

# WOMEN In touch

## ACROSS THE GENERATIONS: UNITING THE BODY OF CHRIST

### ALSO INSIDE:

THE POWER OF WORDS  
FREEDOM – THE ONGOING JOURNEY  
A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE  
JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

## team talk

From the desk of the Territorial  
President of Women's Ministries

At the Captivated conferences this year, an inter-generational panel was conducted on the Saturday afternoon which was most interesting and helpful.

Trying to bridge the generation gap is a constant challenge, but is it really that hard?

Sometimes we are fearful about reaching out to another generation because of a lack of understanding or a fear of being rejected. But as Christians, surely this should not be too difficult?

Is it too difficult to try to understand? We can always ask questions and seek to understand. There is so much to learn from each generation and we enrich our own lives when we link up with another generation.

Is it too difficult to show respect to each generation? It is too easy to sit in judgment and criticise those who belong to a different generation.

It is time to honour each other and support each other – and yes, apologise for any indiscretion on our part.

The Scriptures speak so much about our need for each other. We are commanded to love each other, serve each other, build each other up, meet together, honour each other, share with each other, be devoted to each other, to live at peace with each other. We are better together. Each generation needs the other.

Paul writes in Romans 15:7: "... open your hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to you, and God will be glorified" (*J.B. Phillips New Testament*). The *Good News Bible* translates it this way: "Accept one another, then, for the glory of God, as Christ has accepted you."

We also have a responsibility to younger generations to ensure they know about Jesus.

Psalm 78 verse 4 records:

"We will not keep these things secret from their children; rather, we will tell the coming generation all about the praise that is due to the Eternal One. *We will tell them* all about His strength, *power*, and wonders", (*The Voice*).

### Reach out

Parents are the most effective educators for their children as they teach about Jesus and model Christian values. We want our children to value truth, grace, love, forgiveness, justice, generosity and so much more.

Too many children and youth live in homes where criticism, judgment, hostility, unfairness and lack of love and trust are the norm. How do these young people learn the true values of life and that God is a loving Father who sees potential in them?

It is the responsibility of parents, but also of every Christian. What a joy to tell coming generations about Jesus.

As we consider the generations, I challenge every woman to be proactive in reaching across the generations and discover the richness and encouragement that comes as we get to know each other.

May you experience great joy as you do this.



Commissioner Jan Condon  
Territorial President of  
Women's Ministries

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### A life transformed

Rachel, proud mum of Alyssa Roze, pictured below, shares her journey through drugs, alcohol and sexual assault to a life of hope, confidence and purpose in Jesus.



Photo: Shairon Paterson

## about this issue

from the editor's desk

During the Captivated conferences in Sydney and Brisbane in March, eight women from across the generations formed a panel to discuss issues ranging from how different generations can respect, understand and appreciate each other more deeply; to how to close the generation gap and connect more intentionally with each other.

As well as lively and positive discussions, there was a heartfelt apology from older to younger women, an equally heartfelt response, and an obvious desire to build effective cross-generational relationships for the sake of the gospel, and personal spiritual development.

What was not surprising was the need and desire each generation expressed to have the support, encouragement and understanding of other generations. What was somewhat surprising, but encouraging, was the level of passion and commitment to identify and overcome some of the barriers preventing this happening and to move forward in unity and grace.

In our main report, *Across the generations* we explore some of the questions asked during the panels, the answers given and conclusions reached. In future issues of *Women in Touch*, we plan to present some of the outcomes of this panel in terms of programs established, barriers overcome and relationships strengthened.

This issue also features two testimonies from young women who have struggled with drug and alcohol addiction and who now are serving God and determined to grow and serve others, free from the struggles of the past. The depth of their passion, conviction and gratitude to the Lord is refreshing and contagious.

Another young woman, Martha, shares a dramatic story of her mugging in the USA, and how God used that time to give her a sense of peace, the ability to witness to others, and the knowledge that there is always hope, regardless of circumstances.

Cadet Nicola Poore examines the power of words and their ability to hurt and destroy, or build up, encourage and positively transform.

Take a look at our news section and see what two Home League groups have done to encourage others and give hope and life – both here in Australia and across the world in Africa.

We hope you enjoy this issue and find a message of practical help, hope and encouragement within its pages.

Simone Worthing  
Editor

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#### Across the generations

Women from different generations discuss how to intentionally build closer relationships with each other for their own spiritual development, and to further the gospel.

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#### The dependent life

Haylee Jager openly shares how she has gone from depending on alcohol to depending on God and living each day by his grace alone.

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#### Words of life

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#### A matter of perspective

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# ACROSS THE GENERATIONS:

uniting the body of Christ

During the Captivated conferences in Sydney and Brisbane in March, Colonel Janet Munn in Sydney, and Major Julie Campbell in Brisbane, facilitated an inter-generational panel discussion featuring eight women from across the generations. The discussions focused on how women from different generations can respect, understand and appreciate each other more deeply, both for personal reasons and for the sake of the gospel; how to overcome barriers, close the generation gap and connect more intentionally; and what each generations finds valuable and motivating in cross-generational relationships. In the following pages are some of the questions asked, answers given, and conclusions reached.



All photos:  
Shairon  
Paterson

## INTER-GENERATIONAL SYNERGY

Throughout Scripture there are numerous examples of women working together inter-generationally to preserve life and advance God's purposes in the world. For example:

- A successful mother-daughter team: Miriam (Moses' sister) and his mother collaborated to protect Moses' life from Pharaoh's death decree. Along with the Hebrew midwives and Pharaoh's daughter, these women working together delivered the deliverer of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 1-2).
- Ruth and Naomi, a daughter-in-law and mother-in-law partnership: strategised together and became part of the family tree that eventually included the long-awaited Messiah (Book of Ruth).
- In the New Testament, the virgin teenager Mary met with her elderly barren relative Elizabeth, and they birthed the forerunner prophet, John the Baptist, and the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ (Luke 1-2).

These stories and more reinforce the multiplied influence and benefits of the generations working together to build each other up, honour one another and together share the Good News of God's saving work in the world.

*"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts", (Psalm 145:4).*

Yet, we live in a wider context in the world in which we often see fractured relationships between the generations. This shows up in disrespect of young to old and old to young; as competition, fear, suspicion, judgment, and dishonouring those of a different age or generation. Enmity between generations,

the so called "generation gap" is evident throughout many nations today.

At the end of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi concludes with the anticipation of one who will "turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents" (Malachi 4:6). This, he declares, is meant to become reality before the end of the age.

In the meantime, we are living in the time foretold by the prophet Joel and announced at Pentecost by the apostle Peter, of a further inter-generational work of the Holy Spirit:

*Your children will boldly speak the word of the Lord.*

*Young warriors will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.*

*Yes, in those days I shall offer My Spirit to all ...*

*Acts 2:17-18 (The Voice).*

In The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory, there is an increased emphasis on inter-generational mentoring in these days. This involves the generations deliberately investing in each other with an open-hearted attitude, in order to learn from each other and gain strength for the journey of life from one another. We've glimpsed this at the inter-generational panels at the Captivated conferences, and I hope to see it in greater measure toward the day fulfilment of Psalm 68:11:

*The Lord gives the word, and a great army of women bring the good news (New Living Translation).*



Colonel Janet Munn  
Training Principal  
School For Officer  
Training

## AN APOLOGY

During the Captivated by the Word conference in Brisbane, Commissioner Jan Condon, who sat on the inter-generational panel, surprised and humbled everyone with the following heartfelt apology:

One thing that has troubled and disturbed me is when older folk are critical of our youth. I want to apologise to our young people on behalf of the older generation – we have been too critical without understanding you. I also apologise that we haven't always supported you, and that we have hurt you by our criticism and lack of encouragement. I am deeply sorry.

Commissioner Jan Condon  
Territorial President of Women's Ministries

## A RESPONSE

After a standing ovation, Caylen Sagala, 16, the youngest delegate on the panel, spontaneously responded to Commissioner Jan:

On behalf of the younger generation, I am sorry for the percentage of us who don't recognise the capabilities of the older generation; I am sorry that we often ignore you because we have phones in front of our faces, and that we lose opportunities to interact with you and each other.

Thank you for providing for us and for still acknowledging us even when we do wrong or silly things.

We need you – you have gone through so much and we need you to embrace us.

Continue to embrace us, even when we don't acknowledge you, and continue to embrace change – you're amazing.

Thank you. We need you. I'm sorry.

