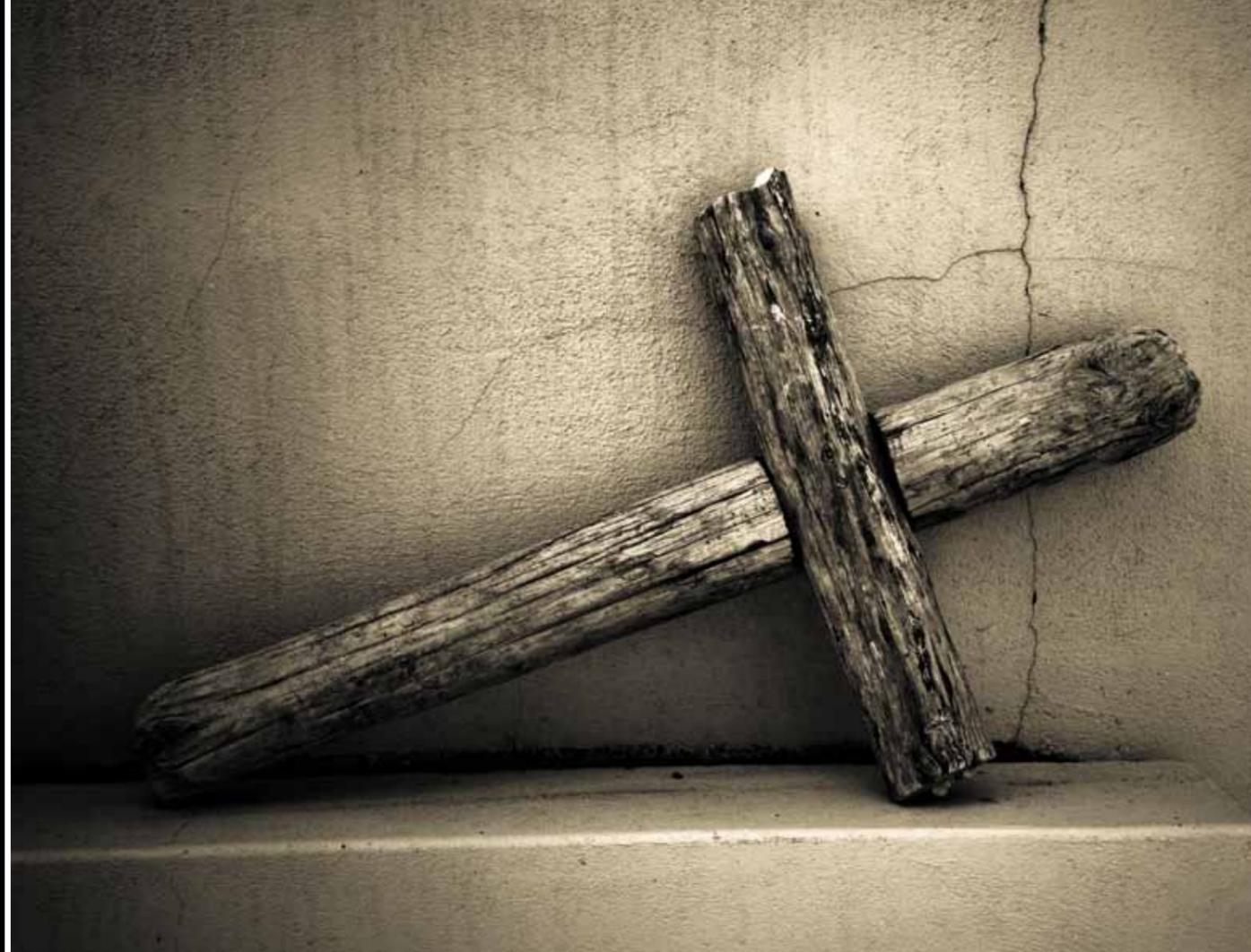
“I’d like that one, Lord,” he whispered.

And the Lord replied, “My son, that’s the cross you brought in.”

When life’s problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what others are having to endure.

Then you may see for yourself that you are more fortunate than you realised.

Author unknown



Hot cross buns (makes 16)

1 1/4 cups (310ml) milk
 3/4 cup (165g) caster sugar
 2 x 7g sachets dried yeast
 4 1/3 cups (650g) plain flour
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
 1/4 tsp ground ginger
 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
 1 cup (190g) mixed dried fruit (if desired)
 1 egg, lightly beaten
 100g unsalted butter, melted, cooled
 Piping bag



Stir milk and 1/3 cup sugar in a saucepan over low heat until lukewarm. Turn off heat. Stir in yeast, then stand on stovetop for 10 minutes or until mixture is foamy.

Sift 4 cups flour, spices and 1/4 tsp salt into a bowl. Stir in fruit. Add yeast mixture, egg and butter then stir until mixture forms a dough. Knead on a floured surface for 5 minutes or until smooth and elastic. Place in a lightly oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Stand in a warm place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

Divide dough into 16 pieces and shape into balls. Place in a greased 23cm square cake tin. Cover with plastic wrap then stand in a warm place for 30 minutes or until risen level with tin’s rim.

Preheat oven to 200C. Stir remaining flour, 1 tbs sugar and 1/4 cup water until smooth. Spoon into a piping bag then pipe crosses over buns. Bake for 10 minutes then reduce oven to 180 C and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden and risen. Turn on to a wire rack to cool. Stir remaining 1/3 cup sugar and 2 tbs water in a saucepan over low-medium heat until sugar dissolves, and then bring to the boil. Brush hot syrup over top of buns. Serve.

A wonderful Easter morning...

A few years ago my late husband, Colonel Bo Brekke, and I had the privilege of traveling north in Bangladesh to open a new corps building. It was early on Easter Sunday morning when we arrived.

The new hall was clearly visible across the paddy fields. It was a simple building made of corrugated iron sheets. As we walked along the small path leading to the hall, the sun reflected off the silver-coloured iron sheets and lit up the wooden cross on top of the roof.

It was a wonderful sight – and the atmosphere surrounding us made the whole experience something we will never forget. It was so quiet, so peaceful. The only noise was the sound of insects in the air and animals in the field. We just wanted to stop, look at the cross on the rooftop, feel the peace, and not move on.

