

WOMEN InTouch

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Authentic love

LEADING THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM

KINGDOM FARMING

TIMES OF TRANSITION

FINISHED WITH FAKERY

CONNECTED CARE

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team talk

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

As you read this edition of *Women in Touch*, there are stories from people who are parenting older children – and many of us would be aware of the challenges of parenting. In fact, parents are continually faced with the challenge of how to treat, discipline and encourage their children.

Our words are so important. I recently came across this quote and share it with you:

"Words can create love or hate, tears or smiles, harmony or chaos, war or peace. Choose your words with care" – (Anthony Douglas Williams – *Inside the Divine Pattern*, Gemini 11 Inc., 2008).

This is a daily challenge for everyone, and how easy it is to speak words that damage and hurt, rather than encourage and build up. I am grateful that as I was growing up at home, I received words of encouragement and affirmation, spoken with love and grace, but I am also aware that not everyone has that experience. Someone very close to me was always told they were no good and they would never achieve anything. These are certainly words that can break the human spirit and create divisions within the family. Dorothy Law Nolte wrote a poem entitled *Children Learn What They Live* – take time to read it on the internet. What if we all lived by those guidelines? Children and others imitate what we say and do and if we model negative, aggressive, discouraging words and actions, then we are setting others up to be and do the same.

What if we speak words of affirmation, encouragement and grace, with love, rather than anger and impatience? This not only applies within family life but in every aspect of our lives. Let us create harmony, love, smiles and peace as the quote above encourages us to do.

Jesus chose his words with love and grace. He said:
"You are mine – your name is on the palm of my hand."
"I have compassion on those who fear Me."
"I don't condemn you ..."
"I am with you always."
"You are created in my image."

"You are precious and honoured in my sight. Do not be afraid, for I am with you."

What if we chose to speak the truth in love, what a difference it would make!

The final words below come from Colossians 4:6. Here Paul offers sound advice when speaking with non-Christians, but I believe it is true for families and in the church as well.

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out" (The Message).

"Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone" (New Living Translation).

May God help us to choose our words wisely, and with love and grace.



COMMISSIONER JAN CONDON
Territorial President of Women's Ministries



about this issue

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Most of us, at some point in our lives, have faced challenging and difficult circumstances that have had, and often continue to have, a major impact in our lives. Many of us have come through those dark days thanks to the prayer, ongoing support and loving care of our family and friends, and the unconditional love and strength of God. It is during these times of crisis, and as we face lifelong challenges, that God can do some of his deepest transforming work.

In this issue of *Women in Touch* we look at God's deep and extravagant love towards each one of us and the growth and change that can occur in our lives when we receive and experience that love. In her article "Kingdom Farming", Captain Gen Peterson takes God's love even further and, through the parable of the sower, shows how God expects and empowers us to nurture the seeds of that love in others facing some of life's darkest and most painful circumstances.

God's deeply personal and authentic love for all people, regardless of circumstances, is also the focus of Major Jo-Anne Brown's story, "Connected Care". Jo-Anne writes about Jesus' constant Kingdom focus and his loving and accepting way of connecting with people, even when they were rejecting him. Lieutenant Belinda Cassie also shares her thoughts on God's authentic love and how he has freed us to be who we are – with no need for fakery or pretence in our relationships with ourselves, with others, and with God.

In our second feature, "Transitions" – several writers reflect on the path parents and their young people take as they journey from the late teenage years into adulthood – both the challenges and stresses, as well as the fun, freedom and times of discovery. The issue concludes with a focus on the horrendous crime of human trafficking. We promote the upcoming Salvation Army international day of prayer for victims of human trafficking, and highlight resources available online to assist in raising awareness of this issue, the facts around it, and what can and is being done to bring an end to this insidious trade in humans. I hope you enjoy this issue and can find a personal message of help, hope and encouragement within its pages.

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Editor

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KINGDOM FARMING

GOD'S LOVE IS EXTRAVAGANT, AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER SHOWS HOW WE CAN NURTURE THE SEEDS OF THAT LOVE IN SOME OF LIFE'S DARKEST PLACES

WORDS * CAPTAIN GENEVIEVE PETERSON

Driving through the countryside with my son, I pointed to crops growing in the farms along our way, to which he asked: "Which plant grows the cheeseburgers?" While an amusing question, it made me realise how disconnected we are from the land. For most people, food comes from the fridge or pantry, and not the ground. This new reality profoundly affects our spirituality, and the way we understand growth, change and the subtleties of "weeds" that creep in and pervert the positive growth God has for our lives.

In the parable of the sower from Matthew 13, Jesus speaks of a farmer scattering seed that falls onto four different soils, three of which are too hard, rocky or thorny to produce fruit. Later in the chapter, Jesus describes the meaning of the parable as a way of understanding the way in which people hear, understand – and then receive and live out – the good news of the Gospel.

A FARMER'S PERSPECTIVE

An easy conclusion to reach is that three quarters of people to whom we evangelise are unlikely to fully accept and respond to the good news, so therefore we should increase the probability of success by scattering a lot of seed! However, if I am to consider the story as a farmer, why would I would leave seed in three places where it cannot possibly produce a harvest? What farmer scatters seed and then walks away, simply just hoping for a harvest? I imagine a farmer tends to the soil, tends to the valuable seed, and in doing so, expects a good harvest. If they fail to tend to the soil, I imagine it is the farmers who acknowledge fault, rather than blaming the soil that had

little hope of caring for such a precious seed without them.

HOPE

I begin to imagine people I have ministered to, and wondered what kind of "soil" they were in. People like Hope*, whom I met through brothel ministry. Hope is a hardworking mum, doing her best to make ends meet. Her life was the path – hard, dry and full of people walking all over her. We talked to her about Jesus and his love, and she embraced what she could. But every day she would go back into a dark world that looked nothing like the kingdom, and, in the end, I guess it was just too hard for her to see a little light in the distance but live in the darkness. She decided to turn that light off altogether. The problem was, for her seed to grow, I had to get her off the path! Or spend a lot of time on that path bringing good soil to her. Without those things, the evil one was able to come along and snatch the seed of forgiveness, the seed of eternal love, straight out of her heart. As a farmer, I think, should I not have planted there? Should I have tended to the seed more, clearing the path of stompers and vultures? Can I cope with the loss of that seed and the harvest it represents?

