

WOMEN In touch

FORGIVENESS

RELEASING THE PAIN



ALSO INSIDE: _____

ENDING MODERN DAY SLAVERY

MR WESLEY AND ME

THE COMPLETE PICTURE

ADVENTURES IN ABU DHABI

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team talk

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

Freedom is a word we hear a lot about in these times and yet all around us we see things happening that do not facilitate freedom. There are so many sad situations around the world at present and people are not experiencing freedom at all.

People need freedom from fear, from neglect, from poverty and addiction.

People need freedom to dream, to love and to make a difference – freedom to live life to the full.

We want people to find freedom through community, through action and through faith.

Freedom comes through community when people love each other and help each other. Freedom comes when people find acceptance, encouragement, healing and support without discrimination. No one should have to “go it alone”, no matter what their situation in life. Jesus does not give up on people.

Freedom through action is really *Salvos Caring*, which is our DNA. Christians should never be afraid to get their hands dirty to help secure freedom for others. Jesus not only responded to immediate needs but journeyed with people for the long haul, helping them to find freedom and stay free as well.

Giving a cup of cold water in Jesus' name may just be the action to inspire someone to seek freedom. We need to use what is in our hands so people see God at work and come to know him through our gracious actions, even if the environment is unpleasant or the task seems impossible.

Freedom through faith is ultimate freedom. True freedom encompasses body, mind and soul. Our faith convinces us that hope, purpose, freedom and fulfilment can be everyone's story. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, last and least – the sinner – and through a relationship with Jesus we can be free from sin.

Our freedom journey starts with Jesus, and he continues to be the foundation, inspiration and driving force of everything we do. We believe Jesus was, is, and always will be about people finding freedom.

Freedom comes through faith in Jesus – through communities being changed and people taking action to bring about freedom for others. Jesus demonstrated this in his interaction with people.

To assist people to find freedom we need to look for opportunities, especially in difficult circumstances. Freedom is for everybody without exceptions.

I am about people finding freedom – The Salvation Army is about people finding freedom – freedom through community, through action and through faith in Jesus.



Commissioner Jan Condon
Territorial President of
Women's Ministries



Photo: Shairon Paterson

about this issue

from the editor's desk

Forgiveness is something we all grapple with at some stage in life, whether it's over a minor issue or something that affects us deeply and continues to have an impact on us throughout our lives.

Sometimes it's easy to forgive, and move on with life with barely a second thought. At other times, although we know that Jesus has completely forgiven us, forgiving others who have caused us serious grief or harm can be something we wrestle with and struggle over for many years.

In this edition of *Women in Touch*, we feature articles from different women on forgiveness, three of whom share some of the life-changing events they have experienced and how they see forgiveness in light of what has happened to them.

Their stories are honest, raw and open and the issues they raise are worth deeply considering in our own lives as we deal with forgiveness on a daily basis, and beyond.

Human trafficking and slavery are issues that The Salvation Army has been involved in fighting since its early days. This continues today, as the recently launched national initiative, The Freedom Partnership, clearly shows. Our articles point the way to the Partnership's website and to ways in which we can all play our part in raising awareness and helping to bring an end to modern-day slavery.

This issue also features two testimonies from women who have moved to Australia from different parts of the globe – one permanently, and one to study for a year. These women share their very different struggles, but also how they have come to love Australia and the people God has put in their lives during their time here.

One of our regular young contributing writers, Amy Hefferan, talks about her journey in the opposite direction – moving to the United Arab Emirates. Amy shares her excitement, her faith in a God who transcends international borders and her desire to serve others in other parts of the world.

Take a moment to look at our news section, and see what two corps are doing to actively reach out into their communities to bring love and friendship to those in need of a kind word, a message of hope, and active encouragement. One corps is focusing on women with families, and another on young people whose specific needs were not being addressed in the community.

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

Simone Worthing
Editor

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THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Experiencing deeper freedom and greater joy, explains MAJOR JO-ANNE BROWN, comes from being forgiven and, in turn, forgiving deep hurts, over time, as each layer of pain is exposed and worked through



All photos: Shairon Paterson

“I BECAME AWARE THAT EACH TIME THE FORGIVENESS WAS REAL AND BROUGHT ME FREEDOM AND PEACE, I COULD MOVE ON”

A man climbs slowly, almost tortuously, up the cliffs beside a raging waterfall. He carries with him a large bundle, heavy on his back, containing his Spanish armour and sword. The bundle catches on the rocks and the man loses his grip, almost plunging to his death below.

The man had been here before, catching Guarani, the indigenous people, and selling them into slavery. He has killed a man and, as penance, he is accompanying a group of Jesuit priests into the jungle above the falls to work on the mission beside them.

The armour and weapons are no longer needed, but the man is unable to let them go, even when his companions urge him to do so, knowing his burden could topple him to his death.

Guarani stand in the shadows of the jungle and watch his slow and difficult ascent. They recognise him as the slaver who had been there before. They are armed and ready. Again, the heavy bundle the man is carrying catches on the rocks and he slips, this time his burden almost strangling him.

An armed Guarani steps out of his hiding place in the jungle and, with his knife held at the ready, approaches the former slaver. The man bows meekly, expecting death. The Guarani raises his hand and violently slashes at the bundle and it plunges down the waterfall.

This is a picture of forgiveness. This one act of forgiveness, where there could have been revenge, brings freedom and eventually leads to the former slaver taking vows as a Jesuit priest and working side by side on the mission with the Guarani. Not only is this a picture of forgiveness but also of unity and fruitfulness.

The music and background scenery of this moment, depicted in the 1986 British drama film, *The Mission*, add poignancy to the image. We don't know how this forgiveness was arrived at; we only observe on the face of the Guarani the movement from hostility to peace.

Process of forgiveness

True forgiveness may not always be as simple as it appears in this scene. In my

own life, forgiveness, especially for the big issues, has been more of a struggle. Smaller issues are often easier to let go of and, when the wound is not deep, it is easier to free myself and the other, from the burden of unforgiveness.

But there are wounds that go deep, and memories that cannot easily be erased: forgiveness is costly for these things. We come back to the words of Jesus: “Forgive us ... as we forgive others” (Matthew 6:12).

We know how deeply and completely we have been forgiven of our sins and we understand something of how much Jesus paid that we might experience that forgiveness.

It can be a big step for us to get to the stage where we acknowledge that we want to forgive someone who has injured us. Sometimes this even has to begin with *wanting* to want to forgive. As believers and recipients of God's amazing forgiveness, we know we should forgive others, but wanting to is sometimes a different thing.

It is an intentional decision – and definitely a process. This process begins when we truly become aware of the depth of hurt or injury. Forgiveness without an acknowledgment of the real pain we experience cannot truly set us free or enable the other to be set free.

Layers of wounds

I've discovered that forgiveness (for me) is like an onion. When I first became a Christian, I wrestled with some of the things in my life that I needed to deal with and I was able to begin forgiving those who had injured me. Every now and then, however, something would pop up from the past that I thought I had dealt with. Initially I was dismayed, thinking there was something wrong with me that I couldn't move forward or prevent being dragged back again.

I realised that yes, I had dealt with the issue – in the best way I could at that particular time. But there are levels and levels to our wounds, like peeling back the layers of an onion. Each time the same thing popped up again, there was a different dimension to it, a different awareness of the pain I had suffered, and

therefore a deeper depth of forgiveness to go through. But each time, just as when an onion is peeled back, the issue becomes smaller or less intense.

I also became aware that each time the forgiveness was real and brought me freedom and peace, I could move on. And somehow, each level of forgiveness seemed also to bring a deeper level of freedom, or a more complete freedom.

This doesn't mean that there will never be an end to the need to forgive certain injuries. For the deeper wounds, it is almost as though God is saying, “Look more closely at this one, I want you to know deeper freedom and greater joy”.

So, when those things do emerge again, I can embrace them with a greater sense of knowing that God is deeply at work in my life and doesn't plan to stop till I am truly free in every way.

Freedom

Many years ago in Berlin, Germany, I attended a youth conference where one of the guest speakers was a Messianic Jew. He shared his struggle to accept the invitation to speak at this conference in Germany. His family had been deeply impacted by the Holocaust and for years, when he travelled in Europe, he would travel kilometres out of his way to avoid entering German territory.

