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equity right from the start*

others

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Fighting the good fight.

Former world champ Sam
now in Salvos' corner



SEPTEMBER
2017

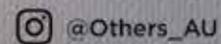
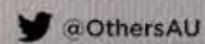
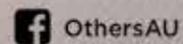
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Inspiring time in the Top End.

SIMONE WORTHING | STAFF WRITER

FOR MANY AUSTRALIANS, the Northern Territory is a distant, largely unknown land, famed for its outback desert landscapes, unique wildlife and rich Indigenous culture. Older generations will remember the World War Two bombing of Darwin in 1942; and most people have heard about Christmas Eve 1974, when the territory's capital, Darwin, was devastated by Cyclone Tracy.

In July, I visited Darwin and Katherine (300km south of the capital) "on assignment" for *others* magazine to see the work of The Salvation Army there, so we could share with our readers what is happening in the Top End. Over coverage starts on page 16 of this issue.

It was so inspiring to experience The Salvation Army on the front line in the territory, to meet the people committed to making a difference in remote and challenged communities, and to see the love and care extended to all those they serve. In nature and intent, the ministries of The Salvation Army in the Northern Territory reflect the Army's values in operation around the world. Their geographic, cultural, social and historical context, though, is unique.

The people who live and serve in this diverse Australian territory explain this uniqueness best. "I have learned not to bring my own judgements and attitudes into this context, where the people have their own history, their own backgrounds," says Captain Nari McGifford, Social Programs Director and Corps Officer in Alice Springs. "My husband [Captain Stuart McGifford] and I have become much less 'consumeristic' and are enjoying the clear blue skies, red earth, and natural beauty of this area. We are learning to live with the rhythm of the weather and moving in time with the people and land around us."

Lieutenant Mark Smalley, Manager of Darwin's Sunrise Centre, says there are two types of people

who come to the Northern Territory, "Those who find it hot, the clients hard to work with, and the lack of resources too difficult; and those who love the place and the rawness of its people".

From the flying padre visiting isolated stations around the Northern Territory, to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples being treated with dignity and respect, to the women fleeing domestic violence and now rebuilding their lives – God is using The Salvation Army in powerful ways in this isolated and strikingly beautiful part of Australia.

Also in this issue, we look at other people and ministries that God is using to make a difference throughout Australia and globally – such as former world champion boxer Sam Soliman, who will fight his last bout this month. Sam's new passion is working with The Salvation Army's Project 614 in Melbourne where he teaches health, fitness and making good choices to the homeless and marginalised people of the city.

Our Global Focus series also explores the work of the International Social Justice Commission, The Salvation Army's strategic voice to advocate for human dignity and social justice with the world's poor and oppressed; and we talk about our *SalvosChurchLife* campaign – a weekly online spotlight on Army corps or services that are actively and successfully engaging with their community.

God can use each of us to be his church wherever life happens. Perhaps this is a good time for us all to ask ourselves what difference we're making wherever we are. ■

Simone Worthing is a staff writer and International Editor for *others*





The #salvoschurchlife campaign, an initiative of *Others*, is in full swing. To find out more about how you can get involved, read our story on page 35.



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Salvation Story

A vision worth dying for.

Capturing the sacrificial call of Christ

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

MOST PEOPLE I TALK TO today when asked, not surprisingly, want to live a long life. The more interesting and sometimes surprising answers come to a second question: "Why?" Could it be true that the greatest purpose worth living for is the purpose worth dying for?

As we travelled the journey to the development of the National Vision Statement together, interviewing individuals, sharing in focus groups and engaged in online respondents, the challenge was laid before me: "I hope the articulation of the new National Vision is a vision that I would die for!"

There is a longing for a vision for The Salvation Army in Australia, that would call people to join with God in what he is doing and has in mind to do in Australia, whatever the cost! Transforming Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus is a vision that can and will be realised as Salvos choose to live, love and fight alongside others wherever there is hardship or injustice. That is a vision worth dying for! It is the very vision for which Jesus came into the world and died.

Vision is a source of hope. It is the source of courage. It is the reason to sacrifice, to pay the price. Vision calls forth perseverance in the midst of challenge and difficulty.