JOY

Then I think of Joy, a happy, popular and sweet child, but always a little too hopeful and trusting. Her life was full of disappointment and she held on to the unbreakable hope that her mum, addicted to drugs and unhelpful men, would one day be all she promised to be. Her life was a rocky place, filled with glimpses of goodness, and seasons of hardness and pain. She absolutely believed in God and trusted that he was there, but I'm not sure that she could



ever fully believe that God loved her and would stay. She is now in her 20s and is in hospital, having been violently attacked by her boyfriend. She has lost custody of her children, and has few people to visit her. She lies in pain, alone. She is so full of love but it keeps getting squashed. As a farmer, I think, Should I not have planted there?

PEACE

And then I think about Peace. He was a popular kid, and incredibly generous to those who were not as cool as he was. In spite of that, he was anxious about life. He had a difficult family and was required to be the grown, mature man of the house before he had left his childhood. He loved God, but his life was so complicated and so many people needed him. He never could let go of the thorns that would tear him away from the good things in his life. I think he still believes in God, but the good news of the kingdom and the life he could have here on earth, is just not possible while he holds onto the past so intensely. As a farmer I think, was it foolish to plant there?

BLESSING

And then happily, I think about Blessing. He was a refugee who lived in a very tough part of town. His parents spoke no English, so he had the job of translating all information from hospitals, Centrelink, school, billing services and banks. Blessing knew all kinds of adult troubles a 12-year-old should never have to think about, and he also lived with the pressure of having to achieve at school to live up to his parents' hopes. After coming to kid's club, he quickly became a Christian. We disciplined him and enrolled him as a junior soldier. Blessing is still going strong in his

faith and is committed to the church. As a farmer I wonder, in what way did I tend to this seed?

NEW FARMING PRACTICES

As farmers of the good news, hoping for an abundant healthy harvest, we can just scatter seed and hope for the best. But if we really desire a harvest from each one of our precious seeds, sown on whatever soil it happens to fall, we need to change our farming practices. I have no regrets tending to seeds in Hope, Joy and Peace. Their seed is still within them, and I will still continue to tend to them and not walk away and just hope for the best.

We often forget that farming is one of the planet's most difficult and unpredictable jobs. It is dependent on a whole range of factors outside our control. As kingdom farmers, our job is to sow seeds in all places, be daily vigilant to our soil, watering during a drought, praying during a flood and dealing with pests and prey trying to take off with our harvest. Hard, rocky, thorny soil can't be ignored. We must continue to sow seeds in people whose lives bear little fruit. They will take more effort and sometimes it will still be fruitless, but it is our ministry to be loving, patient, faithful, kind and gentle, giving life every possible chance to flourish, no matter the odds. It is our ministry to be ever-planting, ever-harvesting and always tending to soil, whatever its condition. God's love is extravagant, and is thrown about in the most unlikely of places, waiting to be cultivated and supported. The question is, are you prepared to tend to the seeds whatever the soil, or will you focus on just the ones you think will grow? †

* All names have been changed.

CONNECTED CARE

JESUS HAD A WAY OF RELATING TO PEOPLE THAT WAS ALWAYS KINGDOM FOCUSED, DEEPLY PERSONAL AND AUTHENTIC. EVEN WHEN PEOPLE REJECTED HIM, JESUS WAS GRACIOUS. MAJOR JO-ANNE BROWN SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON JESUS' LOVING AND ACCEPTING WAY OF CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE

WORDS * MAJOR JO-ANNE BROWN

Jesus had a way with people. He wasn't afraid of speaking truth and he did so boldly at times. He had a way of being able to see straight to the heart of a matter, and into the hearts of people. He didn't seem to waste time on meaningless chatter (at least, it's not recorded in Scripture!). He made his words count and people listened to him – or walked away from him. Either way, he allowed them to respond as they wished and he had the grace to let them go. We can get so tangled up with relationships, or even just in connecting with others. We speak when we should remain silent. We are silent when we should speak.

We sometimes hide behind platitudes which, while frequently true, fail to answer the deep needs that others may have. When we do speak truth, we sometimes lack compassion and grace. At times the truth we speak is only the part of the truth that we know – and we tend to allow our own perceptions and experiences to colour that truth.

JESUS CONNECTS

Many people admire Jesus as a person, as well as his teachings, but often find little to admire in the people who bear his name. As those who follow Jesus, there is much to learn from the one known as Shepherd, Servant, and Friend. Many stories come to mind of how Jesus connected with people, especially people that others tended to reject or condemn: He spoke with a woman, one who culturally and religiously was considered not worthy to speak with. Not only did she belong to another race, but she was also living a lifestyle that the faithful people of Jesus' time considered sinful (John 4:1-26). He had every reason not to engage

her in conversation – he did it anyway. He did not focus on cultural or religious differences. He did not allow himself to be swayed by gender protocol or by her living situation. He went straight to the heart of the matter. This woman (and her entire village) needed the living water that only Jesus could give. Even when she didn't fully comprehend the deep truths of which Jesus was speaking, he continued to explain and clarify until she did.

Jesus spoke with a tax collector perched in a tree (Luke 19:1-9). Tax collectors (and Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector) were despised by the people of Jesus' day because they collected taxes for Rome. Jesus didn't engage with Zacchaeus' lifestyle or occupation and the rights and wrongs of that, he simply acknowledged his presence and invited himself to Zacchaeus' house. This was offensive to the people because Jesus was spending time with someone they considered a sinner (Luke 19:7). Without Jesus even having to speak a word about Zacchaeus' lifestyle, Zacchaeus himself declared his desire to live differently.

When people seemed quick to condemn others, Jesus engaged with people on a different level. The religious leaders of the day brought a woman caught in adultery before Jesus to get his reaction (John 8:1-11). They referred to Moses' command to stone such a woman. Jesus at first said nothing, and then began mysteriously to write on the ground. When he did speak, he addressed the hearts of the crowd rather than the actions of the woman. The crowd slowly dispersed, leaving the woman alone with Jesus. Still he said no words of condemnation or judgment, but simply directed her to change the way she was living her life (verse 11).