As he spoke about his struggle, he took off the prayer shawl he was wearing – a beautiful heirloom that had been treasured by his family for 200 years. He beckoned to one of the German conference leaders and placed this treasured prayer shawl reverently around the shoulders of the German man. The gift of the prayer shawl became the gift of forgiveness, and though we were all blessed and incredibly moved by this gift, the person most blessed and who experienced the most freedom, was the person offering the gift.



Major Jo-anne Brown
Corps Officer,
Calamvale

SUFFICIENT GRACE

COMMISSIONER BIRGITTE BREKKE-CLIFTON believes that, if her husband's killers repent of the crime they have committed, God will forgive them and his grace will be sufficient for her to do the same

In 2006 my husband Bo and I were appointed territorial leaders in Pakistan. We were delighted! Having spent nearly seven years in Sri Lanka and seven years in Bangladesh we had come to love South Asia, and when we landed in Lahore it felt like coming home.

We arrived in Lahore on 13 September, our 26th wedding anniversary.

We had a happy marriage, two wonderful sons, Benjamin and Bo Christoffer, a lovely daughter-in-law and a few days before we left for Pakistan we had welcomed David, our second grandchild and Amanda's little brother. (I now have a third grandchild, Hannah, and two lovely daughters-in-law.)

Life was good. We had each other, a supportive family and an appointment that we loved.

Never the same

In September 2007, I was invited to London to attend a meeting at international headquarters (IHQ). Bo stayed behind in Lahore.

Every Thursday evening we

attended the holiness meeting at Lahore Central Corps and on 27 September, Bo conducted the meeting. It was the retirement service for the Chief Secretary.

After the meeting, Bo wanted to go to his office to check his emails before going upstairs to our flat. The corps, territorial headquarters (THQ) and a number of officers' quarters are all in the same compound; THQ and our flat being in the same building.

As Bo turned the corner to go into the office, two men with guns attacked him and he was shot. A single bullet passed through his head and he died instantly.

I was called out of the meeting at IHQ and told by the General [Commissioner Shaw Clifton ret.] that Bo had been killed. I had to call my boys to tell them that their father was dead, my sisters-in-law to tell them that they had lost their brother and my father-in-law that his son had died.

As I write this, I can still feel that terrible pain and sadness in my heart. We had suffered a great loss. In one moment everything had changed and life would never be the same again.

Cheap grace

We can only speculate about the motive. Bo had uncovered a large fraud within the Army and five people were accused of the murder and faced trial. They were all later acquitted. An appeal against the acquittals was accepted by the High Court where the case is now waiting to be heard. Seven years after the event, the murderers have still not been brought to justice.

Many people have asked me if I have forgiven the people who killed Bo. The people who have asked me have also often told me that I should. My answer has always been the same: If they come to me and ask forgiveness, I trust that God will give me the grace to forgive.

True forgiveness is conditional on repentance, just as God's forgiveness depends on repentance: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins ..." (1 John 1:9)

Forgiveness without repentance can for me be likened to the "cheap grace"¹ that [theologian, writer and pastor] 'Dietrich Bonhoeffer' warned against – grace without consequences or discipleship, which he believed to be

an insufficient abbreviation of the life-changing Gospel that the Church should be preaching.

(At the turn of the 20th century), William Booth famously said:

"The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell."

Prayer of protection

As far as I know, the killers have not repented before God. I have not been asked to forgive by those who require forgiveness. To me, it doesn't make sense to say "I forgive you" if the person is not sorry for what he or she has done. It might do something for me, but not to those who sinned. Forgiveness involves two parties. Forgiveness from sin is offered to us in a dialogue with God. Forgiveness in human relationships involves the same. Forgiveness can't be given in isolation.

Even if the day comes when the guilty show signs of repentance,

forgiveness will not mean forgetting. The sin they committed has lifelong consequences for me and my family and will have consequences for them. The Bible proclaims that there is forgiveness for sin, but does not pretend that sin does not, or should not, have consequences.

What has been important to me and my sons since Bo's death has been not to become angry and bitter. We made a conscious decision that we would not let bitterness dominate our lives. It has been our prayer that God would help us not to want revenge, only justice, and the Lord has been faithful and has strengthened and protected us against that evil.

I believe that this prayer of protection from hatred and ill feelings for those who have wronged you can be confused with the issue of forgiveness, but to me it is two different things. I do not want to hate the people who killed Bo, and God is helping me with that. In fact, I do not think about them very often; it is as if they do not exist. Forgiveness might happen later.

If the day comes that those guilty

of this terrible deed truly repent of their sins I know that God, because of his great love and mercy, will forgive. And on that day his grace will also be sufficient for me.

Many people pray for justice for Bo. The Salvation Army officers in Pakistan have fasted and prayed weekly for a long time for justice to be done.

I know that in time their prayers will be answered.

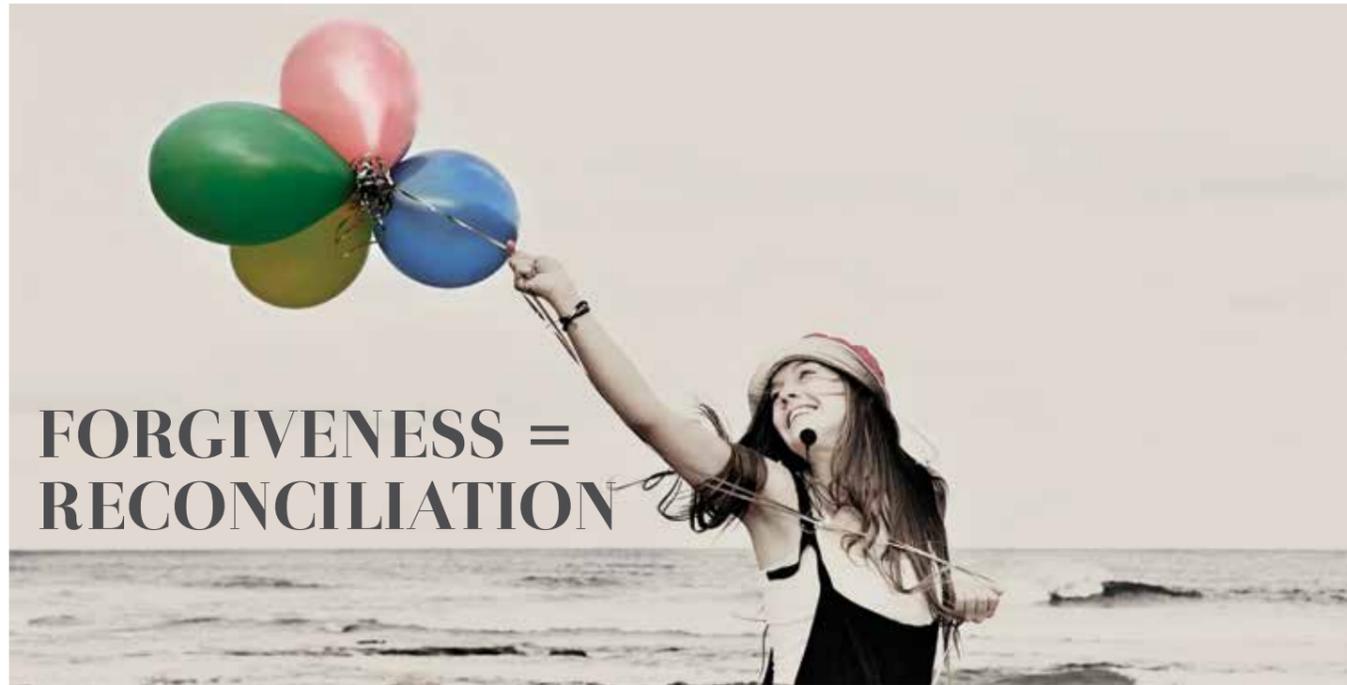


Commissioner Birgitte Brekke-Clifton
International Secretary
for the Europe Zone

The Commissioner is now married to General Shaw Clifton (ret.)

¹*"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."*





FORGIVENESS = RECONCILIATION

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation” 2 Corinthians 5:19 (*New Living Translation*).