Grace and freedom

The officers took us to visit a family who lived just next to the hall. A few months earlier they had given their lives to God. They invited us in, showed us around the house and told us their story: “We used to be Hindus,” they said. “The walls in this house were full

of pictures of Hindu gods. We had an altar. We performed all the rituals expected of us. Then we found Christ, and all the outward symbols of our religion had to go. We now have Jesus in our hearts.”

A single poster with a picture of Jesus was now the only décor in the room.

The house was clean and simple, but the feeling of tranquility we had found on the way to the hall was present also within the walls of this family home.

That wonderful morning we felt that we had witnessed the results of the events that transpired that first Easter morning. The sun-lit cross on the rooftop did not speak of death and despair but of hope and peace. The testimony from the two new converts spoke of grace and freedom from sin – a new life in Christ.

Hope and joy

On another Easter Sunday morning, we were on the Hebrides, a group of islands off the west coast of Scotland. Together with a small group of people from different churches, we made our way in strong wind and rain to the top of the hill in the town of Stornoway. The place on top of the hill was called Gallows. In the old days this was where

they brought people to be executed. On that morning though, in the place that had witnessed so much hopelessness and despair, we read together the resurrection story and sang the traditional Easter morning hymn, *I serve a Risen Saviour*.

Here, despite the strong wind and rain, the peace of God was also so real. This, too, was a wonderful Easter morning. Again we witnessed the reality of the consequences of what happened that first Easter morning.

The place where we assembled did not, in that moment, speak about sin and punishment, but about mercy, forgiveness, hope, and joy. The wind and the rain spoke to us about the creator God who loved the world so much that he gave his only son for it.

The fellowship we experienced with folk from other churches also told us that in Christ, we are all one.

Burden removed

Easter morning 2011 will be a wonderful Easter morning, too. Our hearts can only overflow with thanksgiving and praise when we think of Jesus’ sacrifice for us – that he was willing to die to take away our sins. It is, and always will be, wonderful when we think

of the power of God who raised Jesus from death to give us hope and the promise of an eternal life with him.

Our friends in Bangladesh used to believe that they had to behave in a certain way, do certain things, to make themselves worthy of their god. That burden had gone. They found the meaning of the word “grace”. We cannot do anything to deserve the love of God. It is just there for us to receive. It is a gift, the gift of Salvation, made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

So on this Easter Sunday morning, may you experience the presence of Jesus and be able to testify to the reality of the consequences of his death and resurrection in your life.



Colonel Birgitte Brekke
 Territorial Commander,
 Denmark Territory

“Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ. Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.”

Oswald Chambers, 1874-1917

Captivated

by the word

Seeing the God who sees me

By SIMONE WORTHING

“My prayer for this weekend is that the presence of God here will do amazing things and that we will leave here different women,” said Colonel Robyn Maxwell, Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries, at the opening of the Captivated by the Word conference in Sydney on 18-20 February.

The response of the women, the worship, the dancing, prayer, joy and hope that filled The Collaroy Centre during the weekend was living proof those prayers were answered.

Lieutenant-Colonel Janet Munn, The Salvation Army’s International Secretary for Spiritual Life Development and Associate Principal for the International College of Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development, was guest speaker for the Captivated conference, and also spoke in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

“I love the Lord and expressing my love for him through dance and drama,” said Lieut-Colonel Munn.

“Expressing Scripture and truths from the Lord this way is a vivid way of communicating the message to others, and also enhances my own personal walk with him.”

Seeing the insignificant

The theme for the conference was El Roi - The God Who Sees, with the focus on the Gospel of Luke and God’s care for the weak, the lost, the marginalised and the vulnerable. “God sees us, and we are seeing him back,” said Lieut-Colonel Munn.

Through dramatic narrations of Scripture, she presented the stories of Hagar, the woman who washed Jesus’ feet with her hair, Elizabeth, and Mary.



Lieutenant-Colonel Janet Munn Photos: Shairon Paterson

difficulties they could focus on as reasons for not believing God, but they didn’t.

“Look at Elizabeth and Mary and their responses to God. Their hearts were right with God, they believed what God had said and they stayed sweet-spirited, honouring the Lord.”

She asked the women: “Can anybody here resonate with God choosing the weak, the vulnerable, those not valued in society?”

“It’s easy for us too, to say we can’t fulfil God’s calling because of external problems, or because we don’t have what it takes.

“Let’s believe God that it will be to us as it was to Mary in Luke 1, that ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ and that ‘nothing is impossible with God’. Open your hearts, breathe him in, and may we respond as Mary did, ‘Let it be to me as you have said’.”

Lieut-Colonel Munn invited the women to take a seed from a bowl at the Mercy Seat as a symbol and pray believing that nothing is impossible with God.

Seeing the outsider

In a vivid presentation, using a prayer shawl as a symbol of healing, she narrated the prophecies of Isaiah 53, setting the scene for the story of Luke 8:42-48 – Jairus’ daughter and a sick woman.

“Dead bodies and bleeding women were seen as two major sources of uncleanness in society in those days,” Lieut-Colonel Munn explained. “The sick woman wanted to touch Jesus and be healed, but she didn’t want to be seen.

“Jesus insisted on a public confession from the woman while in contrast, at Jairus’ house, he told people to keep the dead girl’s resurrection quiet and private.

“Some aspects of our relationship with him he wants us to speak out. Other things are secrets between intimates, treasures in our hearts and things God has done we don’t need to tell anyone about.

“Jesus sees you. Your journey is important to him. He understands all the details and you can’t remain unseen by him.

“This woman was considered unclean, but she encountered Jesus Christ and was cleansed. Jesus Christ values everyone and he has paid the price for the whole world. He calls us clean and we need to claim that, and declare it. Press in for freedom because we know we are pure, we are new creations.”

Seeing those in bondage

During this session, Lieut-Colonel Munn spoke to the women about freedom from a crippling spirit; from the many aspects of our lives that can enslave us.

Quoting from Luke 13:10-17, she said: “This woman had been crippled physically by a spirit for 18 years. She had been going to the synagogue, putting herself in the environment of healing, but nothing had changed.

“We too can keep going to church for years and nothing changes in our lives. Perhaps we too have a crippling spirit, a sense of hopelessness, or of shame, fear or criticism that we have just become used to.

“There is deliverance and freedom through the spirit of Christ. Jesus set this woman free and he can set us free too.

“We don’t need to live in darkness and fear; Christ can break the chains that bind us.