JESUS ENGAGES

Jesus had a way with people. He had a way of engaging with people that others considered outsiders, unworthy or unwanted. When others spoke words of rejection or condemnation, Jesus spoke words of truth and acceptance. His way of engaging with people often led people to their own awareness of their need to change – but not always. A rich man came to Jesus seeking eternal life (Mark 10:17-31), explaining that he had kept all the commandments since he was a boy. Jesus again came right to the heart of the matter: "Sell everything you have and give it to the poor". Jesus looked at him with love, knowing he would walk away. Jesus did nothing to soften the blow, to make it easier for him or to make excuses for him. He simply allowed him to walk away.

Scripture doesn't tell us for sure, but loving this man and letting him go may have caused some pain to Jesus. Jesus knew the riches stored up in heaven for this man with much worldly wealth – it must have grieved Jesus to know what he would miss out on. Jesus had a way with people. It didn't always mean that people responded to him – in fact, any reader of the gospels knows that many people chose not to follow Jesus for various reasons and even turned viciously against him. What can we, who choose to live as followers of Jesus, learn from his way of connecting with people?

KINGDOM FOCUS

Everybody is significant. Race, gender, religious belief, occupation, and lifestyle choices are not what matter most. The person does. Their spiritual needs matter.

Jesus didn't engage in fruitless discussions or arguments. Frequently he didn't even point out obvious areas of sinfulness that needed to be dealt with.

Jesus didn't soften the truth to make it more palatable or to make it easier for people to stay with him. He was able to love people as he let them go – even when it may have been painful.

Jesus lived his whole life with a Kingdom focus, and this included how he engaged with people. He longed for people to be brought into relationship with the Father, to become part of the Kingdom. His desire was not condemnation or judgment, but an invitation to a deeper life offered through the hand of love and acceptance. We, too, can choose to engage with people in this loving, accepting way.

Jesus was the perfect embodiment of both grace and truth. He demonstrated love and acceptance and he also spoke truth boldly, (sometimes to our ears, almost offensively), to those who needed to hear it. Such tough truth was often directed at the religious leaders of the day. How Jesus communicated truth will be the focus of Connected Care, part two, in the December issue of *Women in Touch*. †

"Jesus' desire was not condemnation or judgment, but an invitation to a deeper life offered through the hand of love and acceptance."



REFLECTION

KNOWING GOD IN TIMES OF CRISIS

WORDS * LIEUTENANT KYLIE HODGES

My family and I have been through a lot over the past couple of months. We've faced serious illness, suffered disappointment and experienced heartbreak. All of this has caused me to ask a lot of questions of God – one being "why?"

Throughout these months of crisis, God has been speaking to me, giving me scripture to help me begin to heal. The verse that he is continually using has been one of my favourites and comes from Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God". The first part of this verse has always been a struggle for me, particularly with an 18-month-old, but over these past few months of crisis, I have found the second part more of a struggle. God commands us to **know** that he is God!

I think we often struggle with knowing God when crisis hits. Why? Because when we are facing crisis we want to know why – we associate knowing God with understanding God. We want to understand why he allowed us to lose our job, why we had to miscarry the baby we longed for, why our child

became so seriously ill, why we have to struggle with making ends meet, why our friend or family member had to die. We want to understand God and his ways rather than just sit with him and know him. You see, when God said: "Know that I am God", he wasn't saying that we would understand the storms that we would have to face.

God has been teaching me that truly knowing him isn't about understanding – it's about having faith and confidence that God is there with us. It's about knowing that God's heart is aching alongside ours and that he is offering his peace and comfort in our crisis. It's about knowing that God is carrying us through. It's about knowing that God's plan is ultimately better than any plan we have for ourselves.

This side of heaven, we may never understand the crises we have to face, but God doesn't ask us to. He only asks that we be still and "know" him – trusting him in the crisis and leaning on him. That is all he asks us to do. †

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace." Frederick Buechner

RECOMMENDED READ

SEARCHING FOR SUNDAY: LOVING, LEAVING AND FINDING THE CHURCH.

WORDS * LIEUTENANT CARA BRACKSTONE



Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving and finding the church.
Rachael Held Evans
Nelson Books, 2015

It seems to be the flavour of social media in the past couple of years for Christians to post articles about why Millennials (this current generation) are leaving the Church, and what the Church can do to stem the flow. Rachael Held Evans, author, blogger, speaker (and self-identified Millennial) shares her insights in her latest book, *Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving and finding the church*.

This book is not intended as a guide, a set of principles, or a "10 steps to church recovery" model. This is Rachael's heartfelt personal story of being raised in the heartland of conservative evangelical Christianity; her questions around faith, discipleship and social justice; and her sincere journey to get to the heart of what faith and church is really about. It is written for the people who doubt, who wrestle, and who question. It is written from a place of "faith hanging on by fingernails ..." if only to provide the struggling reader with "a few hundred pages of 'me too'". It explores the questions that this generation is asking of the Church. It explores the Church as it stands: "Its dark corners and as its stained glass splendours".

Rachael believes that this generation is not seeking a hipper Christianity, complete with fog machines and cafes, but a truer Christianity. Arranging the book around seven sacraments, she brings the reader to a place where they can see, taste, feel, smell and touch the realities of the Kingdom of God in the details of everyday life. The story is delivered with a rich understanding of historical, theological and cultural research, but is very accessible to the everyday reader.

I would highly recommend getting the audiobook version, as it is narrated by the author. Listening to Rachael read her story makes it pregnant with meaning – you can hear her voice swell with pride, glow with admiration and crack with pain as she recounts experiences. It is a beautifully written (and spoken) book, which transports the reader (or listener) to a place of renewed vision, and restored hope, for a more authentic version of the Church – a Church that this generation, my generation, would want to be a part of. 5/5! †

Win a copy of this book! Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org to win our giveaway copy of *Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving and finding the church*.

Congratulations to Rebecca Foster who has won last issue's giveaway – *Unexpected Love* by Julie Zine Coleman.



CINNAMON SCROLLS

INGREDIENTS

Dough:
1 cup warm milk
3 tablespoons sugar
3 1/3 cup plain flour
1 egg, whisked
1/3 cup butter, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
3/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons dry yeast

FILLING

1 cup brown sugar
4 teaspoons cinnamon
3 tablespoons butter, softened

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 190 degrees.

For the dough, take a small bowl or saucepan and dissolve the yeast and sugar in warm milk.