Caylen Sagala, 16, Brisbane



# Q & A

## ACROSS THE GENERATIONS:

### WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ADMIRE, RESPECT OR APPRECIATE ABOUT THE OPPOSITE GENERATION?

#### FROM OLDER WOMEN TO YOUNGER:

- I admire the passion and enthusiasm of the younger generation; they're not afraid to try new things and embrace new technology. I enjoy being with them. The challenges they're faced with are different to my times and they have incredible wisdom at such an early age. They are towers of strength to me. I don't remember being as passionate about Jesus and ministry at such a young age. My life has been enriched by seeing younger men and women step earlier into what God has called them to do.
- I love that you are open and honest in your spirituality and experience of the Lord. You are more in touch with the Lord than I was in my younger years.
- I value you as risk-takers, who simply put God first.
- I admire your sense of fun!

#### FROM YOUNGER WOMEN TO OLDER:

- I love the courage of the older

generation to embrace new things, particularly new technology! I love their prayer, their huge devotion, their trust and how they have loved Jesus over the years as they've gone through so much. I love their courage to face so many changes, their deep spirituality, their consistency and faithfulness. As a worship leader, I love that they will embrace new expression of worship. I encourage you to continue to teach us in your wisdom and share your beautiful hearts.

- You can see the potential in us and can take on the role of nurturing us.
- We see and respect you; you're modelling a healthy Christian journey and come alongside us as people who've been there. We need to be disciplined by older women.
- I admire your faithfulness and how Jesus comes first. I love your honesty, passion and wisdom in how you challenge us.

### HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HURT OR DISAPPOINTED BY ANOTHER GENERATION?

#### OLDER TO ALL GENERATIONS:

- I have been hurt all my life because of the hurt to our race [Aboriginal],

and the hurt to my mother. Not all Christianity supported us. Mum pushed me to go to church and she assured me that Jesus was there. I saw inequality and injustice. Hopefully now I have greater wisdom and strengths I can pass down. I see sunshine, faith and hope for our younger generation.

#### YOUNGER TO OLDER:

- I have been disappointed. We young people are looking for mentors, heroes, someone to share our life journey with and invest in us. We didn't know that the older generation wanted to connect with us and didn't know how. Misunderstanding has kept us apart.
- I am disappointed in both generations when we undermine each other – when the older generation sees younger people and assume they can't do stuff; and the younger generations think that older people wouldn't know or understand. We need to communicate better.
- I am sometimes disappointed by the reaction of older people to my dreams and the response to "get a real job". We are a generation of dreamers and God works with that. Please encourage, support and empower us in that.

### WHAT FEARS OR BARRIERS WOULD YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME TO CLOSE THE GENERATION GAP AND CONNECT INTENTIONALLY WITH OTHER GENERATIONS?

#### OLDER TO YOUNGER:

- I would have to overcome my fear of the younger generation – fear that they are not interested in us and just think we're old with nothing to offer.
- The barrier of technology. Our generations must come together, or we will all lose.

#### YOUNGER TO OLDER:

- I would need to stop making assumptions or judgments and just be ready with questions to help me get to know a person.
- The fear of older people and that I don't have the life experience or don't know how to connect or what to say.

### HOW HAS SOMEONE FROM A DIFFERENT GENERATION INSPIRED YOU OR BEEN A ROLE MODEL FOR YOU?

#### OLDER TO YOUNGER:

- The younger generation inspire me with their fire for God, their energy and enthusiasm.

#### YOUNGER TO OLDER:

- An older lady, 70, in our corps inspires me. She is hungry for the gospel and is open to God doing new things in her life. She has more wisdom and experience than me, but comes alongside me as an equal.
- Don't be invisible – we need your nurturing and healing balm.

### WHAT MAKES UP HEALTHY, NOURISHING INTER-GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS?

#### OLDER TO YOUNGER:

- Being ready to meet the different generations where they're at. I love

our older Mainly Music team who are always ready to "boogie" with the toddlers and their young parents.

- Helping older people, particularly those who've retired, be aware that they are needed.

#### YOUNGER TO OLDER:

- Be willing to walk life's journey with others. In our corps we have an older couple who come to young people's events; they've had us over for lunch and dinner; they chat to us and ask how we are. As young people, we really want that support and to have older people journeying with us.
- Developing teams of mixed generations for ministry. For my own faith development, being part of a team of mixed generations at 14-years-old, made such an impact.

### WHAT HAS BEEN GAINED WHEN WE START WORKING TOGETHER AS GENERATIONS?

#### OLDER TO YOUNGER:

- There is harmony in our relationships as we respect each other's needs and wants.
- From my Aboriginal experience, we have our aunts, who are just like our mums, and our uncles, and there is a loyalty passed down from mothers to children. There is strength in this. It is this strength that is helping us to find out families and draw them together again.

### IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO ANOTHER GENERATION?

#### OLDER TO YOUNGER:

- As all God's people, we need to put away our insecurities; put aside our pettiness over things. If we as God's people say we're going to rise up, we need to band together for this, as Salvationists across the body of Christ, and make Jesus' prayer in the Gospel of John, a reality.
- At the younger end of the older

generation, I have heard people say, "In my day we wouldn't have done it this way". We only know what we know in our day and it's not better or worse, it's just different. You all did a great job; you did what you did with what you knew at the time.

- Love the younger people. Honour your parents. Hold them and respect them. They have feelings just as you do. Be the generation of change the world needs.
- Be yourself and don't try to fit into a mould. Let God use the gifts he has given you. Technology has ruined our social life and interaction with each other. Let's get talking to each other again.
- Allow the next generation to do it their way. Encourage them as they do it.
- May all who come behind us find us faithful.

#### YOUNGER TO OLDER:

- Jesus valued everyone. We need to be there for one another and we all have something to contribute.
- We need you. God's left you here for a purpose. Find it and live it proudly.
- Don't underestimate how much of an influence you have on us. We don't always know what we're doing or where we want to go and we need your influence.
- Thank you. To the older generations, The Salvation Army is what it is today because of where you've taken us. We still need you. We appreciate your courage. I love hearing the stories of when you were young, about the Salvos on the frontline in war, the open air meetings, and the thought that we can win the world for Jesus. We've lost the sense of where we are missionally. We, the young generation, are passionate but conversations and relationships between the generations could help. We have energy, passion and technology but how can we get your wisdom and courage and be who we are missionally? >>>

**HOW CAN WE, TOGETHER, STRENGTHEN THESE INTER-GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS?**

**OLDER TO YOUNGER:**

- Encourage one another, understanding where each other is coming from.
- We all need affirmation. Reach out. Be prepared to laugh at yourself. Pray for each other and support each other.
- Know who you are in Christ. Understand that people are different and everyone has their own needs and wants. Be gracious; forgive each other's mistakes and don't expect perfection from people.
- From the Aboriginal perspective it's about respect. This is a two-way language and road and it's a long journey, but we are getting there. Incrementally build stronger people. We all have laws and customs. Let's share them. We are all custodians of land somewhere; this is the way of God.
- Be intentional about connecting with others who are new or different to you. We can make a difference to the loneliness in society. Look for ways to help people feel a sense of belonging.
- Be purposeful and inclusive of all generations, even if you don't understand their language or feel scared.
- Don't keep it superficial. Relationship is hungering for something deeper. Let's see a depth in people and communicate on that level.

**YOUNGER TO OLDER:**

- Be intentional about building relationships. It doesn't happen naturally.
- We have been great at compartmentalising ministries, but we have a mission together, to work for forgiveness, love, joy, and a purpose beyond ourselves. Already, purposeful inter-generational groups are changing our cities.
- Just say hi and ask how the person is! Don't just connect with people your own age - be intentional and over time you will build a relationship that is deep and meaningful and younger people will come to you when life gets tough. We want mentors, guides and someone to do life with.
- To my fellow younger generation I say intentionally make a choice to be intentional about your facing fears about the older generation. I would love to see the unity in diversity that we do have. Let's work through these insecurities and fears together.

## EMBRACING THE GENERATIONS

**C**aptivated is such an apt word for a gathering of women in love with King Jesus! This year I had the joy of attending the Brisbane conference and the privilege of being one of the younger guests on the inter-generational panel. Prior to the conference, I had thoughtfully prayed over and considered the questions we'd be asked and I arrived armed with notes and the courage to speak my mind.

One of the first serious questions was, "Is there a way in which you've

being in church and loving Jesus should have been the priority. As she spoke, all of my arguments and issues went out the window and I struggled to fight back tears as she addressed the issues and hurts I had held.

