



WOMEN In touch

An ocean of prayer

EXPERIENCING A DEEP
CONNECTION WITH GOD

ALSO INSIDE:

CAPTIVATED BY THE WORD

A LIFE RESTORED

SALVATION ASSURED

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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team talk

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

One of the highlights of my week is the 7.30am prayer meeting in the chapel at territorial headquarters every Thursday morning.

People who know me are aware that I am not a morning person, but I would not miss this prayer meeting unless I am not in town.

Why? Because it is such an inspirational time where passionate pray-ers join in the global prayer wave that begins in New Zealand and goes right around the world.

It is an exciting time as well, where we bring the needs of the territory and the global army to God in prayer and also focus on our seven mission priorities. For example, recently we focused our prayers on thanksgiving and suffering humanity. Each person was asked to thank God for something first of all and then pray for our services such as Salvos Street Team and Streetlevel Mission, as well as prayers for other services that serve the suffering and marginalised.

And it is concentrated prayer – by that I mean very little talking, brief Scripture reading and usually no singing – but 30 minutes of fervent prayer. Sometimes it is hard to get a prayer in because those attending are so keen to pray. I leave the chapel so inspired and just waiting to see the prayers answered.

I would love to see this kind of prayer meeting in every corps and centre – in every women's group. Our theme this year is PRAYER – and we all need to be involved in praying without ceasing. Some people say they cannot pray aloud. Well, silent prayer is just as effective.

Our Salvos Women resource manual offers a "Kaleidoscope of Prayer" ideas and I include two links that you might find helpful in your prayer time: salvationarmy.org/csld/boundlessprayer and armyonitsknees.org

You can pray at home, or why not get together with a group of other women and start praying? And don't be surprised when God answers.

There's a very interesting story in the book of Acts, chapter 12. Peter was in prison and it is recorded in verse five that the church was praying earnestly. And when Peter got out of prison and knocked on the door of the house where a group was praying, they told the servant girl she was out of her mind when she told them Peter was at the door.

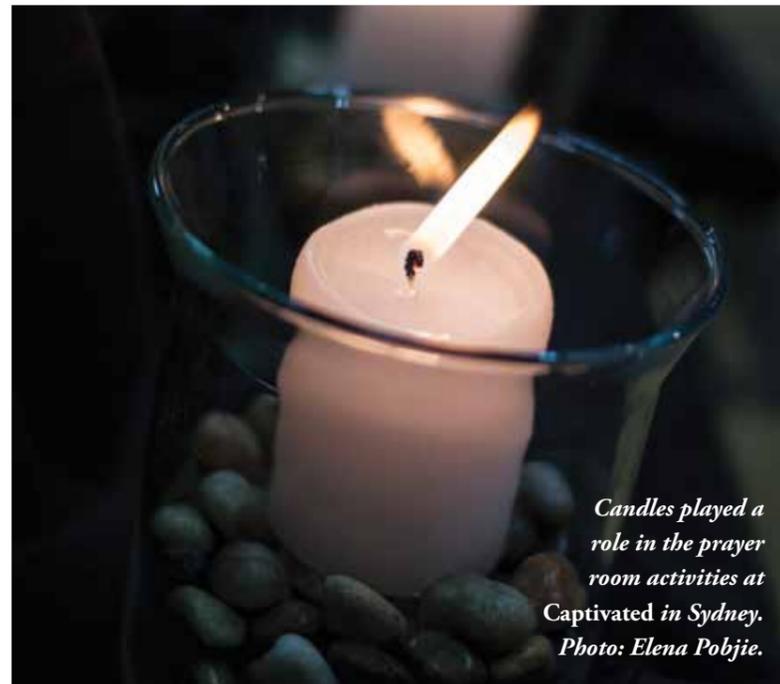
Seems rather strange – why pray and not expect God to answer? God can do far more than we can ask or even imagine, so why are we not praying more earnestly? One of our mission priorities says we want to be a territory marked by prayer and holiness.

So my challenge is – let's get praying. If we want to see revival, let's pray and look for revival that has already begun. May we not be surprised when God answers prayer – if we pray, he will hear and answer and do far more. He is the God of MORE.

Salvos Women – let's start a revolution of prayer in our personal lives, our homes and in our army/church. Let us become prayer warriors. Jesus set the example of a prayerful life. Salvos women, let's start a revolution.



Commissioner Jan Condon
Territorial President of
Women's Ministries



Candles played a role in the prayer room activities at Captivated in Sydney.
Photo: Elena Pobjie.

about this issue

from the editor's desk

On 8 March the world marks International Women's Day (IWD) which, according to the United Nations, "is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities".

It's also a good time for us, as Christian women, and men, to prayerfully consider our current and future roles in making a difference to the women of the world who, still today, continue to face higher levels of violence, barriers to basic education and healthcare, challenges in accessing leadership roles and are far more likely to live in poverty.

For information on IWD and how to get involved in both the day's events and ongoing campaigns empowering women, check out the United Nations Women Australia website at unwomen.org.au

You may also like to consider giving financially and prayerfully to the Salvos Women Territorial Project for 2015 – offering hope and a positive future to young Ukrainian girls leaving orphanages and children's homes. See our report on this project on page 22.

As with everything we do, prayer is the key here. It's the key to connecting with God and having our hearts both softened and strengthened, enabling us to see the needs of those around us, to be deeply moved by those needs, and to respond actively so that positive change results – for everyone involved.

Prayer is the focus of our main story in this issue. It is also the topic around which the Captivated conferences revolved this year in Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney and Townsville.

In her heartfelt testimony, Denise Smart shares how God heard her desperate prayers and rescued her from a lifetime of abuse and control; Major Sue Cox writes about prayer as a conversation and how she is learning to sit quietly, hear God's voice and be directed by him in every facet of her life; and Commissioner Hilda Cox-Chevalley, mother of the present Salvation Army General, shows how deep and constant prayer has continued to bring God's richest blessings to her life, whatever the circumstances.

I hope you enjoy this issue and can find a personal message of help, hope and encouragement within its pages.

Simone Worthing
Editor

features

4

An ocean of prayer

Major Jo-Anne Brown reflects on how loving and experiencing the ocean has played a significant role in how she experiences prayer

8

Captivated by the Word

Major Carole Bate, with her daughter Natasha, spoke on prayer at Captivated events throughout the territory.

14

A life returned

Denise Smart shares her tumultuous life journey and how God has brought her to a place of peace

23

I will survive

A focus on the 2015 Salvos Women project helping girls leaving orphanages in troubled Ukraine

regulars

12

Perspective

Reviews, reflections, resources and recipes

16

Young Women in Touch

Stories, ideas and articles for our young women

20

Women In Ministry

Reports from around the territory and beyond

24

Heart Songs

OCEANS *of* PRAYER

THE ONGOING JOURNEY OF CONNECTING WITH GOD

words MAJOR JO-ANNE BROWN

photos SHAIRON PATERSON

I love standing by the ocean, taking in the smell and the sound, breathing in deep and feeling the sand between my toes. I love standing with my feet in the water, feeling the coolness of the ocean and the sand slipping away beneath my feet with each new wave.

I love stepping into the ocean, being buffeted by the waves, feeling the wildness of the sea and being swept around by the water. I love the sense of sometimes being swept off my feet and no longer being in control – even though it is at the same time slightly scary.

And I also love swimming out beyond the breakers, out beyond where I can touch the bottom – but out there, as much as I love the sense of freedom, I also feel vulnerable and know that it can sometimes be more than a bit scary.

This is how I have experienced, and still experience, prayer. I have stood by the edge of prayer, loving the idea of it and the closeness of God; I have dipped my feet in it and loved the sensation; I have been buffeted by turbulence as I've stepped even more into experiencing prayer; and I have occasionally lost my footing and felt out of my depth as I've plunged into the depths of getting to know God more deeply in prayer. And sometimes I have come back to the shore and just paddled my feet while gazing into the mystery of this journey of connecting with God.