Meanwhile, combine the flour and salt in a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Pour the milk mixture, egg, melted butter and vanilla essence into the well and stir until well combined. Cover with plastic wrap and set aside for 60 minutes or until dough doubles in size.

Place the dough on a surface lightly dusted with flour and roll out a rectangle 5-7mm thick.

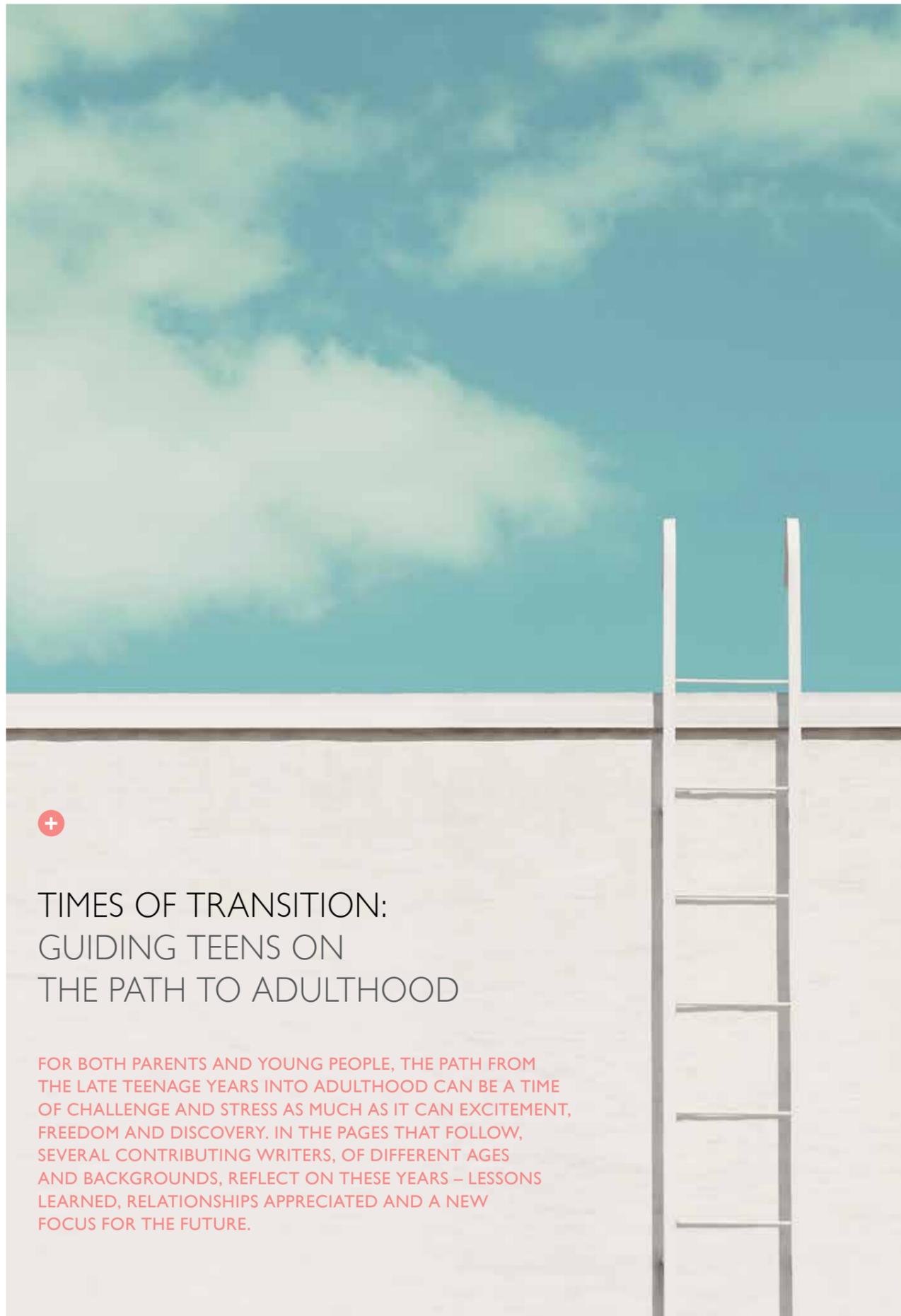
Brush with softened butter. Evenly sprinkle cinnamon and sugar over the dough. From the long side, roll up the dough into a log. Using a sharp knife, slice the log crossways into 2-3cm pieces.

Line the baking tin with lightly greased baking paper and arrange each scroll cut side up. Cover with plastic wrap and set aside for 20 minutes to rise.

Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes or until scrolls turn light brown.

When scrolls cool down slightly, sprinkle with icing sugar or drizzle with cream cheese icing (optional).

RECIPE AND PHOTO BY LENA POBJJE



TIMES OF TRANSITION: GUIDING TEENS ON THE PATH TO ADULTHOOD

FOR BOTH PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE, THE PATH FROM THE LATE TEENAGE YEARS INTO ADULTHOOD CAN BE A TIME OF CHALLENGE AND STRESS AS MUCH AS IT CAN EXCITEMENT, FREEDOM AND DISCOVERY. IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW, SEVERAL CONTRIBUTING WRITERS, OF DIFFERENT AGES AND BACKGROUNDS, REFLECT ON THESE YEARS – LESSONS LEARNED, RELATIONSHIPS APPRECIATED AND A NEW FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE.



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

IN RESPONSE TO A WORLD HUNGRY FOR THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR TEENAGERS, *WOMEN IN TOUCH* INVITED A SALVATION ARMY OFFICER TO SHARE HER PASSION FOR INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN PARENTING THAT BUILDS DEEP RELATIONSHIPS AND LEADS TO TRANSFORMED LIVES.

WORDS * MAJOR SHELLEY SOPER

I've just had one of those "flashback" moments! As I prepared to put pen to paper to "reflect" on the journey of parenting teenagers through to adulthood, I vividly recalled a particular day. I was pushing the shopping trolley through a crowded supermarket with three small boys in tow, all under the age of four. There was the usual, "I want", "Can I push?", "Mummy, carry me!" I remember the particularly terrible (embarrassing) tantrum thrown on the floor in the middle of the aisle (and it wasn't me, although I felt like it!).