The resounding theme of the questions that followed was that we, both young and old, need each other. Yes, we are scared of what that looks like and of letting down our barriers. More overwhelming than fear however, was the longing to be believed in and supported by the other generations. The older women longed to be valued, included, and to feel needed and the younger to be considered, trusted and allowed to run with their passion and dreams.

### Mutual support and love

Isaiah 3:5 highlights the issues facing the generations today: "Everyone will take advantage of everyone else. Young people will not respect their elders, and worthless people will not respect their superiors" (*Good News Bible*).

The enemy would love to keep us separate, hurt and fearful, to make us feel unneeded and have us sit out for the count. However, if a company of women were to arise and start to include one another and fight against the issues, not the people, resolution and healing would be found.

Like Mary, a young girl, running to her cousin Elizabeth's house to share the news of the coming saviour and walk the journey with her, we too can run to one another, for advice and encouragement.

There was no competition or jealousy between Elizabeth and Mary, just excitement, support and love.

Our God has no rival in his bigness, goodness and power and so we need not rival with one another. Ladies, it's time to lay aside our insecurities, pain and fears and embrace the women around us.

**Amy Hefferan, Centenary Corps**

**"THE RESOUNDING THEME OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WAS THAT WE, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, NEED EACH OTHER."**

experienced hurt or disappointment from another generation?" Commissioner Jan Condon took the microphone first and started with an apology (see page five). She apologised on behalf of her own generation for not being supportive of the ideas, dreams and passions of the younger generations. She apologised for the people who have made a big deal out of uniform and worship styles when

## TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!



**I**delight in granddaughters dressing up in "fairy wings" and grandsons who love Buzz Lightyear, but my heart remains acutely aware of the need for little souls to be clothed in righteousness and that I have a part to play in ensuring that they learn how to put on the armour of God and shine his light in a dark world.

### Sowing well

Abraham planted the seed of our spiritual family tree and he began the pursuit of God's vision for him with nothing but a promise!

On my father's side of our family tree, faith was planted a number of generations ago when an alcoholic heard the gospel preached by one of William Booth's evangelists.

He claimed the promise at a village crusade and committed his life to Christ. This transformed his life and the life of his wife and his children – and beyond.

My Mum accepted an invitation to go to church as a young 15-year-old country girl working and boarding in town. She heard the gospel preached, accepted Christ and claimed the promise of eternal life.

There's a Chinese proverb that says, "One generation plants the trees, another gets the shade". When the Lord brought

my Mum and Dad together, they made a choice to continue to grow the tree of faith and by so doing they provided shade for their children and beyond.

### A choice

Last year, as David and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary, our family gathered for a celebration of thanksgiving and, together with the grandchildren, we built an altar of rocks. Each rock symbolised a person in our family, including great-grandparents, who had lived as people of faith and are now in heaven. One large rock at the centre recognised Christ himself. As the children placed their own rock precariously on this altar we claimed verse 4 of Psalm 78: "... We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."

### Examples

Albert Schweitzer, doctor and medical missionary in Africa, stated that in influencing others, **example** isn't just *one* thing – it is everything!

Ruth Graham Bell, the wife of evangelist Billy Graham, tells of her journey as a mother when her son Franklin was "off the rails". One day as she poured out her woes to the Lord, the

Holy Spirit clearly spoke scripture into her spirit - "Sanctify thyself so that they too might be sanctified" (John 17:19). She tells of how she rose from her knees in peace, with a new determination to live in holiness before the Lord and to commit her family to him.

### To infinity and beyond

Whether young or old, a friend, mother, aunty, or grandmother, BE what you have "learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me" and "put it into practice. And the God of Peace will be with you," (Philippians 4:9).

The challenges for the generations that follow are beyond our comprehension and seem almost overwhelming. The very best gift we can give to them is our own personal commitment and sanctification. Some of us may be quite new on the journey of faith. However, for all it is never too late to sow well for the blessing of the next generation.

As Buzz Lightyear would say, "To infinity and beyond!"

**Major Shelley Soper  
Territorial Officer Recruitment  
Representative**

## REFLECTION: The ripple effect

*One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4*

This verse challenges and inspires me to be an active part in creating an inter-generational disciple-making ripple effect. To be part of a powerful and intentional group of Christian women who experience the transforming work of God in their lives and declare and share it with other women.

Throughout my life I have been surrounded, taught, challenged and influenced by strong and committed Christian women – my Mum, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and daughter who have not only taught me about the love and faithfulness of God but also demonstrated it through the way they live. They are women who believe and live by the power of prayer and the promises of God's Word.

I also thank God for the women of all ages that he has placed in my life at critical stages to encourage, pray and share their experience of the mighty acts of God in their times of joy and pain.

As a mother and leader, I'm daily challenged and inspired to do my part in the inter-generational disciple-making ripple effect and pray that as I share my experience of God's mighty acts of love, forgiveness and power, that other women of all ages will discover his love and power for themselves.

As I continue to declare God's faithfulness and share the promises of his Word, I pray that the women in my family, division and beyond will be encouraged and influenced to continue to seek God with all their hearts. I pray too, that they will tell their experience of the mighty acts and love of God to others and we will see God's Kingdom grow wider and deeper every day.



**Major Julie Campbell**  
Divisional Director of  
Women's Ministries

## Women online

### Salvation Army safe house – taking action for freedom



The Salvation Army Trafficking and Slavery Safe House now has its own Facebook page. The page features regular posts updating readers on how to help fight for freedom for trafficked people and those experiencing slavery and slavery-like conditions; fundraising and awareness campaigns; monthly "Freedom News" reports; needs of the safe house; training opportunities; news from supporters and advocates; and much more. Look for "The Salvation Army Trafficking & Slavery Safe House" on Facebook and click "like" to join – [www.facebook.com/salvossafehouse](http://www.facebook.com/salvossafehouse)

### The Nordic Model Australia Coalition – tackling the demand for paid sex

What has become known as Nordic Model laws on prostitution were initially implemented in Sweden in 1999, within the Women's Peace bill. These laws criminalise the purchase of sexual acts, pimping and procuring and trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation and provide appropriate exit programs for those leaving the industry.

In the countries that have implemented Nordic Model laws – Sweden, Norway, Iceland and South Korea – there has been a massive decline in prostitution and a significant reduction in sex trafficking and organised crime.

Nordic Model in Australia Campaign (NORMAC), is calling on governments in Australia to introduce Nordic Model laws to end the exploitation of women, children and men in the sex industry, and provide comprehensive exit programs.

NORMAC believes that prostitution is not inevitable. It is fuelled by the willingness of men to pay for sex and undermines gender equality by commodifying women as sexual goods to be purchased by men. The coalition believes that the most effective solution is to tackle the demand for paid sex.

For more information, resources, news, and details on how to get involved, go to [normac.org.au](http://normac.org.au)

## Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS TO CATHERINE PLUMMER FROM HANNAM VALE CORPS WHO HAS WON OUR GIVEAWAY COPY OF *JESUS FEMINIST* BY SARAH BESSEY!

## recommended read

### A Holy Experience – Ann Voskamp

[www.aholyexperience.com](http://www.aholyexperience.com)

"I believe there is *more* than believing. There is *living* what I believe."

If you are seeking some words of inspiration, hope and grace, mixed with humour and the grittiness of real life, then the online journal of Ann Voskamp is a destination



I recommend. It is packed full of gems to get you passionate about living the Word. She has called it "a holy experience" – "because God has flaming bushes everywhere".

For me, reading her thoughts and ramblings has become somewhat of a burning bush experience. Often the heartfelt reflections on life and living what she believes brings me to tears or out loud laughter. Ann's way with words engages not only the imagination but also the heart.

I find this blog best read with a cup of tea in the "comfiest" chair I can find. I bring my Bible with me and let the recreation of reading her blog flow into time spent in the Word by using Ann's writings as inspiration for exploring God's love letter further.

Not only are her words invoking but so too are the beautiful images and photography she uses to illustrate this journal. What's more are the free tools and print resources that she shares with all. Her beautifully creative tools help with

memorising Bible verses. There are day planners, grace plans and resources to help count your blessings over the period of a year called Count 1000 Gifts that are well worth taking a look at. These could be used just for you, the whole family or even for your small group.