I received a message that my father was in a coma and the prognosis wasn’t good. Instantly, I felt a sense of guilt that this was the end of a life that I had been given the chance to reconcile with on numerous occasions over 30 years. Bitterness and anger, though, had made me silent and resentful towards my father.

My heart hurt from the shame of my conduct and an opportunity lost.

Family torn apart

My parents separated when I was quite young, due to domestic violence and alcohol abuse. My mother, being of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander heritage, had no hope of keeping her nine children.

It would be six years before we would see our mother again.

Through the eyes of a 10-year-old girl, I recall terrible moments of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, but more importantly, my father robbed me of a mother for a time. This is where the seed of bitterness began.

Fast forward 35 years and I am married with five children and caring for many others. I have lost four of my brothers at an early age to suicide and multiple chronic health diseases that plague our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It was the death of my youngest brother to suicide in 2010, followed six months later by an older brother, that kick-started my faith journey.

Faith journey

During the period of Sorry Business¹, a young Salvation Army soldier, Joel Maxwell, came, sat, listened and prayed with our family. When I thanked him for his help, he replied, “Don’t thank me, thank God”. I instantly thought that if this God comes to people in their darkest hours, then I want to get to know him.

After a period of time at church, I became acutely aware that God sacrificed his own son Jesus for our sins, that he freely forgave us and that I too should have a capacity to forgive others as I have been forgiven. It was laid on my heart to reconnect with my father after 30 plus years.

Unfortunately, I only had the opportunity to speak with him two months prior to him going into a coma.

I told him that I had been attending church since my brothers had passed and that I had recently heard a message on forgiveness and wanted to restore our relationship.

We discussed my childhood recollections of growing up and how that shaped my negative view of him. He apologised and also cleared up some misunderstandings. One of the discussions centred on his mental and physical health and the impact the medication he was on had on his ability to parent effectively.

Through the eyes of a 43-year-old woman, wife, mother of five children and grandmother, I could partially understand my father’s battle to raise

nine children – with limited finances, on his own on a farm, isolated from family and dealing with his deteriorating health.

This doesn’t in any way justify his ill treatment of us as children, or of our mother – the situation is much more complex – but it helps to put it into perspective for me.

A choice

Upon reflection, I realised that I had raised my children to view my father as the 10-year-old Shirli did and had planted the seed of bitterness towards him in them.

It wasn’t until I looked through the eyes of a woman maturing in her faith that, once again, I had to seek forgiveness from my children for planting that seed and nurturing it over many, many years.

As believers, we are to be obedient by hearing, trusting and surrendering to God and obeying his word.

Ultimately, forgiveness is a choice. The door to forgiveness can be very hard to find, especially if we have been hurt, humiliated or injured. It does require us to live out God’s truth, which requires courage and humility. The glory is that forgiveness is a door to peace, joy and freedom in our lives.



Shirli Congoo
Territorial Indigenous
Program Coordinator

¹ *Sorry Business is a term used by Indigenous Australians to refer to the death of a family or community member and the mourning process that follows.*

FORGIVENESS: RELEASING THE PAIN

It is fairly certain that none of us will go through life without being hurt by others. But it is how we respond to those hurts that will determine how successful we are at putting the past behind us.

It’s a normal reaction to have experienced pain, suffering, feelings of betrayal and loss when we’ve been hurt by others. We mistakenly think that seeking revenge or staying bitter causes the other person pain. Living with bitterness is not an effective way of dealing with hurt. Bitterness doesn’t just stay in one area of our life. Eventually, it affects every part of our lives and the people around us. We think that holding onto bitterness and resentment hurts the other person. But all it does is tie us to the offender and we remain their victim.

Response to pain

We can’t stop people hurting us but we can choose how we respond to it. It’s important for our own wellbeing to acknowledge our feelings and work through them. The past is the past, but we can change how we move forward into the future.

Forgiveness is the key that will help you enjoy the future and live in freedom from the things that once hurt. If you are regularly being hurt, that pattern needs to change. You do not deserve to be hurt and you may need to stay away from the offending person.

Forgiving doesn’t mean the relationship instantly heals. It may take time to rebuild, if ever, but forgiveness is the start of healing.

Forgiving is a sign of strength that brings release. It takes courage to face our past hurts and deal with the pain. Forgiveness doesn’t let the offender off the hook, they will always be seen as the offender, but it gives us the power and

freedom to redefine who we are, from victim to victor.

Forgiveness

To forgive you don’t need to deny your feelings about what happened and you don’t need to forget in order to forgive. We can learn from the past to help guide our future.

Forgiving someone doesn’t absolve them from being responsible for what they’ve done, but you choose to not let it hold you. We acknowledge the offence but no longer feel the need for revenge.

To forgive doesn’t mean to reconcile. Sometimes reconciliation is not possible. It takes two willing parties to reconcile, but only one to offer forgiveness.

To forgive takes time. Forgiveness is not for other people, it is for yourself. It doesn’t require us to “feel” ready to forgive; it is a choice, and once we’ve made that decision, we are more able to get closure on that part of our lives. The wounds will take time to heal and a scar will remain, but they won’t cause as much pain as they would if we held onto bitterness.

Sometimes, the hardest person to forgive is ourselves. When we have been the person who has caused pain, even though we may have felt truly repentant and been forgiven, we carry the burden of guilt and find it hard to let go.

We need to recognise that whether we need to forgive someone else or seek our own forgiveness within, it is a journey worth taking in order to feel that you can move on with your life.



Lyn Beasy
Consultant Psychologist:
Officer Wellbeing,
Territorial Headquarters

“FORGIVENESS IS THE KEY THAT WILL HELP YOU ENJOY THE FUTURE AND LIVE IN FREEDOM FROM THE THINGS THAT ONCE HURT”



REFLECTION: Grace – the fuel of saints

“The saint uses grace like a 747 jet burns gas on take-off.” Dallas Willard

God is teaching me to recognise, share and experience more fully, the richness of his grace. Throughout my life I have perceived the implication of his grace to be predominantly eternal – grace has rescued me from sin and death and availed me of life eternal. This is not untrue. But this theology implies grace is only for the unsaved. That is untrue. I am impacted by the words and thoughts of [Christian thinker] Dallas Willard (quoted above) who notes that the saint uses far more grace than the unbeliever. He says:

“Grace is not just about forgiveness – if we had never sinned we would still need grace! Grace is God acting in our life to do what we cannot do on our own.”

I now experience grace as God’s kindness and blessing and power for every moment of every day in this life and for eternity. Grace allows me to forgive those who have wronged me and fully trust again. Grace allows

me to do the right thing even when it will hurt. Grace turns my muddled thoughts into prose. Grace helps me be disciplined. Grace allows me to be okay with my weaknesses. Grace delivers when I am powerless to deliver.

This grace also enriches my sharing with others. People in today’s individualistic and self-sufficient Western culture will not initially buy the “You’re a sinner and you need God’s truth” line. But most admit they feel powerless over some aspect of their life or character which, when challenged, leads them to recognise the impact of sin (either theirs or others’) and the need for his grace.

I now find myself inviting his grace into every one of life’s situations, big or small, as I chant the words from 2 Corinthians 12:9: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”



Territorial Envoy Natalie Frame
Corps Leader, Bayside Community Church

Women online endslavery.salvos.org.au

The Salvation Army launched a brand new initiative – the Freedom Partnership – on 30 July.

The Freedom Partnership is a national initiative that will partner with groups and individuals to work together to help end modern-day slavery. It is the umbrella for The Salvation Army’s anti-slavery work in Australia including the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House.

The website, endslavery.salvos.org.au, gives viewers the opportunity to take a “freedom pledge” and use their purchasing, political and people power to help other people become free – and all from the comfort of their own home!

Information on how to do this, and resources to support the process, are either on the website or will be added in the near future.



Information will also be available on how to take the next step – becoming a Freedom Ambassador.

“It’s about people inspiring each other, and all these elements adding up overall to bigger change,” said Jenny Stanger, National Manager, Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery.

Do you bring freedom?

Quite often I have someone approach me, open our corps brochure and ask if Monday night’s “Brothel Outreach” is a typo. Every time I respond, “No, this isn’t a typo. We visit the women in the local brothels every second Monday night.”

This response is met with a range of emotions – some with shock and confusion, others with wonder and interest.