In that moment, and during many months that followed, I was overwhelmed with a sense of fear that I just didn't have it in me to be a good mum to these boys. What was required of me and what did I want for them? Could I succeed? Would they survive? They were my questions. It was one of those "watershed" moments!

Those three "boys" are now fast approaching 40 and it all seemed to happen in a blink! Our wrestling, laughing, ball-kicking, bug-catching boys are now husbands and fathers, busy, giving, loving men of God. So, just when did that imperceptible "move" from boyhood to manhood actually happen, this mysterious "transition" of life? Sometimes I think I missed it! My reflection has caused me to ask myself, what aspects of family life and our "parenting" worked well AND what could we have done better? So, I approached those three Soper-parenting "survivors" with the same questions.

POSITIVE RESPONSES

Positive responses first and I quote: "I always felt loved, even when I did wrong; great family holidays; lots of different people were always included in our family; God always seemed a real part of life; we laughed a lot; Dad always did bloke things with us; balanced risk which led to confidence(!); encouraged to do our best and never give up;

our friends were always welcome at our house; you lived by example, I didn't hear you talk about people or the Army in front of us even when I knew you were having a bad time; we were taught a good work ethic; I like that we learnt how to look after our money and how to be generous to others; Pa and Ma and Gran and Gramps were part of our lives." Well, so good so far! That was encouraging! BUT then it was time for the second question: "What could we, as parents, have done better or differently?"

GROWTH AREAS

Again, I quote: "I wish you had read with us more; the main reason I kept out of trouble was because I didn't want to let you down, not because I actually "got it"; Mum, don't take this the wrong way, we always knew what your expectations of us were but I wish that we had more conversations about why; I'm going to be more open with my kids in talking about life and faith. Aaahhh! Not so good and not so encouraging. But true! I grew up in a Christian home and created one for my kids, but that is one thing I did not do well – I did not have really deep and meaningful conversations with my boys about life and faith.

GENERATION NEXT

As I reviewed the boys' honest comments about those transitioning years, I felt convicted to share them with you for the following reasons:

- There is an extreme danger that our generation will not pass on the Christianity of the Bible to the next generation. Loving, caring, Christ-centred and relationship-building environments are crucial. Intentional Christian parenting must be "RE-presented" into our families so that faith is real and transforming.
- Those open conversations are essential to build into our young people faith that is Kingdom-focused and Holy Spirit empowered. It is not enough to simply want "nice kids" who know how to keep out of trouble. Parents are at risk of relying too heavily on church programs, while at the same time our kids and teenagers are being saturated by the "philosophies" of the world.

William Booth considered that the two chief dangers to confront the coming century would be religion without the Holy Spirit and Christianity without Christ. The compromised, half-mast Christian faith of our generation is partly responsible for the conflicted faith crises of the next. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, family friends of value, church – we must aim higher than just raising trouble-free "nice" kids. We must be intentional about, and investing in, parenting, mentoring and building deep, authentic relationships where conversations that matter – conversations about life and faith – can openly and naturally take place.

Our generation is responsible for the next, to live relational faith and pass it on to the next generation so that it's real and touches and transforms their everyday lives. The opposing forces are great and the cost will be high if we don't take that responsibility seriously.

PRAYER: Lord, I humbly pray, let it begin in me.
SCRIPTURE: "Turn my eyes away from [earthly] worthless things and revive me in your ways"
Psalm 119:37 (NIV, NASB).



A NEW WAY OF TRUSTING

WORDS * MAJOR ANGELA EYLES

I recently reflected on a photo of my family from many years ago, pictured in front of Parliament House in Canberra. My seven-year-old and two-year-old have the biggest smiles – and the littlest one has no idea what is going on! Twenty-five years have gone by and so much has happened. Where did the years go? I look again at the photo of my “little ones” and reflect on some of the things that have happened in that time. I remember how a simple moment six years ago challenged me to the core of my being. At that particular time, life had hit us with a series of difficult situations, and while I knew God was truly in control, I also became aware of my desire to “fix” things. But I was unable to “fix” any of the issues affecting my family. As a mum, I had been used to being prepared to stand between our children and any danger that could come their way. I had actively worked to protect them, to the best of my ability, from anything or anyone that could hurt them; and to teach them, by words and example, of Jesus and his love for them. But on this day I felt helpless. It took a stranger in a coffee shop to remind me to trust God – to trust God no matter what! This was quite confronting. After all, I thought I was trusting God. What progressed next was more of a spiritual journey for me.

Trusting God took on a different light. I no longer felt helpless. No, I couldn't “fix” the issues. But I did know that I could trust God to take care of my “not so little ones”. And now, years later, different issues come and go but I have been able to give my children the space to not be “children”. For them to grow up, I had to recognise that I did not need to “fix” things. Of course, this means times of sadness, but it also means times of great joy. My love for my children is immeasurable. Sometimes I am torn because I have limitations on what I can do for them. And, as an adult, I have to also allow them to be responsible for their own choices. But nothing they do would cause me to love them less. All of this has helped me understand God's love for us all the more clearly - Matthew 7:9-11. Now, more than ever, I am aware of God's love for us as we choose to exercise our free will and how, at times, that can take us away from his will for our lives. I love my children to the moon and back and beyond, and would love them to be free of heartache and difficult times, but that is an unrealistic expectation. As God has continued to work in my life, I am more and more aware that he will continue to work in theirs.

“The compromised, half-mast Christian faith of our generation is partly responsible for the conflicted faith crises of the next”



BREAKING PATTERNS OF THE PAST

AUTHOR'S NAME WITHHELD

Am I a kind mother? Am I shaping my daughter's faith, values and character as well as nurturing her sense of self as a beloved child (both mine and God's)? Will she emerge from her childhood years cherishing our relationship because it is a safe place, a place where she finds both grace and truth? Will I have modelled the extraordinary love that I have discovered in Jesus – and will it help her to trust her life to him, too? I ask these questions of myself most days. I left home at 17 years of age to finally be free of my mother's influence. She was a successful, self-made business woman. Now well into her 80s, she still has an adventurous spirit and a sharp mind. But my mum is also very insecure and emotionally manipulative. Through my childhood she used words to wound and control. Nothing escaped her critique, a trait that only fuelled a relentless quest in me to “get things right”.