A vision of living, loving and fighting alongside, will require surrender, servanthood spirit and sacrificial action. The vision commands a surrender of personal agenda, comfort and security. The Salvation Army is the only army that finds its victory in surrender. The willingness to live out of a spirit of servanthood is the mark of the follower

of Christ, the One who came not to be served but to serve.

The vision of living, loving and fighting alongside captures the call of Christ to sacrifice, deny oneself and take up a cross and follow him. As Jesus spoke those words he had begun his final journey to Jerusalem and the cross of Calvary.

John Stott, in *The Cross of Christ*, writes of the challenge today facing the church. "The place of suffering in service and of passion in mission is hardly ever taught today," he says. "But the greatest single secret of evangelistic or missionary effectiveness is the willingness to suffer and die. It may be a death to popularity (by faithfully preaching the unpopular biblical gospel), or to pride (by the use of modest methods in reliance on the Holy Spirit), or to racial and national prejudice (by identification with another culture), or to material comfort (by adopting a simpler lifestyle). But the servant must suffer if he is to bring light to the nations, and the seed must die if it is to multiply."

The surrender, servanthood spirit and sacrificial actions of everyday, ordinary individuals committed to partnering with God in what he was doing throughout the history of The Salvation Army, has brought us to this point in our existence. The continued transformation of Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus will require no less of us today. ■

Commissioner Floyd Tidd is National Commander of The Salvation Army in Australia



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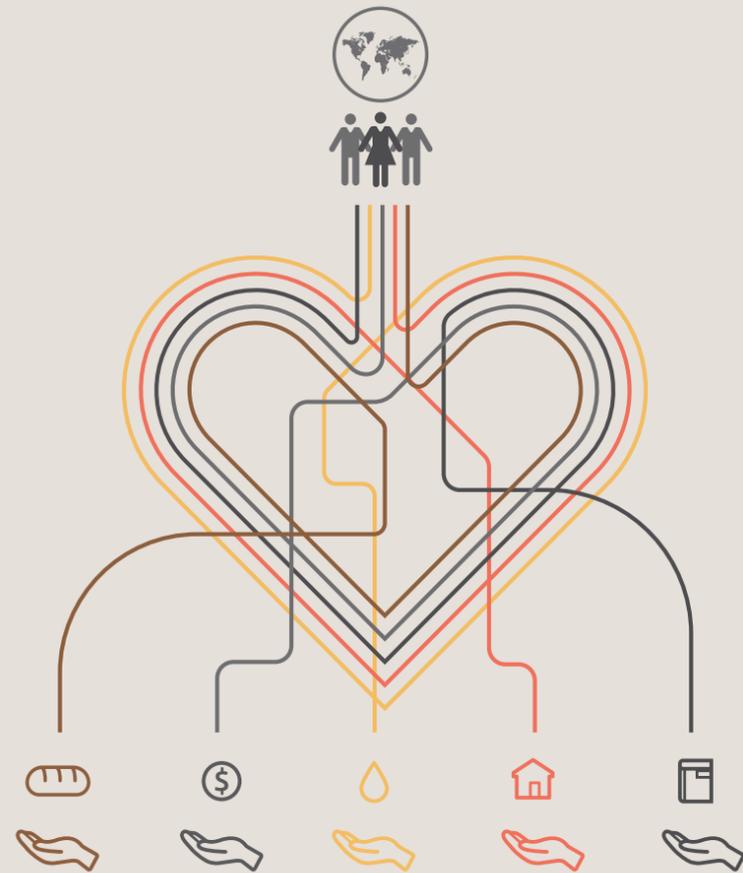
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International Social Justice Commission - advocating for human dignity

How well do you know The Salvation Army world? In this regular feature, we give an overview of The Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission, based in New York.

Mission Interns: 3

Officers: 7
(3 part-time, 4 full-time)

Employees: 4
(1 full-time; 3 part-time)

● Overview

The International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) is The Salvation Army's strategic voice to advocate for human dignity and social justice with the world's poor and oppressed.