For the past two years a team from Auburn Corps has been visiting four local brothels. We don’t go to “rescue” the women. We don’t go to “look for trafficked people”. We don’t go to “Bible bash”. We go simply to love and support the women there by taking baked goodies (cookies and cupcakes), meeting the women in their staff room, spending time with them, and allowing room for them to talk.

Jesus once read from Isaiah, “He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free ...” (Luke 4:18).

I always took this as a literal translation and at times it has proven true. However, until someone once said, “Whenever you [through Jesus] allow someone to share what is burdening them, you bring freedom to them. You allow that weight to be lifted from their shoulders. When you share wisdom [from God] with them you open their eyes.”

This is our purpose every time we enter a brothel. To provide a space and opportunity for someone to share their burden and feel accepted and loved.

Each one of us has an opportunity, daily, to bring freedom to people by being a listening ear.

When was the last time you brought freedom to someone?

Krystle Redwood
Children’s Community Worker
Auburn Corps

recommended read

Christian Facebook pages



Women of all ages and backgrounds use Facebook. For many, as well as providing a means to communicate with friends and family all over the world, Facebook has also made available a way of sharing their personal faith and experience of God. It has also opened the door to many other ministries, resources and information that can provide encouragement and support through the daily walk of life.

There are many Facebook pages that offer regular inspirational posts; details about upcoming Christian events or seminars; thought-provoking blogs; and information on issues of importance and relevance to all believers.

The Salvation Army has also created many Facebook pages that present news, information, resources and ideas; as well as those that provide encouragement and hope to all people, regardless of their circumstances. These pages include:

- The Centre for Spiritual Life Development
- Salvos Women
- Salvos Caring
- AUS Salvos Women (Australia Southern Territory).

Other Facebook ministries that many women (and men!)

find helpful, both in their regular posts, and the links and resources they provide, include:

- One Thousand Gifts
- Ann Voskamp
- Beth Moore
- Missionaries of Prayer
- Prayers for Encouragement
- International House of Prayer.

To keep updated on issues, news and events within the Australia Eastern Territory and beyond, consider the following Facebook pages:

- MySalvos
- The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery
- Salvation Army International Development AUE
- JUSTSalvos.

To receive regular posts from any of these pages, look them up on Facebook and click “like”. You will then receive the posts in your regular news feed.

Facebook is not for everyone, but thousands of Christian women around the world find it a helpful way to connect with God, and with each other.

Lemon Meringue Pie

INGREDIENTS

Pastry

- 1 ½ cup plain flour
- 100g butter, cubed
- 2 tbsp icing sugar
- 1 tbsp ice cold water
- 1 egg yolk
- Pinch of salt

Lemon curd

- ½ cup lemon juice, strained
- ¾ cup water
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- 4 egg yolks
- Zest of two lemons
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup butter

Meringue

- ¾ cup caster sugar
- 4 egg whites
- 2 tsp cornflour

Serves 6-8

Recipe and photo: Lena Pobjie

METHOD

Pastry

1. Place flour, salt, sugar, and butter in a food processor. Process until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add egg yolk and water. Process until dough just comes together. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Shape into a disc, cover in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 30 minutes.

2. Preheat oven to 180C. Roll out pastry between two sheets of baking paper. Line a 23cm tart tin with pastry. Trim edges. Line pastry with baking paper and fill with uncooked rice. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove baking paper with rice and bake for a further 10 minutes or until lightly golden. Cool pastry.

Lemon curd

3. Turn the oven to 150C. Combine sugar, lemon zest and cornflour in a saucepan. Pour in lemon juice and water. Cook over a medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Bring to boil. Take off the heat. Beat in the butter until melted. Pour in egg yolks, mixing constantly. Return to medium heat until mixture thickens even more. Pour into the pastry case and set aside.

Meringue

4. Beat egg whites until soft peaks appear. Gradually add sugar, one tablespoon at a time until mixture thickens and becomes glossy. Beat in cornflour. Spoon the meringue on top of the lemon curd mixture, starting from the edges and gradually working your way around into the middle.
5. Bake for 10–15 minutes or until meringue is lightly golden.
6. Allow pie to sit for at least one hour before serving.





A new home

EVERYONE HAS A STORY ...

As she tells **JULIA HOSKING**, knowing Jesus has given Getrude Marutawana a sense of belonging

Getrude with her husband Charles and sons Leon, Lionel and Hugh.

“I was born out of wedlock and there was a stigma attached to children like me,” Getrude Marutawana shares of her childhood in Harare, Zimbabwe. “I was living with my grandmother and uncles, who had their own children, so I was the odd one out. I was an outcast and felt I didn’t belong.”

Then, when she was 10, Getrude’s mother married a Salvation Army corps officer and life took a turn for the better.

“I started going to church with my step-dad, and I became a Christian when I was 14,” she says.

“Everything changed for me after I came to know Jesus; I felt I belonged. When I need something, I talk to Jesus, he answers my prayers and is always by my side. He is someone who I can talk to, who listens to me and who loves me as I am – unconditionally.”

Getrude formed a strong connection to The Salvation Army Dudzu Corps in Zimbabwe, becoming a soldier and involving herself in ministry. It was a connection that would, in time, cross international borders.

International move

In 2005, Getrude explains, the economic situation in Zimbabwe had deteriorated to a point where she and her husband

Charles could barely afford to feed their children: Lionel and Leon. Charles was offered employment in Australia as a boilermaker and so a two-year process to obtain a sponsored working visa began. In July 2007 he moved to Brisbane, with Getrude and the boys following in November that year.

“It was quite difficult leaving behind everything I knew,” remembers Getrude. “I had to leave my mother and my brother, and sell all my earthly goods to come here, without knowing what life was going to be like.”

“When we first arrived in Australia we didn’t have anything to our name except for a few clothes. Settling in and acquiring things for the house and the children was difficult.”

Salvos connection

Given her association with The Salvation Army in her homeland, within three weeks of her arrival in Australia, Getrude visited the local Salvation Army – Pine Rivers Corps.

“The people were really welcoming,” she says. “They helped get us some furniture and I still know the corps is willing to help me as much as they can. Without them, I wouldn’t be able to carry on and feel comfortable here.”

“My husband was not a Christian when we were living in Zimbabwe but he saw how kind the people at Pine Rivers Corps were, how they were involving us in everything and embracing us into the corps family. He wanted to become part of it. So he gave his life to Jesus.”

Charles is now a soldier and the corps coordinator for The Salvation Army Emergency Services team. Getrude is on the praise and worship team, and the boys are also involved in the life of the corps.

“We can’t afford to give back money wise, but I feel these services we can give back are equally important,” she says.

A new life

Despite the love and support of the corps, making a new life in Australia understandably involved a long period of adjustment for Getrude and her family.

“At the time we left Zimbabwe, things were really bad,” she says. “Coming to Australia where people had things in abundance was a shock – how could people have so much, yet people on the other side of the world have so little. At first I couldn’t believe it was possible to have two different environments.”

“Now, I think of Australia as my home. So I’m almost detached from Zimbabwe. I make a point of talking to my mum every other day, but it’s becoming easier on me to be apart,” she says. “The church here is my main family.”



Julia Hosking
Freelance contributor

Mr Wesley and Me

PERFECTION

In the first of a series of articles articulating Wesleyan concepts in everyday language and relevant terms, **NICOLA POORE** focuses on John Wesley’s doctrine of perfection

Does the Church require perfection? Does God require perfection?

Mr Wesley expected perfection. He did not profess to be perfect himself, but it was clear that he pursued perfection with unrelenting enthusiasm. Mr Wesley was a man of small stature, whose size did not adequately betray his lofty ideals for God’s love and God’s people.

But is perfection a reasonable expectation? Was Mr Wesley unrealistic? Unbiblical? Unchristian?

The language of perfection is the language of the Bible. The language of perfection has been maligned – even in our churches.

Perfection. What does it look like for Christians? What does it look like for Christian women? What is her ministry? What does she eat? What does she wear? Where does she work? Does she work?

Christian perfection for us, as understood within the narrative of Scripture, does not uphold some defunct *Stepford Wives* brand of biblical womanhood. It is not a perfection of performance, but a perfection of love.

Perfection of love

As Salvationists, we possess a rich heritage within the Wesleyan holiness tradition of evangelical Christianity. John Wesley’s doctrine of Christian perfection refers to a perfection of love that is continually being perfected.