Moving interstate, encountering Jesus and getting married were key events that created the distance I needed to disentangle myself from the emotional damage of my childhood relationship. Over many years, through good counselling and the work of the Holy Spirit, I now live from a deeper place of security grounded in Jesus' love and acceptance. Motherhood presents an ongoing challenge. I don't want to recreate the relationship I had with my own mother. I don't want to wound my daughter with words or be someone she has to protect herself against. But I am my mother's daughter and often I witness words and reactions that seem to come straight out of my childhood – except now I am the one behaving badly! It is a daily struggle to become the mother I long to be. I have one practice in my life that I believe (by faith) is the difference in my relationship with my daughter. I am committed to loving her by saying sorry. Even before she really understood, I would go to her and say, “Honey, the way I spoke to you was not kind. I am sorry. Please forgive me.” As my daughter grows into a young woman, the harder it is, but I persist. My prayer is that such vulnerability will break through the patterns of the past.



“The best thing my mum did for me when I was entering adulthood was encourage me to grow and learn who I wanted to be. My mum always encouraged me to make decisions, follow my heart and pursue the life God was calling me to. My teenage years saw many big changes for me: moving states, starting full-time work and beginning to date; through it all my mum reminded me that she loved me. Despite sometimes making bad decisions, I knew that regardless of my mistakes, my mum (and also my dad!) would love me and watch out for me. My mum never limited who I could be or what I could do; she challenged and inspired me to seek out what God wanted for my life and to pursue that journey, even when things were hard. In my late teenage years, my mum became more than just my mum; she became my encourager, my voice of reason, my strength – ultimately, my mum moved from simply being my mother to being my friend too.”

–Jacqueline Gluyas



“The transition into adulthood is a journey, and in some ways, at almost 29, I feel as though I still have not yet arrived! The best thing my mother has ever done to assist me on the journey is to be available – for anything and everything! From a young age she always made it clear [to me] that no questions were off limit, no trouble was too much for her and tears were acceptable anytime. As an adult, I can't remember a time when she hasn't been there for all of us, at any time of day or night, always armed with wisdom, prayers, encouragement, advice and practical support, no matter the personal cost to her. For that, I am eternally grateful!”

– Amy Hefferan



A LETTER TO MY MUM

WORDS * LIEUTENANT NICOLA POORE

Dear Mum,

Remember when I got my driver's licence? First go. After 100 long hours. That's when this all started. Within months I had finished high school, and that only accelerated this whole thing. I was no longer a child. Independence had started to blossom. I was to become more and more my own person. And things would never be the same again.

Did you and Dad know what you were doing? Did you have a plan? The dynamics in our relationship evolved so naturally over time that the details are almost imperceptible. But somehow you always managed to give me enough. Enough support along with enough freedom. Enough advice coupled with enough silence. Enough security while encouraging enough discovery.

Like the time when I announced that I was going to change uni courses after two years of study. Despite the considerable ripple effect on you and Dad, you both supported me wholeheartedly. You always supported me wholeheartedly, even when it was costly to you personally. I'm sure that you probably harboured some doubts about this decision, not to mention other decisions, like those involving relationships, clothing preferences, tattoos, internet banking and the like. (I was kidding about the tats, Mum!).

But in all of these things – you trusted me. You trusted me deeply. And so I've had freedom to choose well, but I've also had the freedom to make mistakes. And when I did make mistakes, I was never met with pursed lips or “I told you so”. Instead, you sat with me in the midst of my disappointment.

Other times, though, I didn't want so much freedom. It's hard being a grown-up! I'd want to give back some of the responsibility and live carefree. Thank you for your patience in those moments. Mum. Slowly and gently, you would enforce some healthy boundaries until I was ready to face the unknown once again. Like the first time I had to book an appointment with the doctor because you refused to call on my behalf. (Seriously, what did I think would happen? You should also know that Dad continued to book for me for a few months!)

Eventually I found my voice. And despite it being similar to yours, it is my own. I grew up believing that my voice deserved to be heard. Thank you. Not every young woman receives that message.

I've certainly come a long way! We've certainly come a long way. I sense the training wheels are now off. Perhaps now I'm in the sidecar? No, actually, you're in the sidecar. In reality, things have changed. In many ways we really are more like equals. But you will always be my Mum. And now I have the privilege of serving you, caring for you and, at times, sitting with you in the midst of life's disappointments (and many, many joys as well).

Thanks be to God! Under his leadership, you have navigated this transition so very well.

With much love,

Your youngest daughter, Nicola



FINISHED WITH FAKERY

WORDS • CAPTAIN BELINDA CASSIE

Can we sit and chat for a while, would that be okay? I mean, in an ideal world, you and I would be hanging out at Chester Street Bakery right now. The guy at the counter pretty much knows how I take my coffee, and he'll catch on to how you take yours soon enough. I love Chester Street Bakery, not just because the staff are so friendly (and just between you and me, the coffee guy, with his tattoos, beard and man-bun could totally score a magazine cover shoot), and not just because the Twix cake is absolutely worth the calories.

No, what I really love about Chester Street Bakery is how quickly conversation becomes real there. Maybe it's the atmosphere, maybe it's the Twix cake (seriously, it is that good), maybe it's the wink the coffee guy gives when he brings out the coffee, or maybe, just maybe, it's because we're all a little weary of the pretence. I don't know what it is really, but what I do know is that guards are eased down, and masks set aside at Chester Street.

DROPPING THE MASKS

I was talking to a friend not long ago (not at Chester Street Bakery – I should hit those guys up for all the free plugs I'm giving here) about how done I am with fakery in general. I don't know about you, but it just takes a lot more effort than I am prepared to put in. It's hard work keeping a mask in place. It's hard work remembering which mask you wear and when you wear it. It's hard work trying to be someone you're not. I get why we do it, honestly I do. For the longest time I had this idea of who I was supposed to be. Somewhere along the line, I figured that to be loved, to be known, to be accepted in the church, I had to be a "good Christian girl". I had to have it all together, serve well on a Sunday and live well during the week. While I was at it, I'd best keep a smile in place as I did it, too. I was supposed to be demure, lady-like, know all the Christian "stuff" and keep myself untainted by the world. It even sounds exhausting! Demure and lady-like are two words rarely ascribed to me. I'm loud, my laugh is raucous, I love fiercely, and I relish the fact that I'm still learning "the stuff" (rue the day I think I've got it all figured out).