Ann has a unique voice and style of writing which sometimes verges on a stream of consciousness. This isn't everyone's cup of tea and took me a little while to get used to reading. This journal, written by a self-confessed mess, a farmer's wife and mother (who has now been named by *Christianity Today* as one of the leading 50 women most shaping the culture of the church today) might just inspire you to find your own voice.

**Lieutenant Katherine Mills**  
Currently on sick leave

## Borscht

Recipe and photo: Lena Pobjie

### INGREDIENTS

- 3L beef or chicken stock
- 1/4 medium head cabbage, cored and shredded
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 large carrot, peeled and grated
- 2 med. beetroot, peeled and grated
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3-4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon vinegar or 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Parsley, dill
- Sour cream
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil

### METHOD

1. Heat oil in a large frying pan. Add onion, carrot, beetroot, garlic. Sauté for approximately 5-10 minutes until vegetables have softened and cooked down.
2. Add tomato paste, sugar, vinegar (or lemon juice) and 1 cup of stock. Simmer for 10 minutes over a low/medium heat.
3. Meanwhile, bring the rest of the stock to boil in a medium saucepan. Add bay leaves, cabbage and potatoes. Boil for 5 minutes.
4. Add sautéed vegetables to a saucepan. Mix well. Cook for 10-15 minutes over a low/medium heat.
5. Take soup off the heat and let stand for 10 minutes before serving.
6. Serve soup garnished with sour cream and fresh herbs (dill, parsley).



"We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But we each have our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time."

*Henri Nouwen*



Photo: Sarah Harries

## Freedom – the ongoing journey

EVERYONE HAS A STORY ...

“Every day for the rest of my time here on earth, I will be walking in more and more freedom as God helps me let go of the areas of bondage in my life,” says Haylee, a self-declared recovered alcoholic who is now a support worker at The Salvation Army’s Dooralong Transformation Centre on the NSW Central Coast.

“I have gone more than two years without a drink, have been saved and transformed by God and am serving here at Dooralong – but that’s not the end of the story.

“There are still areas of bondage to work through, like forgiving myself, but by God’s grace, my journey will continue.”

### A broken life

Haylee gave her heart to Jesus when she was 14, and a member of the Australian Rosny Children’s Choir. “The founder and director was a sold-out woman of God and I gave my life to Jesus when we were on tour in 1995,” Haylee explains.

“I was baptised and remember feeling instant relief, like a burden had been lifted and that whatever it was I had been looking for had been found.”

Haylee remained close to Jesus until her first year of university.

“I started to compromise my faith then, and footholds of the enemy became strongholds,” she says.

“For the next 13 years I was totally

dominated by alcohol. I was still working and had a clean police record although I was a drunk, but in pride I was holding on to this stuff to excuse my mistakes and behaviour. If things got bad enough and my drinking became noticeable, I would just move states and change jobs.”

Haylee eventually reached a point where her life fell apart and she was completely broken and absolutely desperate.

“Physically I could no longer take on any more alcohol, although I still wanted to,” she explains. “Every time I lost something important in my life because of my drinking, it made me want to drink more, not less.

“Alcohol was killing me and even though I knew I did not really want to die, I did not want to live either. I knew my drinking had to come to an end, but did not believe it was possible for me to ever go even one day without alcohol.

“Somehow I had to let the old Haylee go.”

### Returning home

Haylee had her name down for three long-term rehabilitation programs and was desperate to be accepted into one of them.

“I knew in my heart that it would be The Salvation Army Selah Centre which has now been incorporated into the Dooralong Transformation Centre,”

*“I KNOW THAT I HAVE NO LONGER FALLEN FROM GRACE; I WALK BY IT.”*

says Haylee.

“I knew Jesus was calling me back to the place he had already intended for me, and to be the person he had created me to be.”

When Haylee came to Selah, she found a place of peace and restoration and again accepted Jesus into her life. She is now proud to say that she is totally dependent on him to keep her alive, both spiritually and physically.

“I have to be 100 percent dependent on God or I will drink again and if I do that I will die,” she says frankly. “I have to live this dependent life; it’s too risky for me to do otherwise.”

Haylee is thankful that God is continuing his work in her, and is patient, loving and forgiving.

“In the time that I have been sober, God has moved me from a place of desperate self-loathing to where I know and believe that I am the disciple whom Jesus loves; I am his treasured possession.

“He is leading me to greater areas of freedom as I learn to give him those things that I know I’m still compromising on,” she explains. “We all have those areas that we know God wants to talk to us about, but we don’t want to listen. Sometimes we just need to crawl back on to the altar, forgive ourselves, and let God free us from the bondage we’re in.

“I know that I have no longer fallen from grace; I walk by it.”

# Speaking WORDS OF LIFE

It’s been a long, wet, miserable day. Soggy socks, a cage-like classroom and the smell of damp. Scotch eggs for supper. Milk and stories by the fire. I sluggishly traipse up the stairs, admiring my chubby, sausage-like toes that have now regained feeling. Climbing into bed with a heavy sigh, my mother follows along closely behind. Oyster-like, she clasps my face with both hands and whispers in my ear, “You were born to change the world”.

This is how Catherine Booth bade her children goodnight. This is a delightful example of life-giving words spoken by one generation over the next. What child wouldn’t want to hear this? What person wouldn’t welcome this daily affirmation?

### Word power

Words have power. We know this from experience. Jesus knew this too, as we see in his interactions with his disciples. In John’s Gospel, some disciples were grumbling amongst themselves about their uneasiness with some of Jesus’ teachings. In response Jesus said, “Does this [teaching] offend you? ...The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life” (John 6:61-63).

Jesus described his words as “full of the Spirit and life”. By this we can understand there to be a life-giving quality about the words of Jesus. If Jesus’ words are “full of life,” then it assumes the possibility of words that are, “full of death”. If one gives life, then the other gives death. If one has a constructive quality, then the other is fundamentally destructive. If one invokes a blessing,

then the other pronounces a curse.

We must be clear on this; our words have the power to promote life or to prevent it. Without life-giving words, only those that are worthless or destructive remain.

This is not to suggest that we sugarcoat our language by using misleading, non-offensive superficialities. We need to be truthful. However, rampant criticism is quite often not-so-inconspicuously disguised. Sometimes harsh words of criticism or judgment are even excused by the dubious tagline that protests, “I’m just being honest”.

### From the heart

It is entirely possible to speak words that are both “full of life” and “full of truth”. After all, Jesus identified himself as the “life” and the “truth” (John 14:6).

As followers of Jesus, surely we want to be like him and emulate him in all things – including his patterns of speaking. What if we were to adopt the same measure? What if we measured our words against the standard of the Holy Spirit and life?

This is a matter of the heart, and not just the tongue. Jesus said that, “the mouth speaks what the heart is full of,” (Matthew 12:34). The quality of our speech is a direct reflection of the quality of our heart.

Let’s ask God to purify our hearts from all uncleanness. Let’s show restraint in when we choose to speak. Let’s be proactive in speaking words that are full of life and truth.

Here are some suggestions with which to implement this life-giving scriptural principle:

*“We must be clear on this; our words have the power to promote life or to prevent it.”*

1. Spend a day without speaking any words of criticism.
2. Participate in a fast from words. Speak only when necessary for a period of time.
3. Start the day with a prayer asking for a conscious and constant awareness that words have power. Seek God’s help to enable you to speak “words of life” (Psalm 141:3).
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind those times when you have failed to speak life-giving words. Seek the Spirit as to what action to take.
5. Memorise a passage of Scripture. Hiding the Word of God in your heart will enable you to access and harness the ultimate words of life as needed.



Cadet Nicola Poore  
School For Officer  
Training

## A matter of perspective

Last year I had the opportunity to go to the USA. While there, I went to a Hillsong United tour concert. The last song we sang was *King of Heaven*, with its final lyrics “Emmanuel God with us”.

The following morning I had a 5am flight to Nashville. I was staying at a friend’s place near the airport. At 4am I was up and ready to head off for another exciting adventure. I said goodbye, locked the townhouse and headed downstairs to the waiting cab (taxi) my friend had called for me.

### Early morning mugging

Just as I approached the cab, a young man in a ski mask and holding a gun, yelled out, “Give me your money”. He was on the driver’s side of the cab, telling the driver to give him all his valuables. For me, this was all happening in slow motion. I saw the guy with a gun and I heard him yelling, but it took me a second to realise that I didn’t want to get in the cab.

I turned around to head back inside, but I’d locked the door behind me and had nowhere safe to go.

The lyrics of the night before began to again play in my head - *Emmanuel God with us*.