The key scriptures that contribute to an understanding of perfect love are found in both the Old and New Testament canons. John writes in his

first epistle, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18). Jesus gave priority to love when questioned about the greatest commandment in the Law (Matthew 22:36-39).

Jesus also said, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48; see also Leviticus 11:44).

Perfection, in this sense, is not to be understood nor appropriated as a sinless perfection or a fixed state. Numerical references such as 100 per cent are deficient and unhelpful in this case.

Rather, consider a series of ever-expanding circles. The smallest circle is whole and complete. It is a “perfect” circle. Yet, there is always the possibility of more circles, each one increasingly larger than the one before. Each circle is perfect in itself. It is the same with Christian perfection – a perfection of love for God and neighbour with the infinite possibility of increasing levels of perfection.

Perfection and holiness

For Mr Wesley, perfection is entirely possible in this life as we desire more and more of the love of God and pursue holiness. The Salvation Army’s 10th article of faith states that, “We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

This is our doctrine of holiness. This is also our doctrine of Christian

perfection. It would be consistent with the spirit of the doctrine to say that, “We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be perfect.”

Canadian officer and writer, Major Stephen Court, has observed that, “Whatever God commands, God enables.” If God says, “Be perfect”, then he will enable us to be perfect!

This is how Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle, our celebrated holiness teacher, described his experience of perfect love:

“I walked out over Boston Common before breakfast, weeping for joy and praising God. Oh, how I loved! In that hour I knew Jesus, and I loved him till it seemed my heart would break with love. I was filled with love for all his creatures ... I loved the dogs, I loved the horses, I loved the little urchins on the street, I loved the strangers who hurried past me, I loved the heathen, I loved the whole world.”

Let’s reclaim the doctrine of perfection. Let’s redeem the language of perfection. Let’s redefine the notion of perfection.

Let’s ask God to perfect us in love!



Cadet Nicola Poore
School For Officer Training

Uniting the generations

PSALM 145:4: "ONE GENERATION COMMENDS YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER; THEY TELL OF YOUR MIGHTY ACTS."



It is Sunday afternoon and 10-year-old Brent is heading out to the local football game. He has been looking forward to the game all week and has dressed carefully in his team colours. Most of his family are attending and his friends are going to meet him there. At the start of the game, he stands to sing the national anthem and then for the next two hours he alternates between standing, sitting, clapping and cheering with excitement.

Brent is sitting near his uncle who is passionate about football. As his uncle shares his love of the game, Brent is inspired and plans to go home to practise so that maybe one day he can play on a team like this. At the end of the game everyone has enjoyed the day and being together. As they walk back to the car they recount some of the great moments of the day. Brent's love and knowledge of football has increased and he feels connected with his family though this shared experience.

Although Brent wasn't aware of it, his attendance at the football game was a successful exercise in inter-generational connections in an increasingly segmented society.

Age segregation

Throughout the past century, our society has become defined by age segregation. There are a number of factors behind this division, including individualism, mobility, grandparents living far away from grandchildren, age-based housing areas and the age distinctions of education.

The church is one of the few places in our society where three or more generations can gather together in the one room for a united activity – such as

regular worship services.

Yet, even in churches, the generations are segregated by age. Corporate worship experiences tend to be geared to adults and, in many faith communities, the children are removed for a portion of the service. This is partly so they can receive age-appropriate Christian education, partly because adults assume they will be bored with what is offered, partly so the adults can listen to the message without distraction and partly because parents are so concerned that their children will make a noise that they can't concentrate with them there.

In contrast – can you imagine a football game where at half time all the children are removed from the game and taken to a room where they colour in pictures of goal posts instead of being a participant in the main event?

Community of faith

In Scripture we see the beauty of the entire community "doing faith" together. We do not find any occasions recorded when the children left the room for age appropriate lessons before the adults started their discussions. The journey of faith was always for the entire community. For example, when the Hebrew people marched out of Egypt, the entire community participated, from infants to elders.

As a community they witnessed the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea – they all saw God provide miraculously. When Ezra read from the Book of Law to the assembly of those who had returned from exile, the group included "men and women and ALL who were able to understand" (Nehemiah 8:2).

They all listened and responded as he

"THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, FAITH WAS TAUGHT AND CAUGHT THROUGH INTER-GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS AS THEY EXPERIENCED LIFE TOGETHER"

read aloud. Together they praised God, together they feasted, together they wept and together they confessed. Jesus ministered to crowds on a number of occasions, he fed crowds, he healed the sick within the crowds and he taught the crowds. Each time his words and actions were witnessed by adult men and women as well as children.

Throughout Scripture, faith was taught and caught through inter-generational connections as they experienced life together. During the football game, Brent caught the love of the sport as he watched and learned from his uncle. Through the shared experience, his relationship with his uncle deepened and his enthusiasm for football grew.

Benefits of inter-generational ministry

There are a multitude of benefits from inter-generational ministry:

- It strengthens relationships and builds ties within the faith community.
- The generations learn from each other – children have the opportunity to see faith lived out through the saints, while adults can be enthused by the insights and energy of youth.
- It provides family and connections for those whose biological connections are broken.
- It affirms the value of each individual and their contribution.
- It teaches us to care for each other.

For inter-generational ministry to be "successful", it needs to be intentional and deliberately orchestrated. It won't just happen. It's not a program to be

implemented, but a paradigm shift in the way we think. The very concept goes against the segmentation that the church and society have increasingly modelled and practised for the past century. It challenges the prevailing narcissistic thought that proclaims "What's in it for me?"

To introduce an inter-generational culture, faith communities need to ask some difficult questions such as:

- How can we include people of all generations in our corporate worship?
- How do we help parents, especially those with young children, feel comfortable to remain in a service when their children are noisy?
- What kind of musical expressions will appeal to all generational groups?
- How will we prepare the generations for journeying in faith together?
- Since simply being in the same room doesn't build relationships, how can we encourage them to develop naturally?
- Are there specific age based programs that we should consider eliminating?

The principles of inter-generational ministry can be difficult to implement, but the outcomes are immeasurable. How great it is when the generations unite to worship God and grow in their faith together!



Major Michelle Oliver
Corps Officer
Stafford Corps

The complete picture

At the time of writing this article, I have three weeks to go until our first baby is due! I cannot wait to meet our baby (whom we have affectionately nicknamed "Poppet"). We don't know if Poppet is a boy or girl and we still haven't decided on a name!

I recently had an ultrasound and the technician was able to get a few really good 3D images of Poppet's face. There was one in particular that took my breath away!

My thoughts immediately went to Psalm 139:

*For you shaped me, inside and out.
You knitted me together in my mother's womb long before I took my first breath.
I will offer you my grateful heart, for I am your unique creation, filled with wonder and awe.
You have approached even the smallest details with excellence;
Your works are wonderful;
I carry this knowledge deep within my soul.
You see all things; nothing about me was hidden from you
As I took shape in secret, carefully crafted in the heart of the earth before I was born from its womb.
You see all things; You saw me growing, changing in my mother's womb;
Every detail of my life was already written in your book;
You established the length of my life before I ever tasted the sweetness of it.
Your thoughts and plans are treasures to me, O God! I cherish each and every one of them!
How grand in scope! How many in number!*

Psalm 139:13-17 (The Voice)



"MAY YOU KNOW THAT HE WHO KNIT YOU TOGETHER WILL SEE HIS GOOD WORK THROUGH TO COMPLETION!"

Intimacy

Each one of us at some stage was as small as Poppet is now and in our mother's womb. What blows my mind is that even right now, God knows every day of Poppet's life that will come to pass! God already knows everything about Poppet. Nothing is hidden from God!

It's amazing to think that even when a child is still in its mother's womb, God knows it intimately. The beautiful thing about it all is nothing about this intimacy changes once we are born into the "sweetness of life" (although it doesn't always feel "sweet" does it?).

As we grow and experience life, God still knows us intimately – which means that we can put our trust in him.

There are some days that I think God actually knows me better than I know myself! In those times I'm comforted by the fact that I can trust God because he can see the bigger picture of my life, even when I can't.

My hope and prayer for each of you is that you will know deep in your heart how valuable you are to God. I pray that you'll know that he knows you intimately and nothing is hidden from him.