Encountering God

As a little girl I sensed the presence of God, his majesty and greatness, but didn't really know how to connect intimately with him. I felt a sense of worship but didn't know how to verbalise this – or know that God was a being who desired connection with me! I found connection with him through delighting in his creation.

I grew up in the Catholic Church, and a little later I was given a beautiful set of rosary beads. I was so excited as I learnt to pray with these beads and I looked forward to more deeply connecting with God. I didn't recognise at that time that this was my longing – I just know that I was diligent in praying every night and seeking to please God. But my diligence seemed to be met with silence and eventually I stopped.

Years later, I truly encountered God, surrendered my life to him, and began to learn many different ways of prayer. I was so much in love with God and so eager to connect with him and spend time with him. >>>

“Loving and experiencing the ocean ... is how I have experienced, and still experience, prayer.”



I studied *The Hour that Changes the World* by Dick Eastman (Baker Publishing Group, 1978) and learned how to spend an hour in prayer by dividing that hour into 12 five-minute segments. These segments included praise and worship, waiting on the Lord, confession, petitions and meditation. I found the idea behind this very helpful – but never did manage to actually do it all in the five-minute segments! It gave me a good grounding in the different elements of prayer.

I also learned to pray using ACTS: spending time in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Intercession). It was an important reminder for me to not just approach God with my own needs, but to begin by acknowledging who he is and how much I love him.

Journey continues

Over the years I have experienced a greater flexibility in prayer, while hanging on to what I feel are the important elements – and always there seemed to be this movement from the shallows to the depths, from still water through to rough waves – and sometimes I still feel like a child, just dabbling my feet in the edge of the water.

Something that really refreshed my prayer life was visiting Bangor in Northern Ireland.

For about 300 years (about 525-800 AD) there was non-stop prayer in a monastery there. The monks would pray in three-hour shifts, one hour worship, one hour praying the Word and one hour intercession.

The story is told that when a monk started to feel a bit sleepy he would go and stand in the river to keep himself awake and keep praying! This linked in to my experiences with the 24-7 prayer movement and discovering how to spend longer periods of time in prayer with God.

Perhaps the greatest challenge and

inspiration for me in prayer are Paul's words: "Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Like most of us, these words puzzled a simple Russian peasant in the 19th century and he determined to discover what they meant.

He finally found someone who could tell him what the words meant, and was encouraged to pray the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner") 6000 times a day.

Once he had achieved this (I'm not sure how he kept track of the repetitions!) he was encouraged to repeat those prayer times. His journey led him throughout Russia and he began to notice that he was no longer praying the prayer, but almost that it was praying itself.

The prayer moved from an intentional repetition to something that rose up from his heart and was on his lips without conscious effort.

The prayer had become his very breath.

Communion

In my journey with prayer, this kind of prayer from the heart has become my greatest joy – simply murmuring the name of Jesus and knowing we are in communion, no matter what else I am doing or who else I am doing it with.

I have learnt (somewhat to my surprise) that in the same way I can worry constantly about something even when I am doing other things, so, too, can I pray constantly even while doing other things.

Yes, spending time in confession, adoration and thanksgiving is important.

Yes, we are called upon to intercede for others, and to listen to God and wait on him.

But for me, real freedom and joy has come in prayer when I simply murmur his name and know that we are connected: I listen to him, he listens to me and we share the things on our hearts.

*"For me,
real freedom
and joy has
come in
prayer when
I simply
murmur
his name
and know
that we are
connected"*



PHOTO: Shairon Paterson

OCEANS of LOVE

There is something about the ocean that awakens me to the presence of God. I have always resonated with the image of God's love as an ocean.

I've tattooed the song about a boundless salvation ocean on my wrist. I've tried to live out of the revelation of the love of God. And I never tire from meditating on that love through the rhythm of the sound of waves crashing on the shore, the spray of the waves and the taste of the salt ... the depths unexplored, the wild invitation and all sorts of other things the ocean invites us to consider.

Treasure

I recently finished a few days with some great friends at the Atlantic Ocean (Outer Banks, North Carolina). I was a breath of fresh air (quite literally).

This trip I went to the beach daily with my sons. They discovered all kinds of treasures on the shore and it got me to thinking once more about the ocean. See, even what the ocean discards is treasure.

My sons spent hours looking through the shells, seaweed, jellyfish, fish bones and other remnants of the ocean spilt over and spit up through the tide the night before. They found buckets of the stuff. And it got me pondering about the treasure of the ocean itself – the vast amounts of beauty, the seasoned and worn-down shells that seem to become even more attractive as they give to the rhythm of the sand's refining.

All of these things that are simply left over and unneeded are still treasures to those of us who stand at the shore and care to look. That's how amazing the ocean is.

It is the same, of course, with us and God's love. Even the leftovers – the unnecessary parts [of us], are treasures. Even the bits whose purpose we wonder about, the character flaws that seem to plague us, **even those**, if we allow the ocean of love to refine us, will turn shiny and useful – a treasure for anyone who cares to come have a look at God's amazing ability to love us to beauty.

Awakening

That's the thing about the ocean of love. It's wild unexplored depths call to me; its tenacious, unending lapping at the shore of my life loosens my tendency to keep control; its salty spray softens my tired and weary soul; and its beauty reminds me of the depth of God's beauty in me still.

So, I'm grateful for the reminder – for the awakening, for the time spent with a loving God who calls us to breathe deep of his love. I pray you'll experience anew that same revelation, however it comes. You are the treasure in God's ocean of love.

Major Danielle Strickland
Danielle serves in The Salvation Army in Canada as an officer. She is doing grassroots community in a marginalised community in Edmonton, Alberta, and leading Stop The Traffik (an anti-human trafficking campaign) in Canada.

This article originally appeared as a blog at daniellestrickland.com/blog/ on 5 January, 2015. Printed with permission.

Captivated by the Word

KALEIDOSCOPE OF PRAYER

words SIMONE WORTHING

photos ELENA POBJIE



ABOVE: Women from all over the territory enjoyed catching up with friends, and making new ones, at Captivated.

Renewing, sacred, honest, liberating, saturating and healing were just some of the words used to describe the recent *Captivated by the Word* conferences and events that took place throughout the territory.

Lieutenant-Colonel Carole Bate, Social Justice Consultant for The Salvation Army Eastern Territory in the United States, was guest speaker for the 25th Captivated, accompanied by her daughter, Natasha Bate, who enhanced the spoken messages through her worshipful singing. The theme for each event was Kaleidoscope of Prayer.

A two-day conference was held at The Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches, the Tuggeranong Corps in the ACT and Townsville Riverway Recovery Centre each hosted evening events, and the North Brisbane Corps was the venue for a one-day conference.

Over 600 women attended these special occasions.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE LORD

When Carole was searching the scriptures to see where the Lord was leading her as she prepared for *Captivated*, she wanted to focus on some aspects of prayer that can cloud our communication with God.

Hannah's story, as told in 1 Samuel 1, was an obvious choice.

"Hannah's story focuses on coming before the throne of God and being honest," Carole explained.

"Hannah brought a lot of anger, bitterness and frustration to the Lord and sometimes we try to avoid and hide these feelings, not just from other people, but also from God.

"We have to remember that our God is big enough to handle all of our emotions and he wants us to be honest with him so healing can happen."

Carole also spoke about Mary and Martha, who asked Jesus to come to them when their brother died. Jesus waited two days before he came.

"Sometimes we don't really

understand why the Lord is doing what he is doing, or why he doesn't seem to be answering our prayers," she said. "As time passes though, we see that he waited for something that brought him greater glory. We need to believe in the goodness of God and wait upon him when he's not working according to our time schedule."

The "widow's grief" as told in Luke 7:11-17, was also a focus in Carole's messages.