A peace came over me and, just as that happened; another guy with a gun came from behind the cab on my side of the car. The guy with the ski mask was yelling, “Grab her book bag”.

The young man asked, “Can I have your book bag?” – so polite! He was looking very flustered and uncomfortable. I felt compassion for this guy and actually wanted to tell him he’d be okay.

I gave him my bag and said, “I’m



Photo: Shairon Paterson

on my way to the airport. I’m from Australia, I need my ID”.

He turned around and said, “I’ll throw it out the window around the corner”.

My friend came downstairs and called the police. We established that I couldn’t go to Nashville without money, as my wallet with my ID cards and \$200 USD was in my stolen bag, as well as my phone, iPod and other small items of value.

### Perspective of peace

An hour later I was riding in the back of a Newark police car on my way downtown to make a statement. Two police officers took me up a dodgy elevator to the fifth floor where there was a room full of detectives at work. They were finishing off paperwork on a triple homicide that had occurred earlier that night.

Initially, as I was telling my story I was in the main room. One of the detectives asked, “Are you in shock? Can we call someone? Why are you so calm?”

I answered, “Last night I went to church, and we were singing about God being with us! How can I be anything but calm?”

In all this I believe God gave me a choice. I was mugged! That’s a pretty horrid thing to happen. But having God

on my side changed my perspective. My friend was angry at the young guys who took my stuff and I could have chosen to hate the guys who mugged me, but I had the opportunity to “Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:28), which is an opportunity I otherwise would not have had!

And, I could be upset that I missed out on going to Nashville but instead, I got to share my faith and peace with eight detectives who had just had a hopeless night.

And I know for sure that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him! I think we’ve always got the opportunity to turn something around, to share hope, or love in a situation. Even if it’s praying for people who will never know you’ve been able to do that for them.

So next time you’re challenged by something that is not “good”, pray about how God can change your perspective and how he can get the glory in that situation.



Martha-Corinne Stumer  
Gold Coast Temple Corps

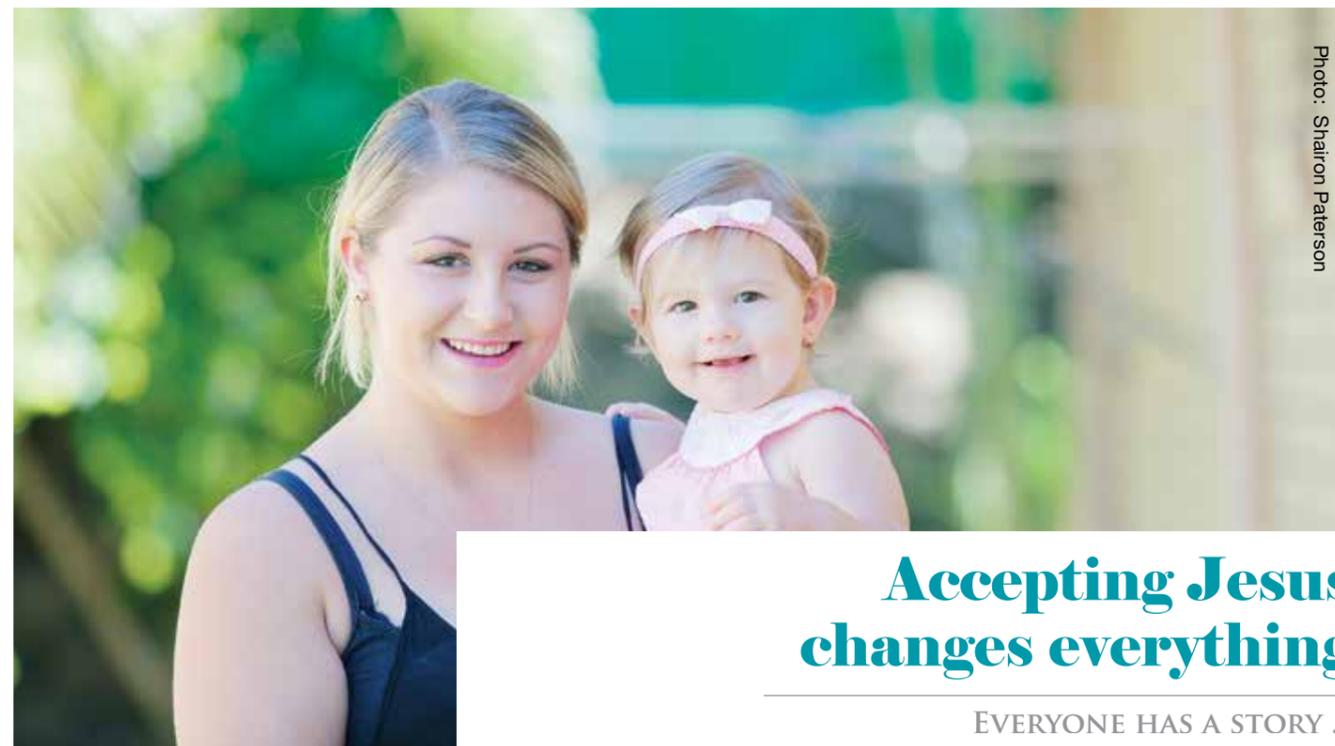


Photo: Shairon Paterson

## Accepting Jesus changes everything

EVERYONE HAS A STORY ...

The journey through drugs, alcohol and sexual assault was a dark and painful one, but Rachel has accepted Jesus, is growing in confidence and knows she is on the path God has planned for her

Rachel and her daughter Alyssa Roze.

I was brought up in a Christian home and I attended church regularly. I lost interest in going to church when I was about 13 as I felt like I didn’t belong and that no one wanted to be friends with me.

I occasionally went to my grandmother’s church where I became good friends with a boy. He pressured me to do things I didn’t want to do and when I refused he tried pushing himself on me. Thankfully, I got away.

My experiences with Christians and churches made me hate Christianity and I started to think that there was no God. I decided to explore the world and do things my friends were doing, so I started occasionally going to parties where I was introduced to drinking, smoking and doing drugs.

When I was 14 I was diagnosed with depression as I was suicidal and attempted quite a few times. I was made to go to a counsellor and was placed on medication. All the friends I had kept turning against me and saying things behind my back which pushed me further into depression. I hated my family because they didn’t allow me to do what I wanted to do. I eventually I moved out when I was 17.

### Brokenness

I started partying every weekend,

occasionally through the week and once I hit 18, I started clubbing. I was in and out of abusive relationships. I owed money for drugs and was always sick.

I was out clubbing one night and I was sexually assaulted. I ended up losing my job and started using drugs and drinking every day all day, completely isolating myself. I was totally broken and I didn’t think life could get any worse. I didn’t want to live anymore because of what happened that night.

I was placed in a mental institution for drug induced psychosis and was constantly in and out of such places. I then found out I was pregnant with the guy I was dating and living with, who I thought was perfect at the time. I soon quit drugs and alcohol but continued to smoke. I couldn’t abort the pregnancy and he wasn’t okay with giving up the baby for adoption, so we agreed to keep the baby.

He kicked me out when I was 10 weeks pregnant, saying he never wanted to see me or the baby again. I had no money and no house, so my parents kindly took me in. My relationship with them wasn’t the best, but they cared for me when I needed it most.

### Turning points

It was Christmas carols time at the Gold Coast Temple Corps; my parents were

going and I asked if I could come. My shocked mother, of course, said yes! Once there, she introduced me to a wonderful woman, Lieutenant Katie Harlum. I got on very well with her as she could relate to what I had been through and just understood me. She invited me to the Sunday service to hear her preach, and I surprisingly and quickly said yes. I had no idea why, but I am so glad I did!

I came every Sunday after that and finally felt as if I was home. I also started going to youth group on Friday nights even though at first I felt so different and thought nobody would like me.

I was nothing but loved and accepted from both Sunday church and youth group.

I finally accepted God into my heart and everything started to change. I stopped smoking and developed a good relationship with my parents. I am now attending Bible College and have friends that help and support me in every decision I make.

I know I am on the path God has planned for me. Every day I am growing and becoming more confident in myself and it is all because of God’s help. I now have dreams and passions and want to help people who are in situations I was in, and bring them into a relationship with God.



## Sweet surrender

Although complete surrender to God is something we can all struggle with, **Major Jo-anne Brown** shares the peace and assurance that comes from totally trusting God and letting go of our own agenda

**I**t had been a very lively discussion. We were studying Ephesians 5:21-6:4, you know, the verses that talk about wives submitting to their husbands, children obeying their parents, fathers not exasperating their children and so on. Challenging and often controversial in our day and age, but no less challenging in any era, I would guess.

