

Outreach?

What are we doing? A helpful way to understand outreach and evangelism is via the three P's: Presence, Proclamation, and Persuasion. Presence is, for instance, the Salvos being present at an emergency, offering assistance. Proclamation, telling the gospel story, may be a traditional open air meeting or a carols service; in some way, shape or form, people hear the good news of the gospel. Persuasion is a conversation around coming to faith in Christ and what that means. This might happen one-on-one or be a part of a program such as Alpha. All three are necessary. All three have their place.

Under Marty's guidance a team has been meeting to organize the outreach events for this year. Our first event on March 22 will be built around Presence; letting people know who we are, where we are, and what we do. As such we will have lots of things happening at once: stalls, booths, and performances. Rather than the focus being on a central stage and Proclamation it will be on being Present with as many people as possible at their point of interest. That's the plan anyway.

So please be involved! We will need lots of helpers to make sure that as many people as possible know who we are and what we do. I'll see you there!

Grant

Changes in welfare

This week it was announced that our territory had successfully tendered for very significant government funding to deliver Emergency Relief (ER). Of course Parramatta Salvos have provided ER for many years, and have done so very well! In fact, I would say that ours is the best welfare delivery I've seen in a corps (and I've seen a few). Nevertheless, our excellence aside, we are a part of these territory wide changes built around what they are calling a Doorways model. The idea is that corps no longer assess clients—that is done at centralized call centre—but rather become distribution and connection points for people. The idea is to move to a more proactive case management model.

This is massive for us. Basically it means that all the job descriptions in welfare have been rewritten. It is not yet clear what this will mean in terms of how we operate. We have lots of questions! However, the changes are here to stay and over the coming weeks we will need to rework and reimagine what we do. The painful part of this is that a complete restructure means that existing staff will need to apply for the new positions.

We think that this change will provide us with new opportunities to connect with people in different way and to perhaps focus on particular services over and above ER, that meet particular needs in our community.

We will need to pray about this. Pray for our staff and volunteers. Pray for our restructure. We will need to 'discern what is best' as we seek to fulfil our mission of lives transformed by Jesus.

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