“Ask for the light of God in your life, keep saying ‘yes’ to God and press in for deliverance.”

Freedom

During the Saturday afternoon, the Selah Soul Sisters, a choir made up of ladies from The Salvation Army’s Central Coast Recovery Services, sang for Captivated delegates.

Three ladies gave their testimonies – powerful and heart-rending stories of recovery from addiction, pain and brokenness to lives transformed by the love of Christ.

That evening, the dynamic worship songs and heartfelt testimonies from the Christian band KAMIS, had women of all ages dancing, praising and worshipping in a spirit of uninhibited joy and freedom.

Seeing the despairing

Lieut-Colonel Munn began the final session with a worshipful dance, praising God through movement and engaging the audience in an atmosphere of joy and reverence.

Using stories of three widows from the book of Luke, and encouraging delegates to talk and pray together about the issues these stories raised, she again focused on Jesus’ attentiveness to those not valued or honoured by society.

In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus interrupted the funeral procession for the widow of Nain’s only son, by resurrecting the boy. The grieving widow was facing a terrible loss and bleak future. Jesus interrupted her with love, extravagant compassion, and a miracle.

“Has God ever interrupted your life?” Lieut-Colonel Munn asked the women.

She also discussed the persistent widow from Luke 18:1-8, and how Jesus used this parable to teach his disciples to be persistent in prayer.

“We need to seek justice, to persist and not give up,” she said. “We are saved to save.”

Lieut-Colonel Munn used the parable of the widow’s complete and extreme offering in Luke 21:1-4 to show how the Lord sees what we give up, he knows the risks we take and the sacrifices we make.

“It is our privilege and joy to offer ourselves and all we have to the Lord,” she said. “Jesus understood the depth of the cost to this woman in those times, and he understands us today, completely.”

Farewell

On Sunday morning, Major Wendy Walters, Divisional Director of Women’s Ministries for the Central and North Queensland Division, thanked and farewelled Territorial Commander General-Elect Commissioner Linda Bond on behalf of the women of the Australia Eastern Territory.

“We thank you for your leadership, for your personal example, and for the direction you have given our territory,” said Major Walters.

“We salute you as future General, we blow you a kiss as your friends, and you go with our ongoing prayer support.”

Colonel Robyn Maxwell interviewed Commissioner Bond in an “Up Close and Personal” session where the Commissioner shared some of her personal struggles leading up to the High Council in January, and how the Lord had whispered to her and changed the course of her life one Sunday.

She shared her love for the Lord, her reliance on him, and her passion for preaching Christ throughout the world in the years ahead.

The interview concluded with a dance from Lieutenant-Colonel Munn, choreographed especially for the General-Elect.



A blue heaven kind of day...



Captain Tracy Briggs shares her passion for reaching out to single mums and shows how a special ministry brings change, transformation and hope

I love Australian beaches on a hot summer's day! Who has never had to do the one foot to the other jig as you set up your towel because the sand is so hot your feet turn red and you spend the night with them in a bucket of cold water?

It's strange when you think about it, because we hold in our hands the very things that could save our feet from the heat! Seriously though, who wants to get sand in their thongs? Not me, bring on the jig!

It was just such a day when a little girl and her mum packed up after a day at the beach and were soon standing at the zebra crossing waiting for the traffic to stop. The little girl was patiently waiting for the promised ice cream at the shop across the road. Today was definitely a blue heaven flavour kind of day!

All of a sudden the little girl felt her mother's hand stiffen in her own small hand and she saw her mother's smile disappear into a hard thin line, the hardness reaching all the way up to her mother's eyes. The little girl felt her heart begin to beat faster, what was wrong, what had happened?

A car had stopped at the crossing, it looked familiar, like the one her mother use to drive. "Mum, that car looks like our old car," the little girl said. "That was your father," the mother replied. The little girl

tried to look again to see her dad but the car was already going up the street. "You should have asked him if he wanted to come for an ice-cream with us, Mum; what flavour does Dad like?"

This was the day when, for the first time, I began to wonder about my Dad and why he didn't live with us anymore. It is this memory that is etched into my mind as the beginning of understanding that my family was different. All my friends had dads, and I didn't even know what flavour ice-cream my dad liked the best. I also remember that my ice-cream didn't taste as good as normal that day, and my mum didn't end up having one at all.

Unique struggles

As hard as it was for me, I think it was even harder for my Mum. I had so many questions and Mum didn't really ever want to talk about my Dad. Those years were tough as I saw my mum work three or sometimes more jobs to keep a roof over our heads, food in the fridge, clothes in the wardrobe, the car on the road and all the bills paid.

There are so many things that a single mum has to do deal with on her own. Isolation, loneliness, prejudice, the struggle to make ends meet, the questions from their children and family members, and loss of relationships with family and friends. Then there are the everyday things like not being able to go to the bathroom on your own, not being able to eat a meal while it's still hot and not having any adult conversations for days on end. Don't even think about getting sick because there is no-one else to get the kids

up, fed and dressed. There is no one to call so that you can stay in bed and get well and when the kids are sick there is no tag team on night duty – it's a purely solo affair.

Stirred to action

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40). These verses always stir my heart to action, especially when I reflect on my childhood experiences. I often find myself asking God, "What was the purpose in that?" However, I believe that, "... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28), and it is this conviction that drives my passion for ministry to single mums.

Camps for single mums

In a passing conversation with another officer who had just returned from a single mums camp, I heard about this fabulous ministry held each year at The Salvation Army's Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches. Christian ladies from around the Territory give up their time and talents to come and minister to single mums and their children. The teams are filled with some who have been attending these camps for many years, and others who have been to just a few.

In talking to the leadership teams, they all have a love for God and a devotion to this ministry. They are faithful in loving the mums and their kids and are committed to serving those who come to camp. It is a unique opportunity to share God's love where quite often our actions speak louder than our words. The mums are accommodated in the

motel units and for that week they have many hands on deck to lighten their load.

Throughout the week the camp offers special sessions on topics including parenting information, budget advice, and counselling; the mums are pampered with haircuts, make up, and massages (one favourite being the foot spa and massage!); and the group spends an afternoon at the movies with popcorn and a day out at the zoo. At the end of the pampering sessions, we give the mums a photo to keep encouraging and reminding them of their time at camp.