May you be free of the shame of those things you want to hide from God and instead lay them before him in an act of surrender. May you know the love of your Creator God who has known you before anyone else did!

May you know that he who knit you together will see his good work through to completion!



Lieut. Vanessa Hunt
Mission Director
Oasis Youth Centre
Wyong



International awakening

EVERYONE HAS A STORY ...

Natasha flew halfway across the world to study at the Army's School for Youth Leadership in NSW.

ESTHER PINN spoke with Natasha to find out why

For 22-year-old Natasha Baulknova, the decision to leave her home town, Rostov-on-Don in Russia, and move to Australia in February to study at The Salvation Army School for Youth Leadership, wasn't an easy one.

"On my way there were so many stumbling stones," Natasha explains. "I almost gave up trying to get here to take the course. There were always people who encouraged me. God ... he will direct you and guide you. He did so many times."

It is a decision, however, that Natasha has yet to regret. Staying at the campus in Berkeley Vale, on the Central Coast of NSW, Natasha says her life has been transformed through experiences from the School For Youth Leadership course.

"My spirit is awake. While I was in Russia it was asleep. I'll be going back (to Russia) and helping others to wake their spirits up as well."

Answering the call

When Natasha first heard about the School for Youth Leadership course, she thought it wasn't for her. Instead, Natasha focused on studying English at university to become a translator in Russia.

While Natasha put the course to the back of her mind, she explains that God began to gradually sow a new seed of excitement for it in her heart. Three years later, Natasha's second thoughts started to get serious. She discussed them with her mum who, although wasn't keen on the idea at first, ended up encouraging her daughter to go. Natasha knew it was right when the Holy Spirit fell upon her.

"We [Natasha and her mum] both felt the goosebumps over our bodies and I told Mum, 'Well this is God. If the [Holy] Spirit is touching us we should start praying about it'."

While the journey to get to Australia was a struggle, Natasha admits it also wasn't easy transitioning once she had arrived. Having studied English at university and being able to speak it fluently, Natasha says she didn't think she would encounter a language barrier problem in Australia.

"There was a period of time where I felt, I can't get over it," she explains. "I can't speak normally. I can't speak freely without paying too much attention to the way I'm saying it."

In God's strength

While Natasha felt out of her depth, she says God was with her the whole time and kept sending people to encourage

her. And while language was a barrier at first, it quickly became her ministry strength.

Before Natasha came to Australia, she says she didn't always have the confidence to engage with people. As part of the practical component for the course, Natasha was sent to Stafford Corps in Brisbane. Here she spent much of her time in a pastoral role, ministering to people in the corps.

"When I came over here I thought I was an introvert," she explains. "I enjoyed listening to people. But now I see that listening to people and talking to people encourages them to go on with their lives and is something I enjoy."

"While I'm here I've been doing things that I wouldn't have been able to do by myself. That makes me feel God sent me here and he gave me the strength to do it."

While Natasha plans to return to Russia after she finishes the course in November, she says she is open to whatever path God has prepared for her life.

Natasha has been part of The Salvation Army since she was six years old and last year she became a senior soldier. When in Russia, Natasha attends Fortress Corps with her mum and sister.

Natasha is thankful for the opportunity to study in Australia and is looking forward to whatever the future holds.

Find Your MINISTRY

Stand against modern slavery



It's quite easy to take freedom for granted. Living in a first-world country, most of us will never be faced with an early or forced marriage or be trafficked.

We have laws that ensure we are paid fairly in the workforce and we don't need to live in fear of being persecuted for worshipping God.

As we enjoy these freedoms and don't give them a second thought, there are people around the world who struggle daily for their freedom.

Most of us would assume that slavery and slave-like practices wouldn't exist in a country like Australia in the 21st Century. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Whether directly or indirectly, many goods, services and products we consume every day have been produced through exploitative activities both here in Australia as well as other parts of the world.

Take a stand against modern slavery today by being part of The Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership initiative. You can help bring an end to this exploitative system in our society.

"Through the Freedom Partnership initiative, we want to empower Australians to create and be part of the largest, most organised and dynamic anti-slavery movement in history," said Jenny Stanger, National Manager of The Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership.

What can I do?

To get involved, the first step is to head to endslavery.salvos.org.au and sign a pledge to stand against modern slavery.

Share, with at least 10 people, about the pledge, whether face-to-face or on social media.

Take a picture of yourself or with friends holding the pledge card (download a pledge card on salvos.org.au/more), upload to Instagram and use the following caption and hashtag:

Ending #slavery is a choice. Take Part. Pledge Now. @Partner4Freedom.

You can also become a Freedom Ambassador and use your freedom to inspire change in your local community.

For more information or to get involved, contact the team at endslavery@aue.salvationarmy.org and watch the website for further developments.

The bait and the choice

In Genesis 1:27 it says that, "God created mankind in his own image", so if we are made like him, and God is the expert in all things forgiveness, then shouldn't we also be quick to forgive? Why then do we often find it so difficult? Are we missing the forgiveness gene? If it's hard to forgive then should we really even try or should we just count our losses and move on?

Author and pastor John Bevere, calls this inability to move on, to let go and to forgive, "offence".

When we take offence and can't forgive, we take the bait – the bait of Satan (Bevere wrote a whole book on the topic). Offence holds us captive to the enemy and allows bitterness and negativity to creep in. It stops us reaching our full potential and will always haunt us until we conquer it.

"Some people don't deserve my forgiveness, you don't know what they've done," I hear you say. This might feel like the reality of your situation but if we are to live godly, effective, passion-filled, FULL lives, then offence and unforgiveness can have no place in us. It will blur the picture, taint the water and stop you seeing and hearing clearly from the Lord.

Forgiveness default

In her book *Switch On Your Brain* (Baker

Books, 2013), cognitive neuroscientist Dr Caroline Leaf explains that research shows our original design is in fact one of perfection that reflects the likeness of God. Our bad decisions and reactions cause unhealthy and negative brain structures, and as we think, so we do!

If our default is "good" and we've learnt our bad behaviours, decisions and inability to forgive, then the good news is we can reverse the damage. You just need to choose the godly option, the high road, the road less travelled (thank you Mr Frost!).

The ever wise Pastors John and Lisa Bevere suggest prayer as the answer – prayer for the person with whom you are offended; prayers of blessing and favour, the kind of prayers you would want prayed over you and your family; passionate prayers prayed daily until you feel the spirit of offence and unforgiveness lift and you find freedom once again.

Friends, don't take the bait; let forgiveness be your default stance. If you've already taken the bait, don't let it get its hook in any deeper. Let it go, freedom awaits!



Amy Hefferan
Centenary Corps
See story on Amy page 20



YoungWIT 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (NIV). #grace #prayer #set-free

Reviews

MAGAZINE REVIEW

Fervr

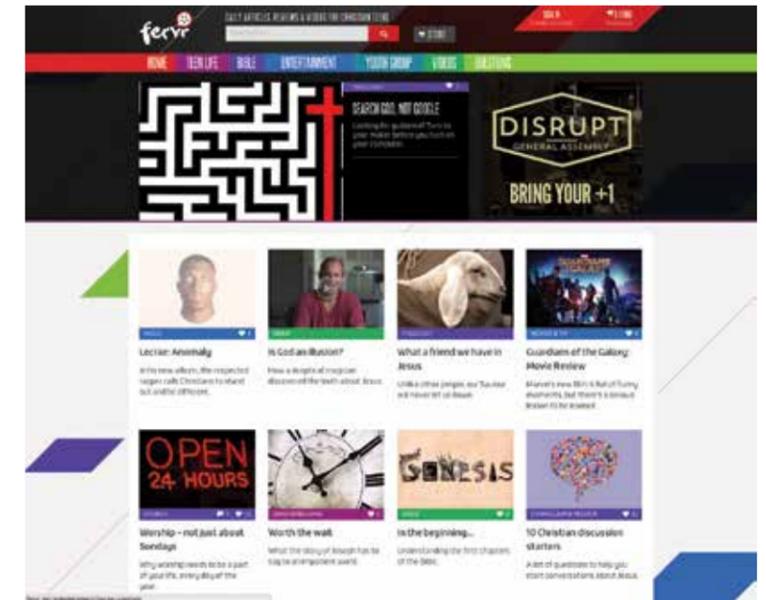
Whether you are looking for a movie review, advice on coping with failure or want to know more about angels, Anglican Youthworks' website, fervr.net, is the space to visit.