GOD'S BELOVED

That same friend I mentioned earlier, reminded me of something that I've come to treasure, and maybe it's a word for you, too. See, when God called me his beloved, he knew that this vessel was cracked and flawed. But regardless, he still calls me his own. Jeremiah 1:5 says that before I was even formed, God knew me. It's staggering to think really, that the Creator of the universe, the same one who placed the stars and moon in the sky, causes the waves to roll in and the clouds to roll by, this Sovereign King knows me. And the thing is, he knows you too. Masks are heavy, why not set it aside. No need for pretence here my friend – you are known and you are loved by the King of Kings, and that's a truth you can rest in. Now, how about a piece of Twix cake? †

"No need for pretence here my friend – you are known and you are loved by the King of Kings, and that's a truth you can rest in."

FIND YOUR MINISTRY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Living in a first-world country, it's easy to assume that gender inequalities don't exist, yet they do. Sometimes they are more obvious, such as domestic abuse and other times they are more subtle – for example, a gender stereotype. October 11 marks the fourth year of the International Day of the Girl Child – a day initiated by the United Nations in 2012. This day is about empowerment. It promotes the rights of adolescent girls while highlighting the gender inequalities that still exist between boys and girls. The goal is to end all forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world. Here are some ways you can get involved with International Day of the Girl Child to help put an end to gender inequalities:

Remove stereotypes: Don't just accept stereotypes. Make sure you question whether a stereotype brings down girls or lifts them up. By talking about girls in a positive light, we move one step closer towards gender equality.

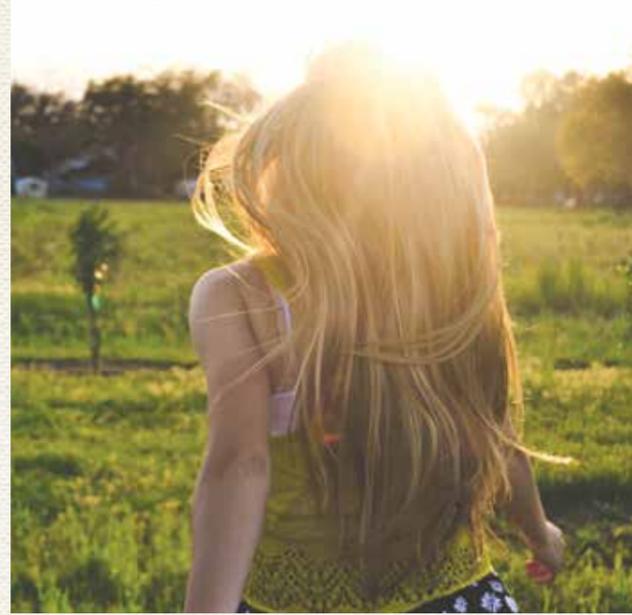
Speak out: Join the equality conversation on social media. Pick a gender equality issue you are passionate about, share your voice on social media and use the #IDG2015 hashtag.

Encourage: Take the time to send a text message to a female friend, or in person, and tell them how much you value them as an individual.

Don't tolerate violence: If there's a female in your life, or it might be yourself, who is being physically or emotionally abused, talk to an adult you can trust such as a parent or youth leader.

Buy "A Girls Kit": Help young girls overseas who don't have access to feminine hygiene products. Purchase "A Girls Kit" for \$20 at salvos.org.au/said

For more information on International Day of the Girl Child, go to unwomen.org or dayofthegirlsummit.org



2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (New International Version).

#born-again #new-life #freedom



THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE

Some days I feel like I'm just surviving my way through life ... being a mumma, wife, officer, friend, student, it's all a bit cray cray (a nod to the lingo of a teenager!). Being in a constant state of hurry with a never-ending to-do list is not very life giving.

I've been thinking about my journey this year. "Thrive" is a bit of a key theme. I know that God is longing for more for me, for me to go deeper in my knowledge of and love of him. He longs for me to develop the skills and talents that he has given to me; He longs for me to experience a life in all its fullness; He wants me to thrive. He wants each of us to thrive. Everyone. All of creation.

This afternoon I put everything aside and decided the local cafe would be my place of residence for the afternoon. That never-ending to-do list screamed my name, but I knew I needed time out to myself – to journal, to create, to put words and colours to the thoughts buried in the depths of my soul.

What has this got to do with thriving? It means that sometimes it's okay to take time out for yourself. In fact, I would say it's essential. I know I'm a better person when I intentionally carve out margins in my week to do something life-giving. I have a clearer mind, my spirit is refreshed and I have a renewed sense of joy and purpose.

If I have any encouragement for you today it would be to carve out some intentional time that is just for you. The enemy's greatest weapon is busyness. Take time to stop and smell the flowers, so to speak. It'll help cultivate an attitude of gratitude and it will benefit your overall wellbeing. We were made to thrive, not just survive. For the full version of this article, check out Vanessa's blog at honouringgodselfothers.wordpress.com

MUSIC REVIEW

OWL CITY – MOBILE ORCHESTRA

Professed Christian and secular singer-songwriter Adam Young, aka Owl City, has released his fifth album, *Mobile Orchestra*. It's uncommon, but always refreshing, when secular artists openly acknowledge God in their music. On this 10-track electro pop album there are a couple of songs where Adam loudly expresses his love for God. *My Everything*, which premiered on the website of Christian magazine, *Relevant*, is a straightforward worship song. *You're Not Alone* echoes similar sentiments and in both songs, Adam shares his deep need for a Saviour in his life. There are other tracks that don't speak as openly about God, but rather hint towards faith concepts. In *This Isn't the End*, Adam tells a tale of forgiveness and healing between a daughter and her father, after he takes his own life.

The lyrics in *Can't Live Without You* could be interpreted to have Christian meaning, expressing a need for a Saviour, without mentioning God by name. Also, in *Thunderstruck* the lyrics vaguely speak about the love of God. While not every song is overtly Christian, there are plenty of uplifting tracks in this album. Adam shares nostalgic memories from his childhood years of the 1990s in *Unbelievable*, and newly released catchy single *Verge* speaks positively about the endless possibilities of the future. Adam stays true to his electro pop style. His distinct sound was first formed in his single *Fireflies*, which topped the international charts back in 2013. Since then his electro pop sound and unique voice have continually led to his musical success. *Mobile Orchestra* is an album not to be missed. It can be purchased from iTunes for \$16.99.