"I've always been drawn to this scripture," she shared. "In her grief and pain, the widow is not even aware of Jesus' presence and yet his heart goes out to her, he initiates a conversation with her and resurrects her only son.

"Sometimes in our prayer time we spend so much time talking that we don't give God the chance to speak. He is available, and he desires to initiate conversations with us. We don't always have to be in a crisis state for that to happen, but we do have to be quiet and still. Jesus' heart goes out to us today, too."

Carole also spoke about the prayer bowls full of incense before the throne of God in Revelation 5.

"These are the prayers of the saints and show how our prayers are eternal and live on beyond us," Carole explained.

"Even if we don't see the results of our prayers in our lifetime, they are effective for future generations and we must keep praying and trusting."

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

During each of the Captivated events, Commissioner Jan Condon, Territorial President of Women's Ministries, thanked the women gathered for the \$100,000 raised for the Salvos Women Territorial Project for 2014 – basic medical kits, sewing classes and bibles for women in the Tanzania Territory.

Commissioner Jan also launched the project for 2015 – "I will survive". Funds raised through this project will help young women leaving orphanages in Ukraine, Eastern Europe Territory

(see story page 22). During the Sydney conference Letitia Shelton, founder of Toowoomba's "City Women" movement, spoke passionately about their 80-church collaborative ministry to girls and women at risk in the city in a session aptly named "Fighting for our Daughters". For more information see citywomen.com.au

Captain Carole Smith, Training Officer, School for Officer training, organised prayer rooms for the Sydney conference, with the assistance of second-year cadets. "This was another way for women to engage with the Lord throughout the weekend, and during an intentional time on Sunday morning," she said.

BRISBANE

As the torrential rains from Tropical Cyclone Marcia beat down on the roof of the North Brisbane Corps on 21 February, Carole asked the ladies gathered, and those listening on livestream due to flooded roads,

whether the storms of life had ever wreaked havoc on their lives.

Carole then spoke about the widow in Luke 7, and how the heart of Jesus went out to her in her grief and pain. "His heart is moved towards us today too, and he wants to be present for us," she said. "Let's focus, not on things on earth, but on the one who can turn it all around and bring life."

During the lunch break, the ladies browsed stalls including "Candles for Cambodia", Koorong books and handmade jewellery. The Streetlevel coffee van and hand and shoulder massages were also popular.

"Praying continually" was the topic for Carole's afternoon session as she gave her testimony and encouraged the ladies not to grow weary in prayer but to keep going, knowing that God is faithful.

CANBERRA

On 17 February, ladies from the ACT and South NSW Division gathered at Tuggeranong Corps to hear from >>>

ABOVE LEFT: Lieutenant-Colonel Carole Bate, and her daughter, Natasha, were guest presenters at Captivated.

ABOVE RIGHT: Lieut-Colonel Carole's messages focused on prayer.

LOWER LEFT: The Freedom Partnership to end modern slavery raised awareness during the Sydney conference; lower right: The Salvos Women team served at each Captivated event.



ABOVE LEFT: Captain Meaghan Gallagher interviewed four women about their personal prayer journey during the Captivated evening in Townsville. Photo: Peter Sutcliffe



TOP RIGHT: Commissioner Jan Condon interviews Majors April Yu and Caroline Change from Taiwan.



MINISTRY THROUGH SONG

According to Carole, Natasha has always loved singing and would hum even before she could talk!

"I sing all the time and often don't realise I'm doing it," Natasha says. "I worship God through singing."

Natasha is active in the creative arts, both at school and in her corps – Montclair Citadel, New Jersey. Her focus is on singing and drama. She has always been a part of school choirs and youth choruses, as well as performing solos.

Natasha is also part of her corps drama troupe and divisional drama team, presenting in Sunday meetings and youth councils.

Chris Stoker, from Montclair Citadel, wrote and directed "Hannah's Prayer" – the dramatic and multi-faceted monologue that Natasha presented at *Captivated* in Sydney.

"It's based on the beautiful passage of Scripture in 1 Samuel 1, and I have been working on it and practicing for months," she shares.

After graduating high school in June this year, Natasha will attend Asbury College, a Christian liberal arts institution, where she will major in Christian Ministry and World Missions.

"It's been a blessing for me to come here and minister together with my mum," she says.

Carole and Natasha. "After a time of worship and prayer, Carole spoke about the prayer bowls from Revelation 5, relating Revelation to heaven and to Joshua at Jericho," said Major Karen Masters, Divisional Salvos Women Co-ordinator.

"She concluded that every prayer we pray adds to the bowls until the prayers flow over. Natasha sang as the ladies reflected on the need to pray continually."

TOWNSVILLE

Women from Bowen in the south to Cairns in the north gathered for *Captivated by the Word* at the Townsville Riverway Recovery Mission on 20 February.

"From the beginning, the all-girl music team encouraged us to posture ourselves for God to do something amazing and there was a sense that God was stirring the hearts of all present as we worshipped him," said Major Beth Twivey, Team Leader.

Captain Meaghan Gallagher, Corps Officer, Townsville Faithworks, interviewed four women about their personal prayer journey.

"It was evident that while each woman was unique and had different experiences of God, they all testified to their dependence on God's power in their life for every season," said Beth.

"We were blessed by the ministry of Natasha through her singing, followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Carole Bate unpacking the familiar account in the Scriptures of Mary and Martha.

"It was quite remarkable how God's Word brought clarity and a change of our posture before God. The prayer time that followed was rich in its emotion and power."

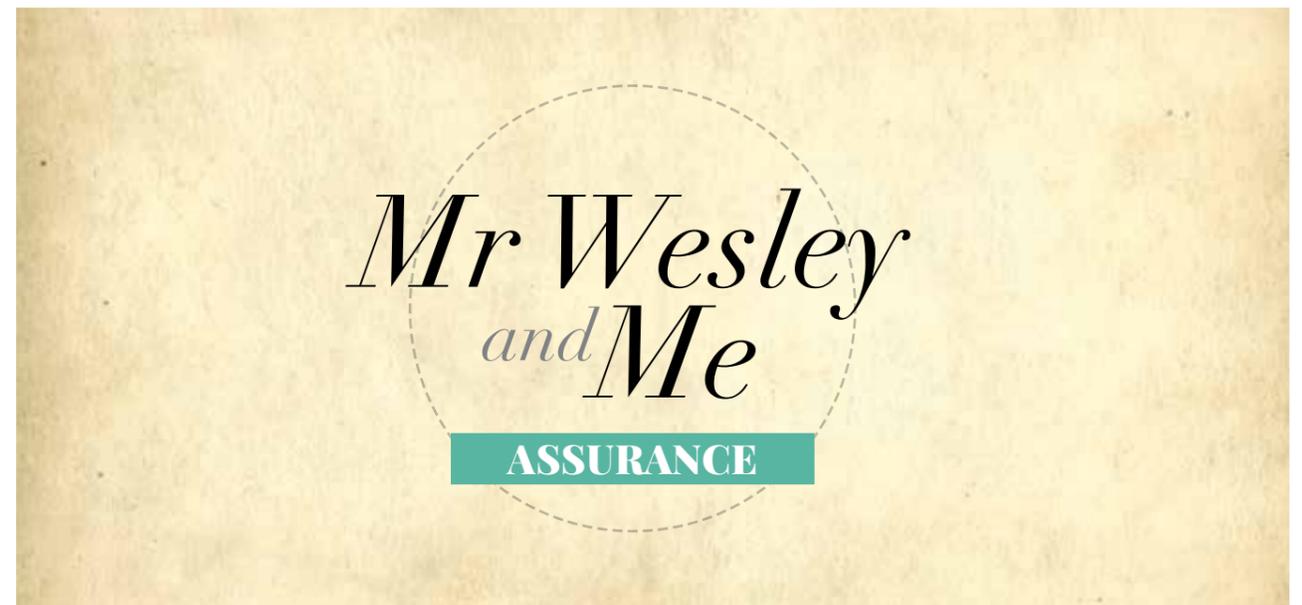
CONFERENCE CDS

Audio recordings of the main sessions are available for \$25. Prayer diaries and resource manuals on prayer can also be purchased. For details, email salvos.women@auc.salvationarmy.org

For personal reflections and comments on the events, check the Salvos Women Facebook page. For podcasts, go to www.podomatic.com/account/gopro/feb2015

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

The first Women's Bible Convention was held in 1990, with guest speaker Colonel Bram Lucas. Six women attending this year were at the very first Convention in 1990. Mrs Jean Archer from Gosford has attended 24 of the 25 conventions.