The mums really enjoy the flying fox and the giant swing at The Collaroy Centre. Many of them are so scared during these activities, and even though they spend the whole time coming down screaming, they get a chance to feel proud of themselves. For many of them it has been a long time since they have felt such a sense of achievement and it is so good to see their faces light up.

A time of change

A highlight for me is watching the mums change over the week. When they arrive many are distant, self conscious, and wary. Others are just so sad, but by the end of the week they are literally transformed. It is amazing the way they all seem to bloom right before our eyes.

We pray with the mums, and for them, throughout the week and beyond. Some of them make decisions to follow Jesus and we try to link them in with a local corps or church in their area. From time to time we hear from them and they let us know how they are going, what they are up to and how their kids are doing at school. We pray for them still, and ask that God will continue to bring loving Christian people across their paths to continue sowing the seeds that have been planted at camp.

This ministry was happening long before I became involved and there have been many over the years that have contributed to the camp. I am forever grateful to these fantastic women of God who have been faithful in sharing Jesus, showing compassion, and flooding many mums over the years with loads of love and care. Sherrie Cocking is the brain child and motivator behind these camps and it is due to her passion for this ministry

that these camps have continued for so long. Sherrie and her teams do a marvellous job.

God is good! And sometimes ice-cream is even on the menu and the beach is just down the road, so it can't get much better than that!

We are so fortunate to have many vehicles of ministry open to us through The Salvation Army, and I know that there are single dads out there who are doing it tough and need a break too. Let's be in prayer for these dads. Who knows, maybe God will place upon a guy's heart the motivation to hold a single dads camp!

This is a camp like no other I've been to – one week becomes an opportunity for a life time of change for the generations to come.



Captain Tracy Briggs
Corps Officer
Menai Corps





SENIORS HONOURED FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

MRS LAURA HOLLAND

DETERMINED TO KEEP SERVING

“I was thrilled to bits,” exclaims Laura Holland when speaking about receiving her Certificate for Exceptional Service from The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territorial Commander, Commissioner Linda Bond at Queensland’s 125th anniversary celebration late last year.

Laura started serving in The Salvation

Army when she was only 15 years old and is still serving now, 70 years later. Throughout that time she has only taken one year off!

Growing up in a family of 10 children, Laura began attending a Salvation Army corps in Tingha (operational from 1889-1990) when she was in primary school. She became a Junior Soldier when she was 11 and a Senior Soldier at 16.

Laura began her service at Tingha Corps teaching primary school children where she faithfully walked one and a half miles (2.4 kms), three times a day, every Sunday, to teach and attend various meetings.

Laura also met her husband, Stephen Holland, at Tingha, and they were married in 1942.

Laura has been attending the Toowoomba Corps for over 50 years now. She served at both Toowoomba and Harristown Corps (operational from 1956 to 1982) as the young people’s sergeant major, district leader for South Brisbane

troops, Guards chaplain, Sunbeam leader, Girls Legion leader, primary school teacher, Home League attendee, songster and timbrel brigadier.

Laura’s journey is one of significance as she has played influential roles in many young peoples’ lives over the years – some have even become Salvation Army officers.

She recalls her relationships with Captains Pam and Wayne Hodge (Ret.) where she welcomed Wayne into her home when he was in trouble with the police. The Hodges served as Salvation Army officers in the Australia Eastern Territory from 1977 to 1995. Laura also welcomed a young lady called Lana into her home, after Lana’s mother had told her to leave home.

“I get emotional about Lana,” says Laura, tears welling up in her eyes as she shared Lana’s story.

Although Laura is 85 years old, she is determined to keep serving at Toowoomba while her health permits and she has her driver licence. Laura has six children (two officers), 18 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren (with another on the way) and two great-great-grandchildren.

Esther Pinn



General-Elect Linda Bond presents certificates for exceptional service to Mrs Peggy Muller (left) and Mrs Laura Holland (right).

MRS PEGGY MULLER

FOR THE LOVE OF THE LORD

“My love for God and The Salvation Army took hold of me from an early age,” said Peggy Muller.

When she was just 13 years old, Peggy became involved with Sunbeams and Guards

and starting playing the timbrel at Toowoomba Corps.

Peggy’s family moved to Stones Corner in Brisbane when she was 15. “I wanted to continue my involvement with The Salvation Army so I set out to find Woolloongabba Corps so I could attend Guards,” said Peggy.

Peggy married Neville Muller in 1938 and together they had two daughters, Denice and Marelene. Continuing her commitment to The Salvation Army, Peggy’s family caught both the bus

and tram to attend West End Corps (operational 1890 to 1986) in Brisbane every Sunday as they did not own a car.

Throughout her life, Peggy volunteered at various places. She spent 10 years working at Warrina Hostel and Nursing Home, taught religious studies at schools for 10 years, and attended summer camps for underprivileged children.

At both West End and Carindale

Corps’, Peggy was a record sergeant, Sunday school teacher, young people’s timbrel leader, Junior Soldier sergeant and a Sunbeam leader for over 25 years.

At 92 years old, Peggy is still involved at Carindale Corps where she assists at Sunday school and is a Junior Soldier sergeant. She is known as “Aunty Peggy” to many young people there.

Now living at the Wishart Retirement Village, Peggy is regarded highly by the other residents.

“I often visit the residents in the nursing home and hostel with a word of encouragement and prayer,” she said.

Peggy was both surprised and honoured to receive her Certificate for Exceptional Service from Australia Eastern Territorial Commander Commissioner Linda Bond late last year at Queensland’s 125th Anniversary.

“I was so emotional because I didn’t know a thing about it – it was a surprise. I don’t do it for recognition but for the love of the Lord and for the people.”

Peggy has four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Esther Pinn

The Room: a teenage view of heaven

In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in the room. There were no distinguishing features except for the one wall covered with small index card files. They were like the ones in libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, which stretched from floor to ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction, had very different headings. As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that read “Girls I have liked”. I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, shocked to realise that I recognised the names written on each one. And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was.

Catalogue of my life

This lifeless room with its small files was a crude catalogue system for my life. Here were written the actions of my every moment, big and small, in a detail my memory couldn’t match.

A sense of wonder and curiosity, coupled with horror, stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their content. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching.

A file named “Friends” was next to one marked “Friends I have betrayed.” The titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird. “Books I Have Read,” “Lies I Have Told,” “Comfort I have Given,” “Jokes I Have Laughed At.” Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: “Things I’ve yelled at my brothers.” Others I couldn’t laugh at: “Things I Have Done in My Anger”, “Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents.” I never ceased to be surprised by the contents.