Fervr is a magazine style website aimed at 13 to 18-year-olds who are interested in learning more about a Christian worldview. The website's writing team specifically choose topics that directly relate to youth culture in the 21st Century including Christian living, theology, pop culture and current affairs.

The question and answer section is definitely one of the website's highlights. Anyone can email through a question to the Fervr team. It doesn't matter how controversial or simple the question, the writers tackle issues head on and don't give answers based on their opinions, rather, they back their answers with scripture.

If you think your question is too obscure, think again. Questions Fervr have answered include: Why are people born with disabilities? Where do dinosaurs fit in with creation? Why is hell eternal?

If you're looking for a devotion, Fervr has a whole library of biblically based devotions that will give you the daily



inspiration you need.

And this website this is not just for teenagers. If you're a youth leader, there are games and youth group activity ideas and other helpful resources available.

There are many youth websites out there on the web that are either filled with few

inspiring Christian articles or are just a bit ugly or cluttered. Fervr has a clean look, great photos and is easy to navigate around. With a search engine available, you can enter any topic and most likely, an article relating to that issue will pop up.

Visit fervr.net

MUSIC REVIEW

No Other Name - Hillsong

Hillsong's latest album, *No Other Name* is centred on the name of Jesus. Each worship song on this 11-track album is devoted to honouring Jesus' sacrifice, his unending love and his power.

As the world held its breath in anticipation of the release of another inspiring worship album, Hillsong have once again outdone themselves. For a church who annually releases more than one album a year, they have managed to write fresh songs that offer an intimate worship experience with God.

Interestingly, this album is filled with more worship songs than Hillsong's usual range of traditional praise tracks. A deliberate decision? Maybe so. The lack of praise however, doesn't take away from this album. Each song flows into another and are united through the lyrics that are focused on praising the name of Jesus.

The album also chooses to honour the trinity – the father, the son and the Holy Spirit in *This I Believe (The Creed)* and is a strong opener where worshippers can declare



truths about God.

Broken Vessels is a beautiful song that hangs off the back of a timeless hymn. While a new song, *Broken Vessels* includes some lyrics that remind us of *Amazing Grace*.

The title track, *No Other Name* is a highlight, starting with some warm harmonies and then building to a powerful anthem with lyrics that declare there to be no other name but Jesus.

Calvary focuses on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and then flows perfectly into *Thank You*

WIN A COPY OF THIS CD!
Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org for a chance to win our giveaway copy of *No Other Name*

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PATTIE TISDELL WHO HAS WON OUR GIVEAWAY COPY OF LAST ISSUE'S CD MAJESTIC BY KARI JOBE.

Jesus, an opportunity to praise our Saviour for rescuing us from our failures.

No Other Name can be purchased at hillsong.com/store for \$24.99.



Esther Pinn
Journalist, Pipeline and supplements

AN ADVENTURE IN ABU DHABI

For Amy Hefferan, following God's call to Abu Dhabi is the beginning of a new adventure and a unique opportunity to serve



For a long time, Amy Hefferan from Centenary Corps, Brisbane, had felt that her time in the city was drawing to a close.

Last year, Amy, a registered nurse, was part of a medical mission to the Central American nation of Honduras. After the mission she felt strongly in her spirit that, one year later, something would change, and she began looking at possible options for the future.

This feeling was confirmed when Amy received her "birthday letter from God" – words she asks God to give her on her birthday each year.

"God told me that the adventure I had been waiting for was coming, and had already come," she says.

"I know from the past that God has been faithful to these 'letters', so I just began to wait to see what this would look like."

As she waited, Amy continued her work as a surgical nurse at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital, looking after people before and after surgery.

Amy, who also holds a diploma in Contemporary Leadership from iSee Bible College in Brisbane, was also actively involved in the corps – leading youth group and night youth services, preaching and running a mid-week life group for young adults.

"I have really loved doing life and sharing openly with people in the groups," says Amy, with characteristic passion. "I have loved seeing the answered prayers, healing in relationships, physical healings and the amazing faithfulness of God."

Adventures

Just after Easter this year, a friend and nursing colleague of Amy's applied to work in the new Cleveland Clinic in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, so Amy decided to apply too. A week before the interviews started, Amy submitted her final paperwork, was interviewed soon after, and then accepted.

"I called Mum straightaway, I was so excited," Amy says. "Then I cried, asking myself what am I doing leaving my family and my church to go half way around the world!"

Although Amy had never thought about Abu Dhabi as a potential place to live, the fact that it will soon become her home is feeling right to her.

"I feel now like I'm called to go there," she says. "I'm not sure what it will look like exactly but I'm open and flexible."

"On the surface level, I would like to travel and be smart about finances. Spiritually and life-wise, I want to grow and am passionate about somehow making a difference."

Amy is determined not to let the wealth and opulent lifestyle of Abu Dhabi affect her.

"In the midst of all that wealth we won't be far from war, turmoil and terrible poverty," she says quietly. "Perhaps that is where God will use me."

"There are no concrete answers yet, just a big open door!"

Amy is also looking at the possibility of more medical missionary work, or frontline aid in disaster areas, including nursing among refugees.

"It's easy to travel as a nurse," she explains. "I really like the idea of Christian doctors and nurses without borders who can go into these places, help, and take the love of God with them."

"I feel like an adventure awaits; everything awaits."

Life and work

Amy's two-year contract with the Cleveland Clinic, an American hospital opening in Abu Dhabi in conjunction with the Emirati Government, begins in October.

The clinic opens in March 2015, so Amy and other staff will be busy learning procedures and policies and undergoing extra training before the first patients arrive.

"There will be a lot of learning involved, and career-wise it's a good move," explains Amy.

Finding a church home will be first on Amy's list of priorities after she arrives in Abu Dhabi. She already has several contacts in the city and is looking forward to establishing a new spiritual home and family.

In the meantime, Amy is focusing on reflecting on her years in Brisbane and finishing this phase of her life strongly.

"I want to end well and so be ready to start well the next step of the journey God has planned for me," she says.

Women In Touch would like to thank Amy for the articles she has written for the magazine over the past year, and pray God's blessing for the next step in her journey.

FAR LEFT: Next month, Amy will travel over 12,000km to Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, to begin the next step of the journey God has planned for her.

LOCAL COMMUNITY JOINS WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

South Queensland Division

North Brisbane Salvation Army recently hosted *Beautifully Made, Uniquely Created* – an inspiring and empowering night for women filled with fun, fellowship and worship.

The night started with mingling in the foyer accompanied by an all-things-pink lolly bar and a photo booth complete with props.

"Dressed in oversized glasses and feather boas, and full of sugary goodness, we made our way into the hall to be serenaded by some of North Brisbane's talented young musicians," laughed Christina Vinson from the North Brisbane Corps (NBC) Sisterhood team.

After worship, the women prayed for Jessie Green, a young mother from the corps who was joining the Salvos Women missionary trip to Tanzania in August.

"After a compelling dramatic monologue by our favourite drama teacher, Beck Head, we settled in to listen to speaker and Clinical Psychologist Jonathon Andrews as he taught us how we think about ourselves, connect with others, and where God fits in it all," said Christina.

The evening concluded with coffee and cake, served and prepared by the husbands of some of the 54 women who attended the event.



LEFT: Jennie, from North Brisbane Corps, interviews Jonathon Andrews, clinical psychologist, during the women's celebration night.

"We were also able to reach out to the women of the surrounding suburbs, those who come to Mainly Music, residents at Glenhaven [emergency accommodation for women and children] and the local schools," said Christina.

"It was a blessing seeing women from our community come together and celebrate how wonderful, blessed and beautifully made we all are!"

"Just mingling around the room and seeing so many new faces filled with laughter, joy and fellowship was inspiring."

NEW YOUTH PROGRAM SHINES THE LIGHT FOR TEENAGE GIRLS

Newcastle & Central NSW Division

Increased confidence, self-esteem and respect for others have been just some of the outcomes for challenged teenage girls who participated in Shine, a new program launched this year at the Raymond Terrace Corps.