The ISJC is part of The Salvation Army's International Headquarters (IHQ) with its secretariat in New York City. Casey O'Brien Machado, Eastern Territorial Social Justice Coordinator, is a former intern of the ISJC.

The ISJC advises the General and other senior leaders at IHQ in matters of social justice. The director and staff are the Army's principal international advocates and advisers on social, economic and political issues and events giving rise to the perpetuation of social injustice in the world. They assist the Army in addressing social injustice in a systemic, measured and proactive and Christian manner.

The commission is also the secretariat to the work of the International Moral and Social Issues Council (IMASIC).

The ISJC also develops resources to teach and explain social justice from theological, theoretical and best practice perspectives.

● Mandate

The Salvation Army's mission has always been marked by love for God, service among the poor and an invitation to believe and follow Jesus Christ. As stated on their website, the mandate of the ISJC is to challenge Salvationists to harmonise their historic mission with God's call to pursue justice in today's world. The ISJC seeks to fulfil this mandate through the implementation of a strategic plan to:

- Raise strategic voices to advocate with the world's poor and oppressed.
- Be a recognised centre of research and critical thinking on issues of global social justice.
- Collaborate with like-minded

organisations to advance the global cause of social justice.

- Exercise leadership in determining social justice policies and practices of The Salvation Army.
- Live by principles of justice and compassion and inspire others to do likewise.

The ISJC has an intentional and strategic approach to education, research and advocacy.

● The work of the ISJC

The daily focus of the ISJC includes:

- Listening to the experience of The Salvation Army working in 127 countries and seeking to represent their voices at the United Nations (New York, Vienna, Geneva, Nairobi) and other global forums such as the World Bank.
- Researching and developing expertise on relevant global issues in light of Christian faith.
- Sharing this information as widely as possible by publishing books, developing online resources, teaching and speaking at conferences.
- Coordinating The Salvation Army's international response against human trafficking.
- Personally seeking to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

● ISJC ethos

The reasons behind the work of the ISJC are clear:

- To promote a vision of justice based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- To advocate and advise on social, economic, political issues and events which lead to the perpetuation of

injustice in the world.

- To amplify the voices of poor, marginalised and oppressed people and translate their real-life insights into policies, practices and life-giving opportunities.

● The ISJC and the UN

The Salvation Army itself has been an affiliated non-governmental organisation (NGO) with the United Nations since 1947. The Salvation Army has held "good standing" or "consultative status" at the UN since that year.

The Salvation Army may formally contribute to the work of the UN because of their granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This work is done alongside other non-governmental, non-profit, public or voluntary organisations, and faith-based organisations with similar status.

ISJC members may participate in meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, including the functional commissions at the United Nations, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

● Publications

The ISJC website offers a range of publications, in different languages, that people can read or download free of charge. These include *Building a Just World*, *Go and Do Something*, and *Jesus and Justice*.

A range of research papers are also available, on topics such as the effects of pornography, combatting food insecurity and poverty. UN reports, Salvation Army international positional statements and a wide range of resources and information also feature, and are regularly updated.

For more information, go to www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/isjchome



BEEN THINKING? We bring you a selection of opinion, critical thought, and topical writing to get you engaging with the world around you. To read more of this type of writing, please go to: others.org.au/viewpoint

Podiums, pedestals and platforms.

Our obsession with feeling important

WORDS | DANIELLE STRICKLAND

THEY SAY THAT Hitler was a small man. At Nazi rallies, he would stand on a box to look taller at the podium. He insisted that images of him be from an upward angle – to make him appear larger. You can check out the propaganda posters; it’s fascinating.

A few years ago, I went on a backstage tour of Universal Studios in Los Angeles and saw the facades of the famous western movies that John Wayne starred in. He was also small in stature and the movie production team was ordered to make all the doorframes on the set smaller so that Wayne would look bigger. It was an illusion. Tom Cruise wears platform shoes because he’s short and it embarrasses him. He doesn’t like being or feeling small. Neither did Napoleon and neither do I. It begs the question: What do you use to prop yourself up?

