



# Family Store

## Threes.

The third of our almost famous Half-Price Everything Sales went well on Saturday. But the heat outside! The concrete was painfully hot, the sausages were hotter, but nowhere as hot as the free Cappuccino's. The air-conditioning in the Family Store, a concrete building which has fixed glass, struggled to maintain a cheery atmosphere. Somehow it all worked - and it usually does, with the tremendous loyalty of my Volunteers making it happen. **Which is probably the most boring bit of news you've read in the last two days.**

You'd probably prefer to know about the 3 different families that the Store has directly helped in the last 3 days? *Can't tell you anything about them.* Or another person that we semi-emptied out our food cupboard for. *Won't tell you anything about that, either.*

### Three things are for sure:

\*There is so much need out there at Christmas that we simply cannot help everybody. But you can help "somebody". Make it **one** family or **one** person - and do it well. Or give to the Salvation Army so they can do it well.

\*Do it discreetly and leave quickly. The longer you stay, the more embarrassed they will get. Above all, if you give them anything this year for Christmas, be sure to give them Dignity.

\***WWJG:** What Would Jesus Give? A religious card or a decent meal seasoned with unconditional love? Be real and practical about your help.

Anyway, what story I can tell you about is this: The 3 coloured pieces of paper that I found at the bottom of a donated clothing bag on Wednesday brought joy to our hearts. *Yeah.* Fifty dollar notes seem to do that almost every time.

Spend some effort keeping your Christmas and New Year meaningful and holy.

Cheers,



**Stu Robertson**  
Manager  
Shailer Park Family Store



# Life

community

EMMANUEL EMMANUEL EMMANUEL  
*God with us*

## December 2014 News

For many, Christmas is the time to think of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger. While the birth of Christ is a special and miraculous event, it isn't the primary focus. The central truth of the Christmas story is this: the Child of Christmas is God.

Christmas is not about the Savior's infancy; it is about His deity. The humble birth of Jesus Christ was never intended to conceal the reality that God was being born into the world.

But the modern world's version of Christmas does just that. And consequently for the greater part of humanity, Christmas has no legitimate meaning at all.

I don't suppose anyone can ever fathom what it means for God to be born in a manger. How does one explain the Almighty stooping to become a tiny infant? Our minds cannot begin to understand what was involved in God's becoming man.

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Nor can anyone explain how God could become a baby. Yet He did. Without forsaking His divine nature or diminishing His deity, He was born into our world as a tiny infant.

He was fully human, with all the needs and emotions that are common to us all. Yet He was also fully God--all wise and all powerful.

For nearly 2,000 years, debate has been raging about who Jesus really is. Cults and sceptics have offered various explanations. They'll say He is one of many gods, a created being, a high angel, a good teacher, a prophet, and so on. The common thread of all such theories is that they make Jesus less than God. But the biblical evidence is overwhelming that this child in the manger was the incarnation of God.

One passage in particular, written by the apostle Paul, captures the essence of Jesus' divine nature and underscores the truths that make Christmas truly wonderful.

[Colossians 1:15-20](#) says, He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For. . . all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

God bless, Captains Ashley and Bronwyn Barkmeyer

CHURCH WEBSITE [salvos.org.au/lifecc/](http://salvos.org.au/lifecc/) Please don't forget to go on our website which is now up to date and is full of interesting info.

## Coming Events



### Christmas Eve

#### Carols on the lawn

6:30 pm Dessert following.

Come along for a fun evening of song and celebration

Our church is offering a **Christmas Eve Dinner at 5.10 pm** before the Carols for **30 clients of our welfare office**. If you can help please call Bonnie on 0401 844 789 or email her on [bi.lynn00@gmail.com](mailto:bi.lynn00@gmail.com) or the church office on 3290 5200.



Donations of food for the night will be gratefully accepted. Please call the office or Bonnie for the list.

### Hyperdome Street Ministry—

**Mon 15/12 to Sat 20/12**

There are still spaces to be filled to collect for the Salvation Army at

the Hyperdome for two to three hours at a time.

As the song goes, "Come on ring those bells..." The more the merrier. Please call 3290 5200. We don't want to risk losing this opportunity. Thank you greatly in advance. .



### Toy pickup for our community— 10 am Sat 20 December



Just a reminder that helpers are needed for Saturday 20th for whatever time you can give between 10 am and 2 pm. There will be a jumping castle and other activities for the kids to enjoy while the gifts are handed out. Please call 3290 5200.