LIEUTENANT NICOLA POORE continues her series of articles on Wesleyan concepts in everyday language, with this feature focusing on the assurance of salvation

Unpredictable, destructive bushfires. Escalating terror alerts. Uncontainable disease outbreaks. Human frailty is magnified. Suddenly we are reminded that we are not God. And that despite the impressive gains of science, we do not know everything.

In uncertain times, certainties can become rarer. As our insecurities pile higher, our foundations seem less secure. Questions about our hopes and our future loom large against a backdrop of uncertainty. As Christians, we are not immune from this; we, too, can have questions about our eternal destiny. We, too, wonder, "Am I in or out?"

Absolute certainty

How can I be certain that I am saved in eternity? This question and countless other variations never seem to leave us. All of these are driven by the same underlying desperation for proof of life; proof of eternal life. Or, as it is sometimes called, assurance of salvation.

Mr Wesley's theology addressed this perpetual musing. Wesley both built a case for the affirmative and supplied the proof. For Wesley, it is indeed possible to know that you are saved. He took the Apostle Paul at his word when he said: "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16). This means that somehow, beyond our ability to explain,

and shrouded in the mystery of God, we can know that we are children of God. By God's own testimony, communicated to us in our inner being, we have assurance of adoption into God's family. This is the witness of the Spirit.

A typical Wesleyan conjunction of salvation and assurance might read: "Whoever will may be saved, and whosoever is saved can know that they are saved". For Wesley, salvation available to all necessarily means assurance available to all. This is the doctrine of assurance. If all can be saved, all can be sure.

Now some would argue that the doctrine of assurance, the notion that we can be sure that we are saved, is the height of presumption. Critics might argue that this "assurance" comes at the cost of God's sovereignty as rightful judge – and is therefore no assurance at all because God is sovereign. To such voices, we Wesleyans would reply that we graciously lean on the mercy and love of our heavenly father and testify from our experience, that "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father'" (Galatians 4:6, *New Living Translation*). It is possible to affirm the sovereignty of God and the witness of God by his Spirit.

Beyond feelings

Of course, such assurance is more than just a feeling. Feelings are fickle and

fallen. Sin has impacted all of creation – including our emotional compass. This is why the question of, "Do I feel saved today?" is such dangerous territory. The witness of the Spirit is more than just a fleeting feeling – more than momentary ecstasy upon salvation. The Spirit ministers a deep assurance that anchors our souls in the love and family of God. Even on a bad day, the assurance that I am a loved child of God need not be compromised.

Assurance then, can change the way you live. This is why we ought to know and to live out this grand Wesleyan theme.

Assurance means that my future is eternally secure.

Assurance means that I don't need to live in fear or anxiety about an unknown future.

Assurance gives me the courage to speak up about my faith in God and to share the Gospel with others.

Our "assurance" is far less about being sure of ourselves, and far more about being sure of our Saviour.



Lieutenant Nicola Poore
Hawkesbury City
Corps Officer



Perspective

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IS PROGRESS FOR ALL

“Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support. The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.”

United Nations Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon

reflection

SACRED SPACE – IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Major Sue Cox, Corps Officer, Cairns

It’s been said to me, once or twice, that I could talk the leg off an iron pot and talk it back on again. I could possibly be quite proud of such a feat, but I have found that chatting and taking charge are not such great qualities when it comes to my sacred space – the place where I encounter God each day.

I have often been convinced that when I have spoken with God, my voice and thoughts have been forceful enough to let God know that I know how to deal with stuff. I have done the correct thing and let him in on the thoughts and issues I have, but then have told him how these thoughts, feelings, problems and concerns will work out – almost assuming that God needs my help!

Some of us are just slow learners ... well, I must be one. It seems that God has been listening all these years, but almost cartoon-like, tapping his fingers on the desk, rolling his eyes and waiting for me to, well, shut up.

The reality of my sacred space with God is that I now covet and protect my time with him.

My rapport with God has now taken the form of

acknowledging God for who he is, earnestly seeking his intervention into my life, and sitting quietly, waiting for ...

Well, I’m not sure if I am expecting an audible voice, but I do know that in the silence of waiting, my thoughts have taken me to God-places that I would never have thought of. God has intruded my inner-most thoughts, provided me with solutions that I didn’t think of, and led me to people that I can learn from.

I know that prayer is a conversation. But my desire is not to talk over God. I want to hear his voice, I want clearly to know that he is directing me in every facet of my life and that he reigns supreme over all that I say and do.

After reading *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, I have learnt to engage with God wherever I am, taking time to thank him, to adore him, to seek his forgiveness, to bask in his grace.

It would appear that I am, in fact, starting to mature! Every day, every moment in the day, I can sense God’s presence and each of these moments becomes for me, a quiet sacred space.

recommended read

A BEAUTIFUL MESS

How God re-creates our lives
Danielle Strickland
Monarch Books, 2014



When I saw *A Beautiful Mess* in a bookstore recently, the title intrigued me. I had to read it. Little did I know how challenging this was going to be!

I could tell you about each chapter and the journey Danielle Strickland will take you through.

I could tell you that the questions at the end of each chapter may even stop you in your tracks.

But I would rather tell you that at the core of this book is a very simple biblical truth and I encourage you to read and rediscover that truth for yourself.

As I turned each page, I began to see my life from a different perspective. Initially, I had bought this book with the hope that Danielle would disclose a better, simpler way to find order in the “Beautiful Mess”, but she didn’t. At least she didn’t give a formula for success as we may understand success. I had my world turned upside down.

It was, in some ways, a back-to-basics lesson, reminding me to be who I was created to be. Nothing more, nothing less, but to remember my personal value in God’s eyes and trust him.

Seriously, this book should come with a warning: Control

freaks beware, everything changes!

But take note of the subtitle of the book: *How God re-creates our lives*. So don’t panic, Danielle invites us to trust that God’s promises are true and that he has something beautiful for our lives.

I had truly believed that my simple attempt to serve God required me to find a system to fit everything into my life. All of my effort was to be available to God to do whatever he wanted. Interestingly, I began to realise I had it upside down. I was doing exactly the opposite to what God had in mind.

Reading this book did, indeed, become a personal journey and I would encourage anyone who dares to take this book and allow

it to speak to their heart and soul.

– Major Angela Eyles
Contributing writer

Win a copy of this book. Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org to win our giveaway copy of *A Beautiful Mess*.

recipe

CORN AND ZUCCHINI FRITTERS

Recipe and photo by Elena Pobjie

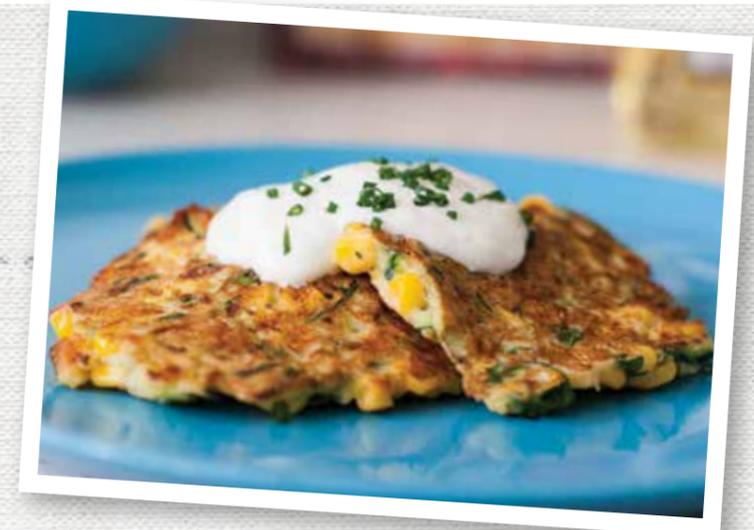
INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium zucchini
- 1/2 cup self-rising flour
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1/4 cup fresh continental parsley, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 can tinned corn
- olive oil
- Sour cream
- Shallots finely cut for garnish.