Often there were many more cards than I expected. Sometimes fewer than I hoped. I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the life I had lived. Could it be possible that I

had the time in my years to fill each of these thousands or even millions of cards? But each card confirmed this truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked “TV Shows I Have Watched”, I realised the files grew to contain their contents. The cards were packed tightly and yet after two or three yards, I hadn’t found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of shows but more by the vast time I knew that file represented.

When I came to a file marked “Lustful Thoughts,” I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed content.

Shame

I felt sick to think that such a moment had been recorded. An almost animal rage broke on me. One thought dominated my mind: “No-one must ever see these cards! No-one must ever see this room! I have to destroy them!”

In insane frenzy I yanked the file out. Its size didn’t matter now. I had to empty it and burn the cards. But as I took it at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card. I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it.

Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh.

And then I saw it. The title bore “People I Have Shared the Gospel With.” The handle was brighter than those around it, newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than three inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained on one hand.

And then the tears came. I began to weep. Sobs so deep that they hurt. They started in

my stomach and shook through me. I fell on my knees and cried. I cried out of shame, from the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of file shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and hide the key. But then as I pushed away the tears, I saw him.

Sin covered

No, please not him. Not here. Oh, anyone but Jesus. I watched helplessly as he began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn’t bear to watch his response. And in the moments I could bring myself to look at his face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own. He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did he have to read every one? Finally he turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with pity in his eyes. But this was a pity that didn’t anger me. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again. He walked over and put his arm around me. He could have said so many things. But he didn’t say a word. He just cried with me.

Then he got up and walked back to the wall of files. Starting at one end of the room, he took out a file and, one by one, began to sign his name over mine on each card. “No!” I shouted rushing to him. All I could find to say was “No, no,” as I pulled the card from him. His name shouldn’t be on these cards. But there it was, written in red so rich, so dark, and so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with his blood. He gently took the card back. He smiled a sad smile and began to sign the cards. I don’t think I’ll ever understand how he did it so quickly, but the next instant it seemed I heard him close the last file and walk back to my side.

He placed his hand on my shoulder and said, “It is finished.” I stood up, and he led me out of the room. There was no lock on its door. There were still cards to be written.

Attributed to Brian Moore, aged 17



Recommended Read!



Blue Like Jazz Nonreligious thoughts on Christian Spirituality

Donald Miller
Thomas Nelson, 2003

"I had never liked jazz music, but I was outside a theatre one night and I saw a man playing the saxophone. I stood there for 15 minutes and he never opened his eyes.

After that I liked jazz music. Sometimes you have to watch someone love something before you can love it yourself. It is if they are showing you the way.

I used to not like God, but that was before any of this happened."

Blue Like Jazz is a collection of the author's thoughts and experiences about God, religion, sinful nature, and life in general. It is written in such a way that you are led to believe that Miller is telling his story to you as a friend and the only word sufficient to describe his style is – real. He has no scruples acknowledging his shortcomings yet focuses on the remedy and his healing through God's unlikely methods. The pages are full of stories about interactions with rowdy college students, a group of mountain-dwelling hippies and other eccentric characters and how they helped to further Miller's faith and answer some hard questions.

Miller is like every other person; he has trouble grappling with the seeming paradoxes of Christianity and God. Unlike a self-help book or memoir, he does not attempt to present steps by which to work through these paradoxes or tell the story of how he came to understand, but instead he sits the reader down with a cup of coffee and discusses the complex issues that modern day Christianity present. Sometimes a resolution is reached; sometimes the truth remains a mystery or becomes more confusing.

Although Blue Like Jazz may possibly raise more questions than it answers, it is a realistic insight into why the world behaves the way it does. It also shows how learning from people's experiences in the world can lend a simpler way of becoming closer to God rather than the many confusing theories and formulas that we are often presented with in church today.

Miller's amusing anecdotes and self-drawn cartoons contribute to the light-hearted mood of the book but don't depreciate the stark and sometimes heavy truths that come from his thoughts. Overall the book is easy to read, entertaining, and short enough for any busy high-schooler to get through, but most importantly, it has provoking sentiments enough to keep the reader thinking and reasoning long after the last note of the saxophone has faded.



Nadia Worthing
Contributing youth writer



Real style

Photo by Heidi Steep

Elyse Dickson, 22, law student, shows *Young Women In Touch* a taste of her own personal style!

Tell us what you are wearing today and why you chose it?

I bought my chequered skirt and brown flats online from Urban Outfitters. I wore them today to try them out for the first time. I'm about to go on holidays so I think I'll take them with me.

How would you describe your style?

I like to dress to match my personality; relaxed, fun and happy. I get inspiration from magazines, TV, blogs and people on the street – then I take what I like and make it my own. I love cute things; at the moment I'm into floral fabrics, anything crochet and peter pan collars.

What's your "inner beauty" tip?

Every now and then take time to reflect on how your day went; what made you react a certain way, what were you good at, what did you struggle with? It'll help you to discover more about yourself, your strengths and weaknesses. The better you know yourself, the better you'll be able to impact others in a positive way.



Elyse attends Hurstville Corps and is an assistant in the Communications and Public Relations Department at THQ.

Esther Pinn is a journalist for Pipeline and supplements

Trend Watch

Selena Gomez (actress on Disney Channel's *Wizard's at Waverly Place* and performing artist with her latest album, *A Year without Rain*) once said, "I was never the girl who thought I needed to make sure I look like all the other girls. I think you look best when you stand out."

Thanks Selena – love your advice. Individuality is so important when deciding your daily outfits, particularly when it comes to purses!

Purses come in different sizes and shapes, allowing you to truly express your individuality by what you carry. Here are a couple of staple styles that every girl should consider when defining their personal style:

The oversized tote: Everything fits in this bag – that's the best part. It can complement your day-to-day outfit when shopping on the weekends while still looking chic and professional. Look for polished purses with gold closures or metal embellishments.

A tailored day bag: Simple in colours such as black, brown or white and is classic in style so it will go with every outfit possible – whatever activities the day entails.

The all-purpose clutch: Whether it's a fold-over, envelope or round pochette, it will look stunning late day or night – don't shy away from bright colours!