We were a group of women, 50 years and over, except for one young woman in her twenties. We all have very different backgrounds and stories, but we realised we all came with one common underlying thread: we had all experienced the consequences of relationships not lived according to Paul's words in Ephesians.

### Surrender

I've been reflecting on the idea of submission. I often say, tongue-in-cheek, that submitting to my husband is relatively easy compared to his responsibility of loving me like Christ loves the church, of laying down his life for me and presenting me spotless and blameless before the Lord! That's a much harder task. It occurred to me that night that, while submitting to my husband is not always easy, submitting to God, consistently and wholeheartedly, is just as hard, perhaps even harder. And that's even when I actually do want to submit to him!

At the beginning of the year I had asked God to give me a word for the year, something that would help me focus more on my relationship with him. Many words came to mind, such as trust, and faith, or grow and hope, but I sensed that none of these were **the** word that God wanted to speak into my life. I pondered this during my early morning swims in the hydrotherapy pool and gradually I began to get a sense what it was that God wanted to draw me in to.

In the end it was an image that he gave me, more than a word. At the end of my morning work-out I like to lie on my back in the pool, arms spread out, face up to the sky, and just drift in the water. I know I can't drift too far because it's not a huge pool – and generally I am alone when I do this. I

feel quite safe. And this is the image he gave me – a swimmer, lying on her back, face to the sky, ready to go with the current wherever it would take her. The accompanying word was “surrender”.

### Utter trust in God

I had been reading about the monks of Ireland, who set off in tiny coracles (sometimes not more than a metre in diameter), sometimes without oar or rudder, and drift with the current until they found what they called “The Place of Transformation”, the place where God had called them to minister. Such incredible commitment and bravery deeply moved me, and while there is no way that I feel called to cross the seas in a tiny, rudderless boat, I do long to have that same sense of deep and utter trust in God.

There are moments when I do indeed throw myself into the arms of God and say to him, “Take me and do whatever you want in me”. There is a delicious sense of anticipation, a thrill of what could almost be fear but I hope is excitement, and I sense the current of the Holy Spirit leading me into new places. These are times of deep connectedness to God, of consistent prayer, of seeing fruit in my life in times of challenge as well as times of joy.

Such times, however, tend to be short-lived. I remember that there are reasons to be anxious, I remember that God's way is not always easy, I remember plans I have made or hopes I carry and I want to grab an oar (at best a good powerful outboard motor!) and get myself to somewhere I feel comfortable.

I always regret that. And I never regret wholehearted surrender.

I come back to Ephesians 5:21, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ”. Our calling is to live as surrendered people. When we come to faith, we ask Jesus into our hearts as our first great act of surrender. We surrender to him, his word and his Holy Spirit. We choose consciously to live his way, which means living in submission to our Christian brothers and sisters. We see in this submission the Church as the beautiful, radiant bride of Christ.

## Letting go

So this is surrender. I have followed the black line on the bottom of the pool to keep me going straight. I have chosen the black line so I don't meander all over the place or get in the way of other people. I swim steadily and slowly following the thick black line and all is neatly in order.

But You are calling me to surrender. To lie back in the water, face turned toward the sky, with my eyes closed. I can't see where I am going or where the edge of the pool is. Sometimes the water is turbulent as other swimmers pass me by, sometimes all is still and peaceful and I am on my own. My head bumps gently against the side of the pool and I push away again out into the centre.

This is just a pool. I know I am not going anywhere, that I am safely contained within its parameters. But the surrender You are calling me to has no safe parameters, other than your embracing arms. It means letting go of my own agenda, my own attempts to keep myself safe and to float instead on the everlasting arms. It means acknowledging that my own plans are second best and, even with my best intentions, can never be truly free of false motives. This is no longer about my swimming environment. This is my life – my whole life – the environment in which I have immersed myself and where I choose to be, despite all uncertainty.

The black line comes into focus beneath me but I don't see it. I am gazing heavenward and my gaze is held by the gaze of the Lover. I drift on his everlasting arms and know that whatever pathway, whatever current, he has chosen for me will be followed as I trust myself to him. And the warm water holds me, and the gentle current carries me and I am safe in the everlasting arms.



**Major Jo-anne Brown**  
Corps Officer, Calamvale

## Find Your MINISTRY

Let's all get along



Have you ever thought, "Do we really need to sing that hymn one more time? It's another Friday night at youth group and we're still singing the same old song. Why can't we sing something more modern?"

It's no secret. History has shown us time and time again, younger and older generations struggle to work together. What about when it comes to church leadership or working alongside an older peer in ministry? Do you respond to them negatively?

Here are some tips for working alongside older members of your church community in ministry:

### Honour your leader

Whether or not they disagree with your ideas, showing respect is the first step. If you want your ideas to be heard you can't expect your leaders to listen to you if you refuse to honour them. Show respect and they'll give it back. Even if they're not your leader, respect towards an older peer will go a long way.

### Don't tell them they're always wrong

Pointing out their faults will not help your ideas be used or appreciated. Firstly, encourage them and then share how you could improve their idea or provide another option. Don't simply dismiss them or their idea.

### You're not always right

It's important to be humble. While you might have good ideas, not all of your ideas will be successful. Respect the wisdom from older generations and accept constructive criticism where correctly given.

### Build a relationship

Getting to know someone is the key to working together in ministry. From the outside, you might view your older leader or peer to be outdated. You might be surprised however, to find out how much you enjoy working with them once you take the time to know them.

Esther Pinn  
Journalist, Pipeline and supplements

## Selfie!

Let's be honest, most of us love a good selfie! We'll be out somewhere and there's magnificent scenery behind us and we'll think, "This would make an awesome selfie!"

Or we're out with friends and someone pulls out their phone and calls out "selfie!" and everyone huddles in together and click, there's another selfie to upload onto Facebook or Instagram.

None of us want a bad photo of ourselves as our profile picture on Facebook, so we'll make sure it's the most glammed up selfie with a beautiful filter. (Thank goodness for filters on Instagram – they can make the worst photo look amazing!)

Over time, I've wondered if the craze of selfies is actually making us more selfish and self-centred. It can become all about us. The selfie craze has swept social media over the past five years, with stars, politicians and even Pope Francis posting shots online.

### Selfie obsession

Recently, I heard of a young man in Britain who spent 10 hours a day taking two hundred selfies a day in an attempt to get the perfect photo. When he couldn't, he attempted suicide. He dropped out of school, didn't leave his house for six months, lost a considerable amount of weight and

became aggressive with his parents and friends. He said, "People don't realise when they post a picture of themselves on Facebook or Twitter it can so easily spiral out of control. It becomes a mission to get approval and it can destroy anyone".

Now this is a pretty extreme example. However, I do think that each of us can learn something and be challenged by this. We need to ask ourselves, "Why do I take selfies?" Is it because we want to load it up onto Facebook or Instagram and see if heaps of people "like" it so we can feel better about ourselves?

### Accepted by God

It is important to remember that our creator God already loves and accepts us just the way we are. No amount of glamorous selfies will ever change that.

My hope and prayer for all of you women out there, young and old, is that you will know that your true value and worth comes not from how many people like your photos, but because you are a child of the great King!



Lieutenant Vanessa Hunt  
Mission Director  
Oasis Youth Centre Wyong



YoungWIT Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them," (NKJV). #generations #working-together #synergy

## Reviews

### MAGAZINE REVIEW

#### Bella

*Bella* is a magazine for girls aged 13 to 19 years old, that aims to provide young women with an alternative to the fake, air-brushed and explicitly sexual modern magazines that young women are constantly exposed to.

*Bella* encourages young women to be themselves, to find their true beauty and to forget about what mainstream media tells them they should be. It is a breath of fresh air that is uplifting and inspiring, compared with the damaging attitudes and trends imposed upon young women in mainstream magazines.

The *Bella* magazine is full of exiting and interesting information that is relevant to teens – modest and classy fashion ideas, tips for staying healthy, reviews, quotes and insight on life from older role models.

On receiving my first *Bella* magazine, I scanned the front cover and immediately noticed a difference. The girl featured on the front page was wearing appropriate clothing, her smile was genuine, focus wasn't drawn away by unneeded skin exposure and she wasn't as thin as a twig. She was beautiful

with nothing fake detracting from that truth.