METHOD

1. Wash zucchinis and trim the ends. Coarsely grate the zucchinis. Place in a colander and squeeze out excess moisture. Transfer to a bowl. Stir in self-raising flour, egg, garlic, parsley, salt and corn.
2. Heat 2-3 teaspoons olive oil in a non-stick frying pan over

- medium-high heat. Scoop 1 tablespoons of zucchini batter for each fritter into pan. Fry until each side is golden brown and cooked through.
3. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towels. Repeat with olive oil and remaining batter.
4. Serve topped with sour cream and shallots. Enjoy!



a life returned

EVERYONE HAS A STORY ...

Denise Smart courageously shares her journey through a lonely and dysfunctional childhood, broken relationships and controlling abuse to being rescued by God and given a place of peace she has never known before

Born in 1950, I was institutionalised at 10 months of age with coeliac disease. I then contracted polio and spent the majority of my early childhood in Sydney Children's Hospital. I saw my family for two hours every Sunday which resulted in me having no emotional connection to my mother. I never believed or felt that she loved me. Desperate to be loved and nurtured, I was sexually abused at three years old and a target for a paedophile (family friend) from 14-18 years of age.

Coping techniques

Growing up in a suburb of Wollongong, a very motherly neighbour always included me when she took her four daughters to Sunday school. She was a pivotal and positive influence in my young life and I loved being with her family.

I had a vivid imagination and highly tuned fantasy world which was more real to me than life itself. I spent hours in that space where everything was good and I was loved. It was one of the strong coping techniques I'd developed in order to survive.

God seriously let me know that I belonged to him when I was 15, during a youth camp. The power of the Holy Spirit over-rode my emotions, mind and body and I found myself broken and sobbing at an altar call.

However, the following 18 years were quite horrific. I did the best I could for Jesus on my own, but I was emotionally, sexually and socially dysfunctional, living out the lies I believed about myself. I couldn't look in the mirror without disgust and loathing.

Power of motherhood

By 1983, I had given birth to three beautiful daughters. I clearly remember thinking that at last I had done something that society valued – I had become a mother.

After the marriage to my daughters' father fell apart, I made a vow to God that I would give all of myself to him and solemnly covenanted with him that I would bring up my little cherubs to become beautiful, compassionate, kind, independent and strong women. God and I were a team. The girls, now as young women, are all that I had envisioned them to be. God is faithful!

Pushing through incredible guilt, shame, depression and suicidal thoughts, I did the best that I could. I made some great choices – studying the Scriptures, learning to pray and worshipping God with all that I was.

However, I also made some bad choices. The lies about myself, along with my coping mechanisms, were controlling me and my choices in life.

From 1983 to 2002 I was a single mum. I loved being a mother.

The girls' father was faithful to his daughters financially and emotionally, doing the best that he could.

During that time God continually had to rescue me from disastrous relationships and situations that I was powerless to avoid.

I spent four of those years in a fledgling Salvation Army corps at Tweed Heads. It was the first time in my life, at 42, that I was honest with myself, my leaders, my peers and with God. I diligently worked through the Twelve Steps program, taking ownership of my actions instead of blaming others. I was happy. That corps was another pivotal, positive influence in my life.

Cult control

Returning to my initial pentecostal church, I stepped into more leadership roles, including worship leader. Importantly, though, it was there that I met the man who, after seven years of being my best friend, became my second husband.

After some time we left this church and joined a smaller church that, one year later, traumatically split into two as a result of the breakup of the pastors' marriage.

We chose to follow the woman leader who quickly began showing strong, controlling, manipulative and cultish behaviour patterns.

At her instigation I left my husband, was ripped apart from my



“I was distraught, losing my mind. Death seemed a far better option”

PHOTO: Kathy Hughes

children and grandchildren, moved into a flat with her and became her personal assistant. I was not permitted to grieve nor return to any of my “old” ways, but rather to do her bidding without question. After three years of this relentless, fear-based and controlling situation, I was unable to make a decision, have an opinion or contact my family without her agreement or initiative.

My love of worship, reading the Scriptures and praying was crushed. I didn't even know if God still loved me. She repeatedly said I was of the devil. She would scream at me, right into my face, while I was curled up in a foetal position in a corner of the room, sobbing. I was distraught, losing my mind, bereft of comfort and hope. Death seemed a far better option. Not even considering that I could escape, I continually cried out to God for his help.

Through a complicated raft of circumstances, I found myself in Brisbane in August, 2012. I was an absolute “basket case” and very unwell. I received a couple of extremely abusive phone calls from the cult leader but it slowly dawned on me that God had rescued me, yet again.

Starting again

I began a new life. I was 62, alone, fearful, grieving deeply. I had lost every possession I owned, bar one suitcase of clothes, my guitar and a box of photos

of my girls. I couldn't stop crying, was edgy and had severe panic attacks over the smallest of things.

In spite of all that, over the next three months God returned my life to me – my daughters, grandsons, my ex-husband, my own little home and work. He restored my identity, gave me new friends and built a network of strong, stable professionals around me.

A Salvation Army chaplain visiting the Family Store where I was volunteering listened to my story and suggested I might fit in at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission. He was right! During my first chapel attendance, 24 September, 2012, I sat with tears streaming down my face, listening to other attendees tell their horrific stories of suicide attempts, hopelessness, desperate loneliness and mental illness.

I knew I belonged there. I had come home. God had led me back to The Salvation Army's comforting ethics, safety, non-judgmental acceptance and love.

On 25 September 2014, I was enrolled as a soldier. How amazing is that! I have been volunteering there regularly for two and a half years and have also been employed on a small part-time basis.

I don't know my future, but God does. I've got a peace now that I've never really had before. I am happy. I am finding out who I really am, and no longer believe the previous lies that used to control me. I am a work in progress, and so grateful to Brisbane Streetlevel, The Salvation Army and to God for who he is and all he has done for me.

ABOVE LEFT: Denise and her three girls in the early 1980s.

ABOVE: Recently enrolled as a senior soldier, Denise says she has found peace at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission.

What keeps us from having deeper friendships?

THREE THINGS SABOTAGING OUR NEED FOR GENUINE CONNECTION

words DREW BROWN photo SHAIRON PATERSON

In an era where many of us have a million social media “friends” but no-one to hang out with on a Friday night, deep friendships have become increasingly rare. Our generation is kind of screwed up about friendship. I’m screwed up about friendship. We often have a hard time cultivating real, face to face friendships. Why do we all feel this way? Here are three enemies that keep us from having deeper friendships:

1. FORMING IDEAL LIVES ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FEEDS

We’ve accumulated an entire database of friends, retaining names and facts but omitting relationships and memories. “Hey, remember that one time we chatted on Facebook and shared the Google image of that beach we both want to go to?” Yeah, neither do I.

The Internet has afforded each of us dazzling lives that aren’t ours. It leaves out the run-of-the-mill so we look like some sexy, adventure-seeking, friend-getting machines.

The Internet has afforded each of us to live dazzling lives that aren’t ours. One scroll through my Instagram will show you California, Oklahoma and Colorado — outdoors, mountains, weddings and playgrounds.