An evening bag: This is essential for formal events – anyone have a formal coming up this year? Rather than concern yourself with colour type, you can always pick a staple colour such as silver, bronze, or black; these will work with any outfit.



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What's on your mind?

? **Unknown**
I'd really like to invite my friends at school to church, but it's hard because I don't think they'd like my church very much. What else can I do?

13 minutes ago · [Like](#) [Comment](#)

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Captain Emma Johnson I've found that people will put up with daggy music, bad morning tea and dodgy sermons (for a while anyway). But what they won't put up with is being ignored. If you work hard at making them feel welcome, you're halfway there! If you're still unsure, then invite them to something that's not a church service, but has church people there.

Most of the people I know who have been saved recently have been saved through their friends. Don't tie yourself up in knots, just remember that God is the one that brings our friends into relationship with him, we just introduce them!

Going to church is a great way of celebrating that and growing in your faith. As long as the worship is genuine, it's always good!

"Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement."
- CS Lewis, author of the well-known *Narnia* Chronicles

SOCIAL JUSTICE SNAPSHOT

Abuse: a vicious cycle

“I tried to leave, but the world was scary without him. And for nearly a year I bounced around, one minute relieved to be free, the next back on his doorstep begging for him to take me back.” This is just one story of a young woman who suffered from the constant battle of living in an abusive relationship. It’s a vicious cycle. Did you know that the Australia Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey 2005, estimates that 443, 800 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence over the course of a year? Do you know someone who is being abused – physically, emotionally, verbally or mentally? Or perhaps, it’s you – but you don’t know it yet or you are too afraid to talk about it.

Excuses

Abuse is like an addiction – the longer you stay the harder it is to leave. As the cycle keeps repeating, your self-worth keeps diminishing. You start to justify the abuse and

believe that this is all you deserve – you start to believe this pattern of behaviour is normal, that this behaviour is part of what it means to be loved.

Here are some examples of lies that are easy to believe when trapped in a cycle of abuse:

“My boyfriend is not violent all the time – he loves me.”

“Things will get better – he didn’t mean to do it.”

“Maybe it’s my fault. I’m scared of what he will do if I leave.”

Do any of these sound familiar?

Your self-worth

You deserve more. God created you to be loved – not abused. But how does God define love?

God spells out his definition of love clearly in the Bible. The passage from 1 Corinthians 13:4 says, “Love is patient and kind. Love is

not jealous or boastful or proud or rude

Love does not demand own way

Does your relationship or your friend or family member’s relationship resemble this pattern of love?

Getting help

You don’t have to suffer on you own or watch someone you love be abused. Here are some avenues that you or your friend or family member can use to obtain help.

- **National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Helpline** – 1800 737 732*
- **Lifeline** national number – 13 11 14*
- **Kids Helpline** – 1800 55 1800*
- **Emergency Help** – 000

*These 24-hour national numbers will not only provide you with qualified counsellors but will give you information about services in your local area.

down with her powerful and awe-inspiring messages.

Over four jam-packed days we worshipped, we were inspired by God’s word, learnt some new skills and heard some amazing testimonies.

“I know that many young people were greatly impacted by God in the main sessions, with many first-time salvation decisions and re-commitments to a life of discipleship,” said Shandri. “Young people told me they found some great teaching in the many workshops offered.”

Westlakes Corps Youth Leader, Claire Twivey, also shared how the young people from her youth group were impacted at Kingdom Come.

“I took six youth down from Westlakes and they all made commitments for Christ – one even wants to become a soldier. That’s what it’s about,” exclaimed Claire.

Women in Touch had the privilege to speak to two young women about their experiences at Kingdom Come.

Ellyse Brooks, who currently attends Eastlakes Corps, spoke about the lessons she gained from Kingdom Come.

“I learnt two valuable lessons at Kingdom Come, the first being that God will always be victorious. Through him alone we can never fail, for the Lord has already won the fight.

“The second was that the act of worship doesn’t have to be about music ... What really matters is being still and humbling yourself before the Lord,” said Ellyse.

Emily McLeod from Newcastle Worship and Community Centre shared how God gave her a second chance at Kingdom Come.

“At Kingdom Come, [on] the first night, they talked about the Prodigal [son] and I felt God call me to come down to the stage and to welcome me home, as a prodigal child. I felt like I needed to go and yet I was so focused on the fact that people would see the weakness in my faith and relationship with God.

“After worship I was filled with regret, guilt and surprisingly, understanding. I prayed and prayed for him [God] to give me another opportunity to come down. I needed the second chance he was offering and coming down on Wednesday night at Kingdom Come was a huge sigh of relief,” said Emily.

Esther Pinn

Editor’s note

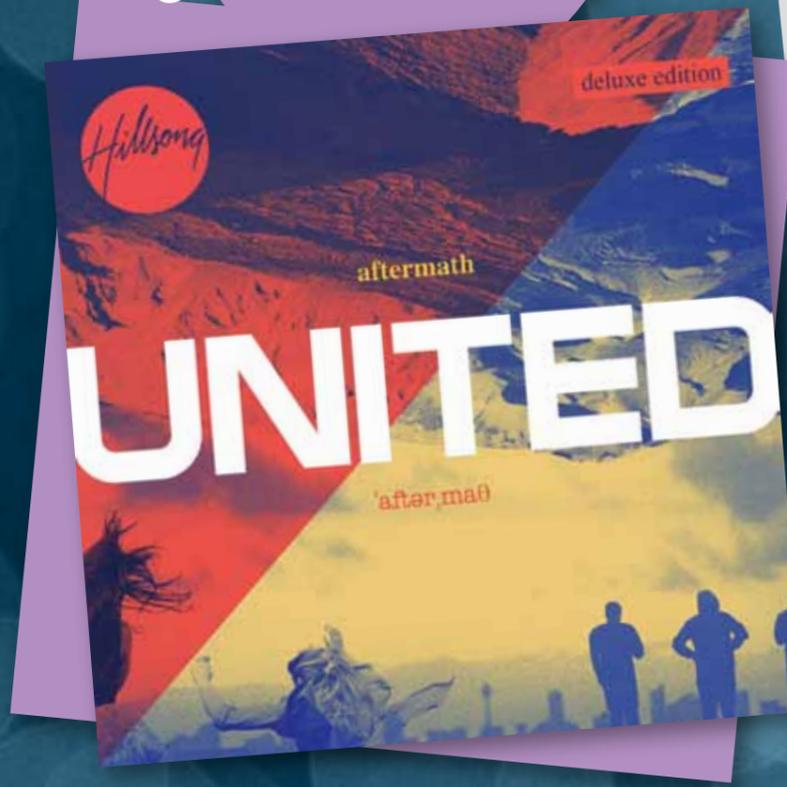
For those of you who’d like to read more about Kingdom Come, or take a look at the KC highlights video and other presentations shown during the conference, check out the **More** site at <http://salvos.org.au/more/tag/kingdom-come/>

Win Brooke Fraser’s latest cd *Flags*!