One of the things that I really enjoy reading is the "Bella Wall". It's a page where photos, quotes, poems and thoughts have been contributed through social media by readers who are interested in adding their particular talents to the magazine. It's great to flick through the magazine and read some of the encouraging and inspiring things that other readers are sharing.

I also really liked how the pictures were beautiful and bold but not distasteful. Most pictures were set outdoors which really brings lightness to the whole magazine.

Instead of telling young women that they should look different, *Bella* encourages the uniqueness and beauty that comes from being an individual. A quote by Doctor Seuss that was used in one article sums it up well:

"Today you are you! That is truer than true. There is no one alive who is you-er than you."

I love this quote because of the positive message it sends to the readers. This magazine is truly a big change in the madness of modern media and is changing the minds of young women around the country.

I highly recommend *Bella* to any girl who is looking for a positive, interesting and inspiring magazine.



Charlie Capp, 15  
Camberwell Corps  
Melbourne, Victoria

### MUSIC REVIEW

#### Majestic – Kari Jobe

Like her previous two albums, Kari Jobe presents a collection of honest, raw and passionate worship songs on her new album, *Majestic*.

Recorded live, listeners gain a real sense of Kari's heart for worship. Co-writing with the likes of Jason Ingram, Ed Cash and Cody Carnes, Kari's lyrics on the *Majestic* album do not disappoint.

It's all about simple worship – the lyrics celebrate God's majesty and are an honest expression of our need for God. *Always Enough* really hits home with this theme in the bridge: "If I have You, I have everything, but without you, I have nothing."

Also, the lyrics in *I am Not Alone*, provide a similar experience of a heart-felt reliance on God: "I am not alone, I am not alone, you will go before me, you will never leave me."

*Forever* is one of the highlights of *Majestic*. The lyrics are devoted to Jesus's sacrifice and victory on the cross. Kari mixes up the vocals in *Holy Spirit*, where Cody Carnes offers lead vocals and Kari takes the back seat, singing some sweet harmonies.

If you purchase the CD/DVD combination you will have the full live



experience. Rather than a concert atmosphere, the DVD offers live worship that individuals can enjoy as a group or even alone in a quiet space.

The DVD also offers three additional tracks; an introduction and two songs from Kari Jobe's self-titled album: *You Are For Me* and *Revelation Song*. You will also get to hear the background stories to songs that listeners only hear when at a live performance.

The CD/DVD version of *Majestic* is available for \$24.99 at Word Bookstore. Visit [www.word.com](http://www.word.com)

## HOME LEAGUE REFLECTS DEEP SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

### South Queensland Division

When Eva Chivambiro from Dudzu Corps, Zimbabwe, visited her daughter, Getrude Marutawana in Brisbane in 2012 and attended the Pine Rivers Corps, little did she know the chain of events she would set in motion.

Getrude, her husband Charles, and their sons, moved to Australia from Zimbabwe in 2007 and have found safety, peace and contentment in their new homeland.

Getrude and Charles have both become senior soldiers at Pine Rivers. Getrude sings in the music team and Charles is the corps co-ordinator for the Salvation Army Emergency Services. The boys, too, are involved in the life of the corps.

Eva, who is Home League Secretary in Dudzu, attended the Pine Rivers group and was embraced by all the ladies there. "They formed a bond with Eva that has led to a desire to support her and the Home League at Dudzu," said Major Leonie Ainsworth, Pine Rivers corps officer.

Last October Bev Robertson, Home League Co-ordinator and her husband, Keith, went to Africa on holidays and organised to meet with Eva and her nephew Tino to see what support was most needed and how Pine Rivers Home League could best assist them.

"I took a basic plan back to Home League and they couldn't wait to get started," said Bev. "Their attitude was, 'At last we can do something!' It is wonderful to be able to do a little bit to help."

As a result, the Dudzu and Pine Rivers Home Leagues

became "sister" leagues.

"The Home League has recently sent a box of materials to Eva as they have a group of women involved in sewing activities who meet weekly to develop basic skills but not all the women can participate as they cannot afford the material," explained Major Leonie.

"Also, there are children whose parents have died, some from AIDS, who are now living with their grandparents who can't afford to send them to school.

"There is need for medicines, as well as other concerns for the marginalised of that community, so the Home League is raising funds to help provide for those children and others in need."

As well as supporting the Territorial Women's Ministries project and four Child Sponsorship projects, the Pine Rivers Home League is also now working to pay for 200 chickens. "This will enable the Dudzu Home League to set up a chicken run to help support the village," said Major Leonie.

"With profits from the chickens they intend to buy some pigs and establish a piggery. Their ultimate aim is to become self-sufficient and build a Children's Home.

"This relationship has been processed through divisional and territorial channels and we are very happy to be able to move forward with our plans.

"Our Home League works really hard towards territorial, divisional and corps projects – we raised just over \$9,600 last year.

"Our Home League is made up of people who are hard-working, compassionate and generous and who have a real social conscience and a heart to make a difference."



### FROM TOP:

Bev Robertson (left), Getrude and Majors Leonie and Rodney Ainsworth prepare to send the first box of materials to the Dudzu Home League in Zimbabwe. Increased numbers of children in the village of Dudzu are able to go to school as a result of the Home League partnership with Pine Rivers. Eva and her team are focused on giving needy children in the village increased access to basic necessities and opportunities to go to school. Eva and Getrude spent time together at the Pine Rivers Home League during Eva's visit to Australia.

## COFFEE MORNINGS GRACED WITH SECOND CHANCES

### South Queensland Division

Grace, forgiveness and seeing the best in others was the focus of the divisional coffee mornings in the Noosa, Bayside and Bundamba corps during April and May.

Lieutenant-Colonel Christine Rees, Pastoral Care and Officer Well-Being Team member (Queensland) was guest speaker at all three events, basing her message on the book of Philemon.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Christine spoke a very encouraging word about grace, the ministry of fellowship and second chances that we really appreciated," said Lieutenant Lara Sutcliffe, Noosa corps officer.

Local speakers from each corps added to the depth of each event through their presentations on mission.

At Noosa Corps on 29 April, senior soldier Martin Charles spoke about his Uganda mission trip, and how he was impacted by the opportunity to help others and learn from them in return.

Cadet Kate Cathcart, currently on out-training at the Carindale Corps, spoke on 30 April about her experience working with the Sudanese people at Auburn Corps in Sydney. "When we think of mission it's often overseas mission, but there are so many opportunities here on our own doorstep," she said.

Kate shared the impact the stories of the Sudanese people had had on her life, and how they expressed so much joy and freedom in the Lord, despite the horrors they had faced.

At the Bundamba Corps on 1 May, Pine Rivers corps officer, Major Leonie Ainsworth, introduced Getrude Marutawana, a senior soldier at the corps, originally from Zimbabwe.

Getrude spoke about the hardships she has

faced in her own life and how God has brought her, with her husband and three sons, to a life of purpose and fulfillment in Australia (see story on page 20)

Getrude concluded her sharing by singing her testimony - *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*.

At all three coffee mornings, women brought pre-made baskets or items to fill baskets, for the divisional women's project – "Women in the West" – pamper baskets for farmers' wives living in remote areas who are struggling with the effects of the prolonged drought in Queensland.

These baskets help the farmers' wives feel cared for and thought about at a very difficult time in their lives.

Packages were also prepared to assist women from Salvation Army centres resettle into a new home.

**TOP:** Ladies from the Bayside Corps enthusiastically support the divisional women's projects. From left to right: Anne MacDonald, Vina McCarty and Bev Braun show some of the beautifully wrapped baskets.

**CENTRE:** Bev Robertson, Getrude Marutawana, Major Leonie Ainsworth and Lieutenant-Colonel Christine Rees with gifts and items donated for the "Women in the West" project, and to assist women from Salvation Army centres resettling into a new home.

**BOTTOM:** Major Julie Campbell interviews soldier Martin Charles about his experiences in Uganda during the coffee morning at Noosa Corps.



## COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER FOR "WOMEN IN THE WEST"

### South Queensland Division

"After two recent destructive floods, the people of the Lockyer Valley know what it's like to struggle, and this is our time to repay what others have done for us," said Robyn Buckby, member of the Lockyer Valley Corps Home League, based in the town of Laidley.

"The Home League team and the local people here have done wonders in working together to make up gift baskets for rural women."

As part of the divisional women's ministries project, "Women in the West," the ladies of the Home League, together with the local community, have assembled close to 300 "pamper packs" for farmers' wives struggling in

drought-ravaged rural Queensland.