However, it won’t show you Netflix, lonely Friday nights, textbooks or that one night I spent sick in the bathroom three weeks ago. It leaves out the run-of-the-mill so we look like some sexy, adventure-seeking, friend-getting machines. We know the real story behind our own social media

accounts, but somehow, we think everyone else’s life is more exciting than ours.

We are all mad scientists creating Frankenstein when it comes to social media modeling: the life we create turns its head, opens its eyes and becomes a monster. We start feeling down if we can’t find something worth posting on a daily basis.

On top of all of that, am I trying to be a cool, culturally aware Christian on social media just because I want more followers? After all, there’s nothing like being affirmed by a few hundred Twitter followers that I’m a good Christian. I tweet because I’m self-conscious.

2. THINKING WE HAVE TO BE BEST FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE

I grew up thinking that because I was a Christian, everyone had to be my best friend. I had to like everyone, and everyone had to like me and know my life story and be my accountability partner.

By the time I made it to college,

I couldn’t do it anymore. My inner circle was as wide as the Pacific, and I didn’t have the relational energy to build a bridge across it.

I’ve since realised that Christians misrepresent friendship when they claim everyone is their friend. Jesus was not friends with everyone. Christ had his three, his 12, and his 5000. He did not suffocate with FOMOOF (fear of missing out on friendships). There were probably some great men and women in the crowd of 5000 who sat eating the fish and loaves, but Jesus was purposeful about being with the 12.

Today there’s an extreme pressure to get to know everyone. We feel like we aren’t being fair to others if we grow deeper with one person and not another. We feel the need to spread ourselves out among 5000 rather than with three.

I can only be friends with so many people, and I waste my time trying to be everything for everyone and end up being nothing for anyone, sitting alone watching *Friends* re-runs on a Friday night.

In order to understand how to have real friends, we must learn how to start small and remain intimate.

3. USING TECHNOLOGY AS A CRUTCH

I can only be friends with so many people, and I waste my time trying to be everything for everyone and end up being nothing for anyone.

Before the invention of the air conditioner, families would spend hot summer nights sitting out on their porches and talking with the neighbours. Before the Internet, there was a sharing of communication through printed books and interviews (R.I.P. bookshops). Before mobile phones, there were landlines that only talked and didn’t text. Before the GPS, there were maps and gas stations. And before Netflix, there was Blockbuster (R.I.P. again).

The modern world is becoming more and more efficient with work and less and less meaningful with human interactions.

No friendship is based on efficiency. Friendship is spending time

with someone, intentionally setting aside time to look someone in the eye, to hear their voice and to watch their eyebrows furrow or cheeks get red.

It is not an efficient exercise; in fact, friendship *necessitates* inefficiency. It is days spent gazing at ocean waves rather than filling out job applications, evenings spent drinking coffee with a friend rather than writing an essay, school nights spent watching sports or movies or playing games rather than studying or reading or sleeping. Jobs are practical. Getting good grades is practical. Networking is practical. Friendship is not.

If God were practical, I think he should have given up on me a long time ago. But he calls me his friend. And friendship is not easy, simple or practical.

This first appeared as a blog at dbrown.wordpress.com and was published online at relevantmagazine.com/life Printed with permission.



PHOTO: Shairon Paterson

“The modern world is becoming more and more efficient with work and less and less meaningful with human interactions”

Find your MINISTRY

'Tis the season to show love



PHOTO: Shairon Paterson

Interested in supporting International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March? Or perhaps you'd like to support a global campaign empowering women, or look at meeting needs in your local community?

Firstly, to find out more about IWD, with the theme this year of "Make it Happen", go to unwomen.org.au or the youth focused unyouth.org.au/tag/international-womens-day

Global effort

IWD represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and girls, while calling for greater equality. Millions of girls and women globally are denied access to basic education and healthcare and grow up in crippling poverty, with little hope for a different future.

Consider the following options:

- Hold an event for IWD to raise money and awareness for a particular campaign or cause
- Look at The Salvation Army's International Development website for campaigns or sponsorships you could be a part of - salvos.org.au/said
- Campaigns against the sexualisation of girls and women in popular culture and media - collectiveshout.org

Local impact

Think about:

- Involvement with The Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery - endslavery.salvos.org.au
- Raising funds for a local women's refuge or safe house
- Starting a mentoring group for girls in your local community
- Babysit or mow a lawn for a single mum or talk to the girls at school who spend a lot of time alone.

You can help women, young and old, far away and nearby, achieve their dreams, one step at a time. Be a part of helping to make it happen!

REFLECTION:

Potential – an interesting word!

I have a friend who is an amazing and anointed worship leader, whose musical knowledge and ability enhances worship in an incredible way. When she was 14, her teacher called her out of class to speak to her.

"I see great potential in you," the teacher said. "Elective Music is demanding, but you can do it. And more than that, I'm going to stretch you, to push you to go deeper with music because I see your potential and I am confident that you can do it."

And my friend believed those words.

My friend may not have gone on to realise her potential had someone not believed in her and encouraged her to develop her God-given gifts.

God has placed in each of us potential for great things for the Kingdom.

I recently heard a comment about a young woman who is addicted to drugs: "She had so much potential". We cannot use the past tense in relation to a word like potential. While a person is alive, there is

the potential for great things to happen in the future!

God is the ultimate potential realiser. Our God is the God of the "awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things" Ephesians 3:20 (*The Voice*).

God's power at work within us is what helps us to reach that God-given potential and develop the gifts he has given us to use for his glory. Developing these talents will not always be easy, and at times will require perseverance, but know that God is at work in you, helping you to reach that potential.

If you don't know what unique gifts God has given you, why not pray and ask God to reveal them? Are you musical? Do you have a heart for justice? Do you love working with children? Do you like to bless people with random acts of service? Then ask God to help you develop the heart he has given you, and don't forget to encourage others to develop theirs along the way!

Lieutenant Vanessa Hunt
Team Leader, Waterloo Mission



PHOTO: Shairon Paterson

YoungWIT Galatians 3:26-28: "In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ" (The Message). [#equality](#) [#human-rights](#) [#freedom](#)

MUSIC REVIEW

Bethel Music – We Will Not Be Shaken

Bethel Music, the worship ministry of Redding, California-based Bethel Church, has birthed a deeply, passionate worship album.

This latest album can be summed up in the lyrics from the album track, *Who Can Compare To You*: "Who moves my heart the way you do".

Pouring out of this 11-track album are lyrics and musical arrangements written by a collection of songwriters whose hearts have been captured by the love of Christ.

These songs are devoted to lifting up the name and power of Jesus and the lyrics express a deep love for God. Two highlights – titled track, *We Will Not Be Shaken* and *Ever Be* – both

capture these passions. The album is recorded live and listeners are given a taste of this atmosphere when the congregation sings *Jesus, We Love You* a capella in unison.

There are number of unique voices heard on this album. The harmonies in *You Are One Thing* add another level to the lyrics that paint a picture of walking with Jesus. In *No Longer Slaves*, we hear the raspy male voice of Jonathan Helser. While Jonathan's voice has its own flavour, it's more distinct when he passionately worships, and this is evident when he sings "I'm no longer a slave to fear".

We Will Not Be Shaken can be purchased for \$16.99 on iTunes.



BOOK REVIEW

The One Year Devos for Teen Girls

When reading the Bible, do you know where to begin? Should you start at the Bible's first book, Genesis? Or how about skipping ahead to the Psalms? And what about reading the New Testament?

If you're unsure of what to read, *The One Year Devos for Teen Girls* by Dannah Gresh and Suzy Weibel (Tyndale, 2013) has it worked out for you.

Every day for 12 months, you can read a different devotion that focuses on topics specifically relevant to your season of life.

If you're being bullied at school or are looking for dating advice, Dannah and Suzy teach straight from the Bible on these topics.