Just send us a review of a recently-released cd, movie or book, in 250 words or less, for your chance at winning *Flags*. The winning entry will be published in *Young Women in Touch*. Send your entries to [simone.worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org](mailto:worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org)



music review



Aftermath – Hillsong United

Seasons. Some are filled with happiness, others are not. And sometimes you are left wondering whether there is any hope left.

Considering the recent floods in Queensland and Victoria, Hillsong United’s new album, *Aftermath* seems appropriate in dealing with the effects of the floods – finding hope in the aftermath.

Featuring 12 new tracks and the radio version of United’s recent single *Search My Heart*, the United team describes *Aftermath* as “a thoughtful collaboration that reflects every season of life – songs that come from deep places, the highs and lows of the Christian journey.”

While the album follows a pattern of different life seasons, the message, however, remains the same: Seek God at all times through worship.

From the first track, *Take Heart* to the last, *Awakening*, the album’s lyrics maintain a prayerful cry to our Father in heaven – a cry of hope and desperation for God’s light to appear in our lives.

When writing the song *Go*, United songwriter Matt Crocker exclaimed, “This is a song of prayer crying out for more of God ... when writing this song it was just me pouring my heart out to God and giving him the reins.”

This album is an opportunity for us as listeners to bow before our God, meditate, worship and soak up his love, peace and hope whether in seasons of trouble or triumph.

Amidst the songs of contemplation, there are some catchy praise songs, *Nova* and *Light Will Shine* that life up the name of the Lord and make you want to jump around in the mosh pit at youth on Friday night..

Aftermath is selling at the retail price of \$24.99 and can be purchased at the online Hillsong store (www.hillsongmusic.com).

Esther Pinn

WOW weekend: Living with joy and power

Greater West Division



Majors Gary and Judith Baker on the red carpet before the Hollywood awards night

The Greater West Division Women's recent WOW weekend took place recently at The Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches.

The theme of the weekend, "One body, one Lord, one Spirit" was brought to life by special guests; Major Sharon Clanfield as worship leader and Major Wendy Staines as guest speaker. Major Wendy used the book of Ruth as the basis for her messages during the weekend. Three ladies also gave witness to the transforming power of Jesus in their lives.

A market, followed by various electives, took place during Saturday afternoon.

Saturday evening was the "Hollywood Awards" night, with all ladies arriving dressed to suite the theme. Photos were taken on the red carpet prior to entering the auditorium. Divisional leaders, Majors Gary and Judith Baker, then made their entry to host the entertainment and award presentations. It was a night of honouring others, great fun, lots of laughter and great and surprising entertainment.

"During the first session of Sunday morning, women were invited to share what God had been saying to them over the weekend and then others were invited to pray with each one," said Major Judith, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries. "Following this special time together we were invited to move

in silence to the verandah where we stood in the stillness and listened to the music of 'You Raise Me Up', the words of which are based on the translation of Isaiah 40:28-31."

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of all the earth.
He never grows weak or weary.
No one can measure the depths of his understanding.
He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.
Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.
But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.
New Living Translation

"Five doves were also released, symbolising the release of the human spirit from past hurts and damage and the power of Gods Spirit released in our lives.

"The 120 women who attended experienced afresh the love and power of God and left Collaroy knowing that God can bring wholeness and freedom through his Holy Spirit when we surrender fully to him," Major Judith said.



WOW weekend: A personal perspective

The weekend began with real women talking about real struggles and a real God who is powerful, strong and present. We celebrated the lives of women, not for what they have accomplished but for who they are in Jesus.

Wendy began her teaching by talking about 'dead religion' and what hard work it is. As a mother and officer I constantly struggle with fatigue. It was revitalising to be reminded that my relationship with Jesus is not supposed to be a guilt-laced list of things to do. It's about living. It's about living with joy and power. It's about knowing that even in those times I cannot feel his presence, I will never be left alone.

Wendy led us through the Book of Ruth and focused on the relationship between Ruth and Naomi. She talked about the concept of spiritual mothers and daughters and encouraged us to invest in and to draw from the experiences of other women. There were no guilt trips, just support and love. We were

reminded that we don't need to have the answers; we just need to lead others to the power of Jesus.

The message that came through most clearly to me was this - invest in the lives of others. When they succeed, I succeed.

The teaching over the weekend was interspersed with laughter and tears as women shared honestly with friends both old and new. There was plenty of time for relaxation and unhurried conversations; time for meaningful connections.

I came feeling tired; I left feeling refreshed. I came feeling flat; I left feeling invigorated. I came doubting; I left with renewed faith. This was not an emotional high that was fuelled by adrenaline, caffeine and sugar but a genuine spiritual encounter.

Captain Joanne Smith
Corps Officer, Panania corps

Sharing the gift

South Queensland Division

The opportunity to raise money for the women's ministries territorial project 2010, drew over 300 women to coffee mornings in Bundamba, Gympie and Pine Rivers late last year.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pamela Hodge, Director of The Salvation Army International Development Office (AUE), spoke at these events.

Lieut-Colonel Hodge shared three stories of women in developing countries whose lives have been changed through the financial support of women in the Australia Eastern Territory. "These moving and inspiring stories increased the awareness of the importance and value of fundraising and supporting the territorial project," said Major Julie Campbell, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries.

"Lieut-Colonel Hodge also encouraged and challenged the women to 'tear off' the wrapping of the many gifts that God gives to us in order to enjoy the benefits for ourselves and to share the gifts with others," said Major Julie.

Many of the ladies also brought practical gifts of toiletries, towels and knitted scarves to support Backyard Ministries, the divisional project. These special gifts will be given to the women in crisis and recovery centres in the division to either help brighten their stay at the centre or to assist them when they leave.