WIN OUR GIVEAWAY COPY!

Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@ae.salvationarmy.org for a chance to win our giveaway copy of *Mobile Orchestra* by Owl City.

BLOG REVIEW

AUDACIOUS FAITH

Cherie Clanfield celebrated her 21st birthday a little differently than most. While many will spend this milestone birthday with family and friends, Cherie was far from her loved ones. In fact, she was thousands of kilometres away in Kenya. At the end of June this year, this Miranda Corps Salvo had completed six months in the mission field, volunteering at a Salvation Army children's home called Kabete in Kenya's capital city, Nairobi. Throughout those six months, Cherie shared her adventures with the online world in her blog, *Audacious Faith*.

If you're looking to be inspired, Cherie's blog will make you smile, laugh and cry. In each blog post, Cherie paints a clear picture of her daily environment and challenges. She shares honestly about her struggles, such as living without running water for a week. Cherie also speaks openly about her faith journey. Each post brings an encouraging messaging of what God had done in her life that day. Every day was also a faith step for Cherie. She often woke up not knowing what her day would look like or how she would be used by God. Her incredible faith brings her blog posts to life.

When Cherie returned home she wrote: "It's been tough to be home and see how completely far from home I am!" Cherie's heart for the mission field is infectious and will leave you feeling challenged to do more for the Kingdom of God. To read Cherie's blog, go to audaciousfaith.weebly.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Teina Gough who has won our giveaway copy of last issue's CD, *Real Love* by Derek Johnson.



UNITED NATIONS PROMOTES GIRLS' RIGHTS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL DAY

The United Nations will mark the fourth annual International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October. This day promotes girls' rights and highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys. The International Day of the Girl Child gives people and organisations the opportunity to raise public awareness of the different types of discrimination and abuse that many girls around the world suffer. On this day, many community and political leaders talk to the public about the importance of girls' right to equal education and their fundamental freedoms. Various events are held to showcase the work that people are doing to empower girls through active support and engagement with parents, families, and the wider community.

For more information on International Day of the Girl Child, go to unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child or dayofthegirlsummit.org/day-of-the-girl-webcast

SALVOS TO PRAY FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Salvation Army's Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking this year will be held on Sunday 27 September. The United Nations defines human trafficking as: "... a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights." Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. UNODC, as guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto, assists States in their efforts to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Trafficking in Persons Protocol)" (unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html). Though the terminology may be new, human trafficking is not. Examples of human trafficking exist throughout the Bible:

- Joseph's brothers trafficked him to the Ishmaelites;
- The Canaanite army trafficked girls for rape and sexual slavery;
- In 2 Kings, creditors threatened to traffic children into debt and bondage;
- In each of these situations, God provided rescue and blessing to the victims;
- Amos 2:6-7 is our biblical imperative to pursue social justice.

For more information or to download posters, sermons, Bible studies, brochures and other resources, go to salvationarmy.org/ihq/antitrafficking

WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD WORSHIP TOGETHER AT BOUNDLESS

"We, the women of The Salvation Army, can change the world – one person, one family, one village, one community, one country at a time!" declared Commissioner Silvia Cox, World President of Women's Ministries, to the more than 2100 women at "Bound-Less", the congress women's gathering on 3 July.

Commissioner Cox reminded her audience that they had been released to tell people about Jesus' love. "We are Jesus' mouthpieces," she said. "Your personal testimony is your best story, so tell people how you met God. Liberated, unrestricted, released – that's what you are!"

For the full version of this story, go to boundless2015.org/boundless/news/women-can-change-world
To see all the photos from this event, go to flickr.com/photos/boundless2015/sets/72157653082194433



CHOCOLATE THEME CHALLENGES LADIES AT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

Chocolate was the theme and focus for the Calamvale Corps' friendship club on Friday 24 July. The group warmed up with some hot chocolate before playing some games, all focused on the chocolate theme.

Major Jo-Anne Brown, corps officer, demonstrated some chocolate recipes and entertained the gathering with some random facts about the confectionary nearly everybody loves. Major Jo-Anne also spoke about the rampant child labour exploitation in the chocolate industry, and the high human cost involved in the production of chocolate. She led a discussion on Fair Trade, and how ethically produced chocolate and products are readily available in Australia. "The highlights of this morning was this touching rundown on the unfair [labour] situation in the chocolate industry, and ways we can support Fair Trade to improve lives in developing countries," said Lieutenant Winnie Ng, Assistant Corps Officer with responsibility for Chinese Ministries. "It was a fun day, but also extremely challenging," said Major Jo-Anne. "Some of our ladies were quite shocked at hearing about the child labour behind the chocolate we love to eat."

For more information on Fair Trade and how to get involved in supporting this movement, check out fairtrade.com.au/page/what-fairtrade and www.stophetraffik.org/campaign/chocolate



DIVISIONAL EVENT FOCUSES ON PRAYER

SYDNEY EAST & ILLAWARRA DIVISION

Women from around the division recently met at the School for Officer Training to enjoy a dessert and coffee evening. The guest speaker for the evening was Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Reid, Secretary for Personnel. "The theme that flowed throughout the evening was the significance and importance of prayer in our lives," said Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Laws, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries.

Major Lyn Prince gave her testimony, sharing how her prayer life and the support of her prayer network of friends carried her through her very difficult cancer journey.

Dana Townsend from Hurstville Corps spoke about the importance of prayer, not only in her own life, but also that of The Salvation Army. Attending the evening with Dana was three generations of the family – her mother Julie, grandmother Marian and sister Rachel. "In an interview they each shared how they communicate, support and influence each other across the generations, giving special emphasis to their support of each other in prayer," said Lt-Colonel Jan. "Vocalists Renata Davies and Sarah Bishop, from Rockdale Corps, brought beautiful blessings through their vocal messages."



01



02

01– Major Glenys Domrow (far right) enjoys the evening with ladies from the Campsie Corps.

02– Renata Davies and Sarah Bishop, vocalists from Rockdale Corps, sang at the event.

**WE WILL
NOT
BE SILENT**

Isaiah 42:22 (NIV)



— *Annual Day of Prayer for* —
**VICTIMS OF
HUMAN-TRAFFICKING**

Sunday 27 September 2015