These packs, arranged in bags made by Robyn and her team, contain body wash, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner and other personal items.

"Some companies have also donated makeup, and Priceline in Toowoomba gave us a big box of makeup purses," said Robyn.

"We also have a few special packs made up with donated sarongs, scarves, aprons and a small amount of jewellery."

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council has been supportive, and collection bins have been put up around Laidley, making it easy for people to donate.

"The community has given so much," said Lieutenant Katie Harlum, Lockyer Valley corps

officer. "They know what it's like to be in crisis after so many floods over more than 70 years.

"Robyn has done a great job in getting the community involved and pulling it all together."

The pamper packs will be distributed by Envoys Neville and Lorraine Radecker, rural chaplains; and Captain Mark Bulow, Dalby Corps Officer with his wife, Captain Jo and pilot for The Salvation Army Flying Service, as they fly and drive to visit farmers and graziers facing tough times in drought-stricken central and southern inland Queensland.

"We are thrilled with these gifts, and just hope that it brings a smile to the faces of these ladies," said Robyn.

"They need a bit of pampering."

## GRACES ABOUND AT WOMEN'S RALLY

### ACT & South NSW Division

“Grace notes” was the theme for the divisional women’s rally held at the Wagga Wagga Corps on 12 March.

Many women travelled for up to two hours to attend the rally, coming from as far afield as Albury, Grenfell, Griffith, Leeton and West Wyalong.

The women enjoyed chatting together over morning tea, before moving into the main hall for a time of worship, laughter, singing and learning.

Each corps present took their turn to read a verse based on grace, and Majors Robyn Smartt and Karen Masters sang *Your grace still amazes me* before Major Karen gave her testimony.

Major Karen, Divisional Salvos Women Co-ordinator, spoke about some early memories from songs and

stories learnt at Sunday school, and how, throughout her life, there have been people encouraging her with written grace notes that continue to bless her today.

Reannan Callander and Lieutenant Bindy Lupis, from Wagga Wagga Corps, led a drama featuring a lady covered with sin who didn’t know how she would be cleaned, until a cleaning lady named Grace came along to wash away each stain.

Major Robyn Smartt, Divisional Director of Women’s Ministries, spoke about God’s grace notes for us.

“Through God’s love he gave us Jesus,” she said.

“Jesus gives hope and Jesus transforms. Inside each caterpillar is the DNA of a beautiful butterfly; inside each person is God’s DNA.”



LEFT TO RIGHT: Major Robyn Smartt, Major Karen Masters and Lieutenant Bindy Lupis after the divisional women’s rally at Wagga Wagga.

## PATCHWORK MINISTRY LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

### Australia Eastern Territory

The Salvation Army Patchwork Easyas Ministry has launched its new website. It is [www.salvationarympatchworkeasyas.com](http://www.salvationarympatchworkeasyas.com)

“The website features a huge collection of patterns from Salvation Army quilters, as well as legendary and generous quilters worldwide,” said Sandra Hiles, the ministry’s leader.

The patterns, as well as instructional material, including video tutorials, can all be downloaded from the site.

For a monthly cost \$4.95 (+GST if in Australia), those interested can become a Patchwork Partner. Patchwork Partners have free access to all resources on the site, including patterns, videos, newsletters and regularly updated information. “The unique part of this ministry and website is that, when

people become our patchwork partners, they automatically help fund Patchwork Easyas Ministries around the world in areas where resources are limited,” Sandra explained.

“These funds, through the local Salvation Army corps, help provide sewing machines, quilting boards and other accessories needed to start a patchwork quilting ministry.”

The Patchwork Easyas Ministry is focused on bringing quilters together for friendship and fun, meeting needs in the local community, and, most importantly, helping members find Jesus and build a relationship with him.

Salvation Army patterns and videos on the website include scriptures and devotional thoughts to challenge and encourage all those who hear them.

“Join with us to piece together a wonderful quilting community applied with love, caring and sharing,” said Sandra.

## TERRITORIAL PROJECT UNDERWAY IN PNG

### Australia Eastern Territory

Throughout 2013, the women of the territory raised money to support the Salvos Women project for the year – to refurbish and renovate two child care centres in Papua New Guinea.

The Salvation Army has two training colleges there – the Officer Training College in the capital city, Port Moresby; and the Leaders Training College in the Highlands at Kainantu.

“The child care centres at both colleges are in a state of disrepair and also have such a sparse supply of resources for staff to use in caring for children of the cadets and students,” said Commissioner Jan Condon, Territorial President of Women’s Ministries.

“So, the money raised will be used to renovate the buildings

and also purchase much needed resources such as televisions, a DVD player and DVDs, books, toys, utensils for the kitchen and air-conditioning. The buildings are very small and with a capacity number of children using the centre, it gets very hot and humid.

“It is our desire to provide child care centres that are bright and colourful to stimulate the children in the learning process as they spend so much time together.”

The women of the territory raised just over \$120,000 last year, a record for the territorial project.

“The money is being used now in Papua New Guinea and we will be able to provide photos of the finished project once the work is completed,” said Commissioner Jan.

We are most grateful to all corps, centres and individuals who generously supported the project.”

## A CLEAR VISION

Major Jane Kimberley, Editor of *Salvationist* magazine in the UK Territory with the Republic of Ireland, interviewed Commissioner Silvia Cox, The Salvation Army’s World President of Women’s Ministries, earlier this year. An excerpt from that interview is below

**In your present role as World President of Women’s Ministries you have already visited a number of countries. Are there some highlights that you can share – particularly related to women’s ministries?**

There are many. One example is the Worth program in Kenya West Territory where women who were once destitute are now providing for their families and communities. The program is all about empowering women by helping them to discover self-worth by economic participation. Through Worth they are encouraged to generate savings, individually and in groups, by setting up village banks, by teaching themselves to read and write, by accessing training and by starting small businesses. More than 14,400 women are now involved in Worth which includes other denominations and other faiths. Some women have given up prostitution and begging on the streets and some have started to take their children to school. Government intervention has resulted in many women being tested for HIV. Lives have been changed in many ways and there is so much joy. Most importantly, 314 women have come to know Christ!

**When you were Territorial President of Women’s Ministries in the United Kingdom, you had a vision of Salvationists reading God’s Word together and initiated the Bible-Reading Challenge. A change of appointment meant that you moved to IHQ before it was launched. Do you still have that same vision and, if so, how do you see it working out?**

That vision is still there and it’s shared with the General – it is something that is in our hearts. In 2015 there will be opportunity for the whole Salvation Army world to read through the New Testament in one year. IHQ Chaplain Major Pat Brown is meeting with a group who are arranging this initiative, which is linked with the [Global] congress.

As we go around the world we share the importance of reading the whole of God’s word and hearing what it says. It sometimes seems that we have got things the wrong way round when we read just certain verses, or commentaries, rather than starting with God’s Word.



**How do you balance the responsibilities of international leadership with those of wife, mother and grandmother?**

Each is important for me and I wouldn’t want one to suffer because of another.

I think that I manage to balance each of these roles because I enjoy what I am doing and love the challenges. I think that it is important to spend time together, and I keep in almost daily contact with my family. I have never had too much of a problem between ministry and family because for me it is one thing – it’s part of what I am – my ministry is also my family.

**You lead a busy life, but do you have any hobbies or interests?**

We both enjoy walking and do this whenever we can. I like reading – although I don’t have too much time to read for relaxation. My other interests include photography and cooking but again, at the moment, there is not much time to pursue these.

**In recent years The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom – and possibly in other places – has been facing transition. Are there some changes that you would like to see? Are there any things that you feel must never change?**

I would like to see people valued more. We need to listen and focus on integrated mission by closer cooperation between our social and evangelical work so that we minister to the whole person and, through faith-based facilitation, learn how to build deeper relationships. A lot of other things will then automatically change.

I always want us to be one Army moving forward. We must never lose our mission to go to the lonely and the hurting and we must never lose the message of the transforming power of Jesus Christ that brings hope to a lost world.

This interview first appeared in the 22 February 2014 issue of *Salvationist*, published by the UK Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

**ABOVE:** Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women’s Ministries, waters a tree she has just planted during a visit to the Kenya West Territory.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Commissioner Silvia Cox helps launch the Salvation Army International Development gift catalogue during the Freedom celebration in Sydney last September. Major John Rees, then Director of SAID, assists by showing off a kid – one of the gift options in the catalogue.

So now there is no condemnation  
for those who belong to  
Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

*New Living Translation*