The youth who engaged in Shine have continued to engage with the corps through other activities such as a Sunday breakfast club, church service, and holiday programs.

The nine-week Shine program focuses on "building self-esteem, resilience and helping participants to identify their own potential and barriers that may prevent them from reaching their goals," explained Lauren McVicar, Youth and Children's Ministry Assistant at the corps.

"This program relied heavily on community support and donations of both time and services. Discussions [with the girls] took place over a range of activities, including manicures, skin care, self-defence lessons and gardening."

The program concluded with a graduation evening which included dinner, a fun photo booth and a formal presentation where each of the five participants received a certificate and goodie bag.

"Each of the girls spoke on what they had learned from the program, and both parental and participant evaluations showed that each of the girls had increased in confidence, self-esteem and showing more respect for others," said Lauren.

The girls also commented on what they learned from the program.

"With this program I have learnt to have confidence within myself. It was fabulous," said Jessica.

"It was awesome," said Abbey.

"My child has learned more self-confidence and has a more positive attitude," one of the parents shared.

Community assessment

After Lauren's appointment in January this year, she began engaging with key community stakeholders to help identify the needs of children and youth in the Raymond Terrace region, as well as current service gaps.

The stakeholders included schools, council, police, other community services and youth.

"The outcome of this assessment showed that the region lacked structured after-school activities and youth lacked access to resources that would assist them to overcome challenges that faced them," Lauren explained.



"As a result, service providers noted that youth lacked self-esteem, purpose, positive role models and had high rates of teen pregnancy."

In response to this needs assessment, the corps decided to go ahead with the launch of Shine.

"We believe the power of prayer and God's blessing has allowed us to achieve great works this year so far, and we look forward to seeing further growth and the introduction of new and innovative programs that will benefit the disadvantaged and isolated children and youth in the community," said Lauren.

ABOVE: Back row, from left: Lauren McVicar with volunteers Jenny Wallen and Michelle Garratt, and. Front: Shine member, Hayley.

REACHING OUT TO THE CHILDREN OF ATHENS

South Queensland Division

Two Salvation Army quilting groups – Stafford and Carindale – are part of a unique project creating quilts for children in Greece.

Major Christine Tamsett, who manages Brisbane Recovery Services Centre (Moonyah) with her husband, Major Graham, began the project after returning to Australia from the Steps of Paul study tour last year.

“During the tour I had the opportunity to go to Greece, a beautiful country where The Salvation Army is in its infancy,” explained Major Christine.

“I was speaking with the officers from the Athens Corps, offered to pray for them, and asked how we could help them in a hands-on way.

“It gets very cold in Athens and many people go to The Salvation Army overnight as they can’t afford heating, so we came up with the idea of making quilts for children.”

Major Christine, who runs the two quilting groups in Brisbane, spoke with the quilters who were delighted to help. In the past year they have made 25 quilts of various sizes and colours.

“The ladies from the Carindale Home League paid for postage, and we sent the quilts off in June,” she said. “An email came back from Captain Polis in Athens, stating how grateful he was for our gift to the Greek community of The Salvation Army.

“We are now starting on a new venture to supply children’s quilts to others in need in Athens.”



Major Christine Tamsett proudly displays the quilts made for Salvation Army children in Athens by two Brisbane quilting groups.

PINDARI WOMEN’S CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

South Queensland Division

The Pindari Women’s Service, Brisbane, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special high tea on 22 July.

The gathering also launched a newly installed kitchen, funded by the Brisbane City Council and The Salvation Army, which includes a dishwasher, two upright ovens, and plenty of cupboards and bench space.

More than 40 people attended the high tea, including current residents; Major Julie Campbell, South Queensland Divisional Director of Women’s Ministries; Mr Chris Deighton, Director of Homelessness Services; and Vicki Howard, Councillor for Central Ward and Brisbane City Council representative.

“Vicki was moved as to the kind of ‘village’ it takes to move a lady forward with her goals,” explained Jan Dyason, Team Leader, Pindari Women’s Service. “She also asked about the kind of issues that can impact our ladies, so that she can put those forward in council, which is a great outcome for us.”

Beautifully decorated cupcakes, homemade scones and petit fours covered the tables as Chris Deighton opened the morning, acknowledging the work of Pindari’s volunteers.

Dignity and respect

Jan Dyason spoke about the ethos of supporting women at Pindari. “The whole practice and ethos of our service is recovery based,” she said.

“It’s about staff engaging with clients with dignity and respect to work with them on what the next step of their journey might look like.

“We form relationships with the ladies and provide the scaffolding to support them as they reach for their goals.”

Jan also spoke about how the new kitchen, and the therapeutic space it provides, is making a huge difference in the lives of the residents.

Ruth, a resident from Papua New Guinea, shared her story and how staying at Pindari Women’s Service had helped her.



“This new kitchen has already made a big impact,” she said. “You can’t imagine what being a refugee with no access to a kitchen is like.”

Another resident, from Kenya, who does not have her children living with her, shared how she is able to prepare her children’s food in the kitchen, in a culturally sensitive way, and so still contribute to their welfare while they are in Brisbane.

Two caseworkers are employed at Pindari Women’s – one for five days per week and another for three days.

Women can stay up to three months at Pindari Women’s, with longer stays possible where there is exceptional need.

The Viertel Charitable Foundation founded Pindari Women’s Services in June 2004 and continues to contribute funding to its ongoing work, now under the auspices of The Salvation Army.

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Alice (resident), Anna (support worker) and Eve (resident) celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Pindari Women’s Service.

SINCE ITS OPENING 10 YEARS AGO, PINDARI WOMEN’S SERVICE HAS:

- Been open for 3682 days
- Supplied night beds for 66,276 women
- Provided over 200,000 case work hours
- Accommodated 158 women in the last financial year.

‘WOW’ WEEKEND SHOWS WOMEN THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST



It was a thrill to receive an invitation to return to Papua New Guinea to conduct a Women Of Worth weekend for women in the Highlands at Goroka in May. The two northern divisions combined with a total attendance of 600 women who were eager to worship God and learn from him.

The team had built their place of worship – a very sturdy tarpaulin roof with tarpaulins on the ground for the women to sit on – plus a few chairs and stools. The stage was also erected to accommodate the leaders and the worship band. This all takes days of preparation and construction – no mean feat.

Then the logistics of feeding 600 women without the “mod cons” we have in Australia – no big deal for them. It was team work in motion as women (and some men) sat for hours peeling vegetables and then cooking the food in large containers over a small fire outdoors.

Joy in worship

As soon as the worship band strikes a chord, the women are on their feet singing and dancing with an infectious joy. Some of them had walked for three days to share in this weekend, but no signs of tiredness – just pure joy to be together in a safe place – worshipping God.

The theme for the weekend was “Our Identity in Christ”. Each session began with around 20 minutes of worship and a very inspiring testimony. We heard stories of pain and hurt, abuse and heartache, but unfortunately, that is life for women in the PNG culture.

On Friday evening a traditional welcome was arranged for Colonel Yvonne Westrupp – the new PNG Territorial President of Women’s Ministries – and me. We gratefully accepted their warm greeting and gifts that were given with love.

The women are eager to learn and the aim was to encourage them to see themselves through God’s eyes as special, deeply loved by the Father, a child of the King and a unique creation.

Throughout the weekend you would hear women telling each other, “You are special” and “You are a princess”.

At the end of each session an invitation was given for



ABOVE: Leaders for the WOW weekend, from left to right: Colonel Yvonne Westrupp, Captain Lennie Suave, Major Araga Rawali, Commissioner Jan Condon, and Major Margaret Rotona.

RIGHT (FROM TOP): The women worshipping and preparing food for the weekend with much joy and thanksgiving.

reflection and prayer and the women readily responded and moved to the place of prayer. This was truly a God moment as we saw so many women kneeling in prayer and supported by other women who came to pray with them.

What a blessing to witness so many women praising God and eagerly hearing from God’s word. In my heart though I was feeling sad, because I know only too well the conditions in which they live and yet they are the happiest women.

When God is all you have, life has a different perspective.

Commissioner Jan Condon
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

I have come that they may have LIFE

John 10:10 (NIV)

ANNUAL
DAY OF
PRAYER

FOR
VICTIMS
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

Sunday 28 September 2014