Each devotional includes a Bible passage and then explores the verses

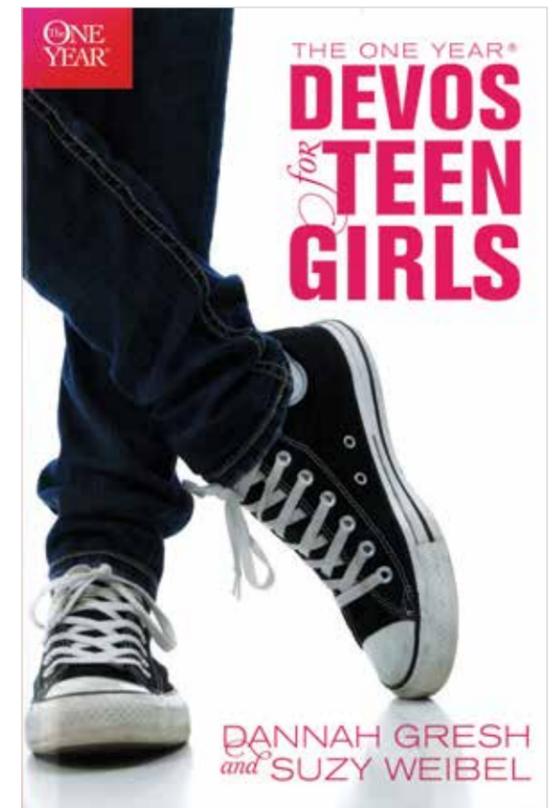
and explains them in a modern context.

Whether they are giving advice about how to have a relationship with God, the importance of having a servant heart, how to face consumerist temptations or dealing with anxiety or depression, the authors reference modern films, culture or news to relate to their audience.

Many of the devotions are practical – the book includes a series on social media, advice for navigating the internet and how to use the online world wisely.

At the end of each devotional there's an action plan. The authors ask you to take the biblical truths you've read and live them out.

The One Year Devos for Teen Girls is available at Word bookstores for \$16.99. Go to word.com.au



WIN OUR GIVEAWAY COPIES!

Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org for a chance to win our giveaway copies of *We Will Not Be Shaken* and *The One Year Devos for Teen Girls*.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Catherine Plummer of Hannam Vale Corps, who has won our giveaway copy of last issue's CD, *When Christmas Comes*, by Kim Walker-Smith.

God's planning for our lives

The mother of the present General, 87-year-old Commissioner Hilda Cox-Chevalley, lives in a quiet apartment two hours from London. The General's father, Commissioner Ron Cox, promoted to glory in 1995, served General Eva Burrows as Chief of the Staff between 1986 and 1991. During that time Commissioner Cox became the World Secretary for Women's Organisations. Here Commissioner Cox reflects on the circumstances surrounding her son, André, becoming the world leader of The Salvation Army

When the news of André's election as General was announced, the immediate reaction from friends and colleagues was one of joy. Many people greeted me with their congratulations and the words: "What wonderful news. You must be a very proud mother!" But my reaction wasn't quite like that. I felt a deep and

overwhelming sense of God's blessing and faithfulness.

I thought of the generations before me and what God had done and been to our respective families. I was experiencing the words of David, in Psalm 119:90: "Your faithfulness continues through all generations."

I thought of my husband's family. His grandfather was one of the first converts in Canterbury Corps. I

thought of my paternal grandparents, who were among the first Salvationists in Yverdon, Switzerland, in 1882.

I thought of my own humble farming family background. I am one of six children; four of us became officers in The Salvation Army. I thought of André's wife Silvia and her family, the contribution they made and still are making in Switzerland and other countries.

I marvel at God's planning for our lives.

Family life

In July 1953, after two years as corps officers at Blackpool South, Ron and I were appointed to Salisbury Corps, Southern Rhodesia. Pierre, our first-born, was just nine months old. One year later André was born in Salisbury. Our daughter Yvette was born in 1957 in Chiweshe.

After two five-year terms spent in that wonderful land where, when faced at times with difficult circumstances and needs, we experienced God's blessing and unfailing love and care, we returned to England.

My husband was appointed to International Headquarters as under-secretary for Africa under Commissioner Arthur Pallant. Later, in 1973, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, we, with Yvette, returned to Rhodesia – Ron as general secretary and later chief secretary for that territory.

For the first time we were to experience long separation from our children: Pierre at Portsmouth University and André in Geneva. Three years later, Yvette returned to London to train as a nurse.

These times of separation were some of the most painful experiences of my life. So imagine my happiness when, on New Year's Eve 2011, for the first time in years, we were complete as a family, playing games and preparing to welcome the new year together



in Bern, Switzerland. Soon everyone would be returning to their respective homes, including André and Silvia on homeland furlough from South Africa.

The telephone rang and because it was late, André went upstairs to answer it. When he returned he assured us that everything was all right and joined in the games again. No one suspected what an emotional and spiritual rollercoaster lay ahead for us as a family, nor where it would end.

When the embargo was finally lifted on that telephone conversation, André told me that he was appointed Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland and would be near me.

Imagine how I felt! For the first time in 33 years we would be able to meet together as a family a little more often!

However, my bliss was quickly tempered. Within 10 months, General Linda Bond appointed André to be her chief of the staff. Five months later, following the retirement of General Bond, André's first responsibility was to call a High Council. My joy at the certainty of at least being under the same part of the sky together was fast disappearing.

However, I had to put aside quickly my own personal anxieties and concerns and focus every thought and prayer on the forthcoming High Council.

I never suspected nor prayed nor desired that my son should become General. I thought that being chief of the staff was enough to cope with!

If André should no longer be chief of the staff and had once again to leave the country for another appointment, then I had to accept that.

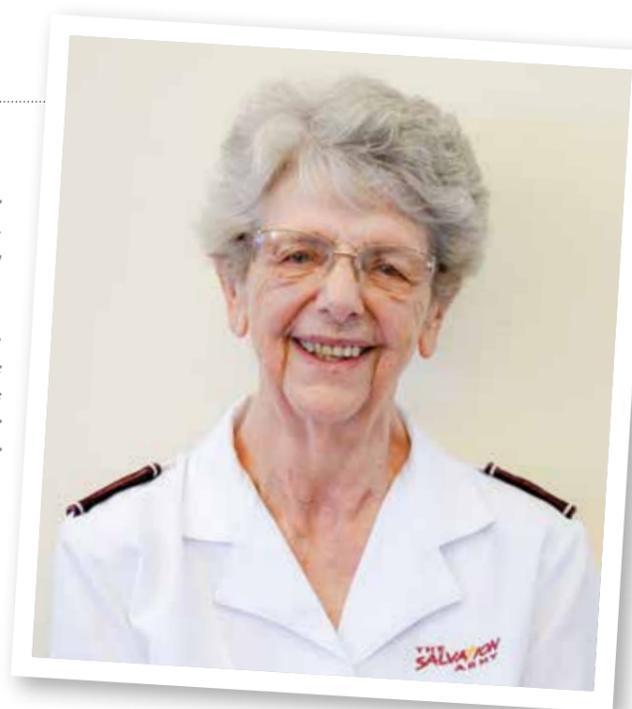
Early officership

To understand how I arrived at this level of acceptance you need to be aware of my own experience of officership. In 1949 I was commissioned as a probationary lieutenant and sent with 2nd Lieutenant Iris Gregory to Exmouth Corps.

A couple of months later I received an invitation from Commissioner John Bladin, my training principal, to go to Denmark Hill and spend a few days with my cousin, Paulette Chevalley from Switzerland, who was caring

RIGHT:
Commissioner
Hilda Cox-
Chevalley

FAR LEFT:
A family portrait:
General André Cox
(right) with his
parents, older brother
Pierre and younger
sister Yvette.



for Mrs Bladin. I readily accepted, of course.

On the first evening I decided to take a walk around the quad. Captain John Elsworth, who knew me, came out of one of the houses for men cadets and introduced me to a young lieutenant, Ron Cox, who had come out of the second house.