Lieutenant-Colonel Pamela Hodge shares stories from Africa with the group.

The Nambour fimbrels brigade opened the morning tea at Gympie with a lively march.



Family store reveals its secrets

South Queensland Division

Something old, something new was the theme for a recent Home League gathering at the Salvation Army Kingaroy family store where Captain Lauriee Arthur, then Assistant Manager at the Gold Coast Recovery Services Centre, showed the ladies how to recycle the recycled.

For her demonstration, Captain Lauriee used items of clothing purchased at different family stores around the territory, as well as accessories including old tablecloths, table runners and doilies - all of which were stained, worn out, or simply discarded.

"Captain Lauriee also displayed a range of clothing that she had made as part of her journey through life, and every item had a story," said Lieutenant Katie Harlum, Corps Officer, South Burnett Region Corps. "Even the Bible cover had been made out of sentimental material that had been passed down from her grandmother."

Prizes for the day's activities were individually designed handbags made from old jeans and trimmed with old shirts and pieces of lace, emphasising that things that have been used still have meaning and value.

"Captain Lauriee used this illustration in her message, encouraging the ladies with the knowledge that God delights in them just the way they are," said Lieut. Katie. "No matter how worn out, stained, torn, battered, or even pristine your life may be at the moment, God can still use you to glorify God who renews and restores us.

"Jesus sees our original value, picks us up and washes us in his blood and we are cleansed. He 'dries' us in the radiant warmth of his love, puts us in a place where he can show us off to the world as his

beloved, prized possession and carefully sews us into his pattern for living.

"Captain Lauriee used 2 Corinthians 5: 16-18 to show that, no matter how old and worn out we are on the inside, we are renewed in Christ and have great value to him."



From left to right: Captain Lauriee Arthur, Lanore Dean and Lieutenant Katie Harlum show off their recycled creations.

International Outlook Women's Ministries Project 2009

Throughout 2009, the women of the Australia Eastern Territory raised over \$86,000 for Territorial Women's Ministries Project. This provided much needed funds to the women of Myanmar – a region of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

The money was assigned to the Women's Ministries Initiative Fund. This fund was set up in Myanmar to encourage innovative thinking for Women's Ministries in each of the Myanmar corps and to enable each corps to receive funds for an approved community-focused project that would make a positive difference in the lives of local women. Over 40 corps and corps plants have already made use of the funds, which have provided many blessings in local communities.

Several corps spent a large portion of their funds training, equipping and employing corps-based health workers, as well as assisting with funding for poor rural women who need medical care. For many women, especially in upper Myanmar, this is their only means of attaining any medical care.

The funding has also enabled follow-up building work in villages affected by cyclone Nargis, which caused catastrophic destruction and over 138,000 deaths in 2008.

The final 500 houses and a small community clinic were built in the Dallah area. Two Salvationists serve as community workers; one in Dallah and another in the Irrawaddy Delta region where much cyclone relief work has been done. The workers have also begun holding a series of community training days on subjects including health, issues surrounding AIDS and the HIV virus, and micro credit.

"We are caring for people, transforming lives and reforming communities through these projects," said Major Susan Daly, then Regional Director for Women's Ministries in Myanmar. "Communities are able to see that we are interested in giving them something to help their physical condition rather than trying to get something out of them. People in the community are able to see the faith in action of the Salvationists."

Volunteer Joy passes on God's amazing love

"I am nobody special, but God is taking me on a magic carpet ride," said Joy Prior, a soldier from Caloundra Corps, who spent time last year volunteering at The Salvation Army's Ethembeni Home in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"When I first lost my husband I thought it was the end of the world, but over the last few years God has given me a big, gentle shake-up. He is using me and it's very humbling. It all happens with God, and he gets all the glory."

Place of hope

Ethembeni Home accommodates abandoned HIV/AIDS infected babies and toddlers, as well as children under four who have been abandoned or removed from situations of abuse or neglect.

"The name means 'Place of Hope'," said Joy. "God has always given me a heart for children overseas and when I heard about Ethembeni, I wanted to help."

"I never imagined I would be involved in anything like this, but there is a huge need for volunteers in orphanages around the world. Everyone needs to feel loved, so I funded my own trip."

Joy raised a total of \$5,000 for Ethembeni through a cake and coffee night and garage sales. "I asked businesses to donate things and we had an auction at the coffee night which alone raised \$3,000," she said.

Many of Joy's friends also made and donated clothes for her

to take to the children.

"Volunteering at Ethembeni was amazing; one of the most rewarding things I've ever done," Joy said. "It was well run, clean, and the children were gorgeous. They all wanted lots of hugs."

"I am not really skilled in anything but I have the love of God to pass on and that is everything. I am so blessed."

"Staff are well trained and love and care for the little ones – most of whom were found abandoned in buckets, bins and plastic bags."

"When Ethembeni first opened in 1995, there would be at least two little white coffins to farewell each week. Now we haven't lost a baby for two years, how good is that!"

Fire within

Joy, a pensioner, plans to continue her volunteering work overseas. "Ethembeni has lit a little fire within me," she said.

"I want to go to England soon, as there has been a death in my family there. I might also go to some of the orphanages in Europe. I'd also like to go to Ghana and visit a little boy I sponsor there."

And what do Joy's five children think of her volunteering work overseas? "I think they are secretly jealous of me," she said with a chuckle.



The Myanmar corps' used funds from the Australia Eastern Territorial Women's Ministries Project 2009 for innovative projects to assist extremely poor women and children in corps including, clockwise from left, Pyin Taw Oo, Aung Ywa, Kanan and Tamu.

Right: Joy gives a little HIV-positive baby a special cuddle on Mother's Day. Below: Carers and volunteers held a special dedication service for all the babies and toddlers.



Territorial Women's Ministries Project 2011

Indigenous Ministries

Funds will assist to:-

- Establish Community Vegetable Gardens
- Initiate Small Enterprise Support projects
- Conduct Homework Clubs
- Conduct Positive Parenting groups
- Run Kids Clubs that includes sport, nutrition and lifeskills
- Conduct Leadership Capacity Development to invest in the next generation of leaders

Target: \$110, 000

THE SALVATION ARMY

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade... (1 Peter 1:3-4a).

“Although my memory’s fading, I remember two things very clearly. I’m a great sinner and Christ is a great Saviour.”

John Newton, 1725-1807