John informed me that the lieutenant had just returned from a cycling tour of Switzerland. So photos were produced of many places I knew.

Somehow my sleep that night was very disturbed. This happened at a point in my life when I was beginning to understand the realities and demands of being a Salvation Army officer.

Iris had just been given permission to correspond with Lieutenant Eric Standing. I thought how fortunate she was. This explains why, in the early hours of the next morning, I went down to the assembly hall and knelt at the very long mercy seat. Had God called me to a life without marriage or not? It was such an intense wrestling with God that 64 years later, I know exactly where I knelt.

High Council

The evening before the High Council, I rang André to say I hoped all would go well organisationally and that the Holy Spirit was keeping me focused in my prayers.

When it was clear that a new General was to be declared, I went to Yvette's house where she was

streaming the video link from the High Council to her television, iPad and smartphone.

Just as the doors of the council room were opening to reveal the new General, all three screens went blank.

Suddenly Yvette shouted: "It's André!" When I realised it was André who had been chosen to be General, I started to cry – tears of relief. I suppose I am a little selfish but I said: "Thank you, Lord, for keeping him a little closer".

Am I a proud mother? Of course I am proud – just as I am of all my children, grandchildren and their families – but share my deep emotion of thanksgiving and blessing when, at the end of their welcome meeting, André and Silvia made their way to the mercy seat to pray.

Unknowingly they knelt at the very same place where I had prayed in 1949. A circle of dedication began to grow around them as other members of the Cox-Chevalley and the Volel families joined them there with other members of the congregation.

Praise, vision, strength, dedication and obedience are gifts from God. I pray that André and Silvia will claim and receive these daily and continue to experience the deep joy and peace of God's richest blessings.

The full version of this article first appeared in *Salvationist* 9 August 2014. Commissioner Hilda Cox-Chevalley was interviewed by Ron Thomlinson

I will survive

SALVOS WOMEN TERRITORIAL PROJECT 2015 – UKRAINE



Every year thousands of girls leave orphanages in Ukraine where the majority have lived for most of their lives. Although the state offers assistance in the form of a room to live in and further education, an almost total lack of life skills or understanding of the world outside the orphanage leaves these young girls extremely vulnerable.

Many girls end up on the streets at just 16 years old, selling their bodies just to keep themselves alive. Many others are trafficked overseas.

The Salvation Army in Ukraine will use funds raised through the Salvos Women Territorial Project 2015 to help to keep young women leaving children's homes off the streets and give them basic skills for self-sufficiency. This will enhance their chances of finding employment and surviving in a world which can be predatory and brutal.

What every girl wants

"Through assisted living in small groups, we aim to teach the basics of "what every girl wants" – skills such as cooking, sewing, hygiene and budgeting," said Major Annette Rieder-Pell, Divisional Director for Women's Ministries Ukraine Division, Eastern Europe Territory.

"Through encouragement, we hope to help young women reach their potential. By cultivating self-esteem and an environment of learning, we hope to enable education and better prospects for the future.

"I will survive' will undertake to offer an alternative to a life on the streets or as a victim of trafficking."

You can be a part of this today. Help us in this endeavour by raising funds to support this project.

"I want to thank the women of Australia for helping the young women of Ukraine who are forced to work as prostitutes," said Major Marina Zueva, Corps Officer, Lviv, Ukraine.

"Through The Salvation Army, these ladies will come to know Jesus and have opportunities for a better life."

Colonel Wendy Walters, Eastern Europe Territorial President of Women's Ministries, echoes these words.

"Thank you for the better life you are helping to ensure for these young women," she said. "So many of these girls turn to prostitution, seeing it as their only way to make money, and many others are trafficked.

"We want to help these girls as they are released from the orphanages and your help will make this project a reality.

"Ukraine is a beautiful country with beautiful people, struggling so much now with civil unrest and the economic situation and we want to do what we can to alleviate their pain.

"Please do all you can to raise funds so we can help these young girls move on and have a better life."

For more information, check out youtu.be/mwxQwAi4I-I

Funds raised through this project will offer an alternative to a life on the streets or as a victim of human trafficking

Q&A

WITH MAJOR DARLENE MORGAN, ASSISTANT REGIONAL OFFICER, HUNGARY REGION, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY TERRITORY

Major Darlene Morgan grew up in Canada, the third child of four to officer parents. The family moved many times throughout Canada, literally from coast to coast. Before entering officer training in 1995, Darlene and her husband, now Major Andrew, served as lay workers in Hungary for three years, assisting in re-pioneering the post-communist work there. Majors Darlene and Andrew are now leading the work in the Hungary Region of the Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory.

Women In Touch: Where were you appointed to, once you had finished training?

Darlene Morgan: We were surprised that our first appointment, in 1997, was back to Budapest, Hungary, as corps officers in the most challenging district of Budapest. It had high rates of crime, poverty, substance abuse and Roma (gypsy) population. The corps was within a Salvation Army men's hostel and we served there for five years. Our next appointment as corps officers in downtown Toronto, Canada, was similar, with the corps being within a Salvation Army men's addiction treatment facility. Next came a different appointment in the same location, as Family Program Counsellor within the treatment facility. We were then asked to return to Hungary in 2009 to our present appointment as Regional Officers. God leads and we follow.

WIT: What is your specific role there now and what impact would you like to have in this appointment?

DM: Andrew and I each wear several hats, more out of necessity than desire, as ministry has grown. Together with Andrew, leadership of The Salvation Army in the Hungary Region is the broad umbrella, but under that I have responsibility for candidates, officer training, corps ministries, women's ministries, retired officers, international liaison and united events. I would like to impact our officers and leaders by being a good support and assisting them to be creative for God's Kingdom.

WIT: Where do you see God working the most in the Army in Hungary?

DM: It seems there are new opportunities all the time! We are blessed to have the support of local governments for our social ministries, and the recognition that the spiritual component we offer is valuable. This has opened many doors, to ministry with Roma, anti-human trafficking networking with other agencies, puppet ministry in schools and prison ministry. Our social ministries are very strong, always with a strong spiritual component and well connected with each closest corps. This is vital to keep to the main goal of saving souls.

WIT: What are some of the biggest challenges for you in serving overseas?

DM: Language. We are highly functional in Hungarian now, but continue to make lots of mistakes and learn. Working within a society that has a different mindset than my own as a Canadian is challenging. I respect the Hungarian way of thinking and offer my viewpoint and suggestions, recognising that I am a foreigner.



TOP: Majors Darlene and Andrew Morgan (left) with cadets from the 2011-2013 session.



LEFT: Majors Darlene and Andrew Morgan.

WIT: What are some of the greatest joys and rewards of overseas service in Hungary?

DM: It is a joy and reward to be part of so much development and growth. This is a blessed time in the Army's history in Hungary, and we are privileged to be part of it. It is a blessing to be accepted and loved by the people. They have been so gracious to us.

WIT: What are some of the biggest lessons you have learned in your Christian journey in general and your overseas service specifically?

DM: To trust God and not worry about how he intends to work things out. He knows what he's doing and desires good things for us.

In my overseas service specifically, the biggest lesson I have learned is actually the same. The "overseas factor" maybe has had less impact than the "regular" challenges that come along in one's growing and maturing in faith.

WIT: As you have served the Lord in different ways and places, how has he encouraged and strengthened you in all that you do?

DM: My sure calling from God has been my foundation. I sometimes feel under-qualified, overwhelmed and ill-equipped in myself for the tasks before me, but I have to trust that he has placed me here with these responsibilities according to his plan and purpose. If he wants something to happen, he will make it happen, even through me. Proverbs 3:5-6 have been my favourite verses since my teenage years.

"... empowering women is a frontline for building a more peaceful and just world. Enduring violence, discrimination and inequalities - which remain deep across the world - are major barriers to positive change, and we must act now and together to tackle them."

Irina Bokova
Director-General UNESCO
8 March 2014