I use image, accolades, and past victories as props to stand on. They help make me appear better/larger/greater than I really am. To look even better than physically possible I usually rely on a whole range of Instagram filters, not to mention the filters on my mouth that regularly block out the confessions of my own doubt, hurt, fear and insecurities. “I’m smaller than I appear” should be written on the rear-view mirror of my life. The

temptation to prop ourselves up on a podium, pedestal, or platform is a big one.

A little while ago, I read the biography of Jim Bakker, the American TV evangelist who crashed and burned in a bitter, public scandal in the early 1990s. It was titled, *I Was Wrong*. I figured that any man who had the nerve to write that in large block letters on a biography earned a hearing.

So, I read his book. It was enlightening, and I think I learned more about me than him. I learned that I was judgmental and critical and harsh and that he was simply crushed by the box he stood on to appear better than he was, which inevitably led to him presenting worse than he really was. But the best part of the book by far was the story of a surprise visit he received in prison.

“The temptation to not only appear better than you are but to believe it, is one of the oldest ego tricks in the book”

Jim was in solitary confinement (for his own protection), the most hated man in the United States, the despised TV evangelist crook. His wife had divorced him and married his ‘best friend’, his kids didn’t want to see him and his ministry had been split up and divided among bidders. He was at rock bottom.

A prison guard collected him to meet a visitor. Jim assumed it was his lawyer, the only person who ever paid him a visit. When he entered the visitation room what he saw took his breath away. Sitting there, waiting for him, was Billy Graham. Jim was speechless – ashamed. He described the feeling he had as “dirty” and he desperately wanted to tell Billy to run away from him as fast as he could. “The cleanest, finest evangelist America

has ever seen was spoiling his reputation on the likes of me” is the way that Jim described his reaction. But Billy broke the silence and simply said: “I’ve come to see how you are doing, Jim. Ruth and I are praying for you every day and we wondered if when you get out of here you’d like to come for dinner.” Billy talked to Jim like he was *normal*. The nerve.

Billy knew a thing or two about podiums, pedestals and platforms. The temptation to not only appear better than you are but to *believe* it, is one of the oldest ego tricks in the book. Think fig leaves. Billy had this habit of stepping off the pedestal on purpose, exposing it for the ego, pride-based temptation that it is. He traded in the money, power and fame trap for a real life on a farm with a family. He kept his head in the Bible, his ambition in his prayers and his feet on the ground. So, he wasn’t so impressed with Jim’s fame, or his demise for that matter. He saw Jim like few else did at the time. He saw him as a human.

The truth is that there are no larger-than-life monsters hiding in human bodies, nor are there saints immune to the realities of life. There are only humans, often desperate to appear larger than we are – uncomfortable in our own skin.

The way to confront this is to accept your own humanity as a great gift. My smallness is an invitation into God’s bigness. My need to prop myself up is in fact, a deep need to let God in. My ego can be right-sized and my humility can grow if I choose truth over image, faith over fear, and doorways that make me appear exactly the size I am. ■

.....
 Danielle Strickland is a Salvation Army officer based in Canada.



WORTH QUOTING.

If Moses had operated through committees the Israelites never would have got across the Red Sea. - William Booth

Ethics on the cheap.

Value-signalling instead of realistic politics

WORDS | JOHN STACKHOUSE

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE recently of appearing again on the ABC’s *Q&A* program. As is often the case after such events, some people were keen to acquaint me with their opinions of my views. But several people also wanted to chide me for what I didn’t say.

“You’re a Christian ethicist!” I heard from such viewers. “You’re supposed to stand up for the planet and insist that politicians adopt, immediately and whole-sale, green policies – full stop.” They said such things because the main discussion of the first segment of the program centred on a \$1 billion loan from the Australian Government to help finance a huge coalmine and railroad project in Central Queensland.

There are lots of critics of this massive undertaking. The *Financial Times* reports that several large banks ruled themselves out of lending money to the project, partly due to environmental concerns and partly out of worries about the project’s commercial viability.

Public subsidies from federal and state governments in Australia for this project has also enraged environmentalists, who want to see no further investment in coal. And some competitors fear that such assistance represents unfair advantage and will hurt their own business. Senator Matt Canavan, the then-Federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, argued, instead, that more than 16,000 jobs

would be generated by this investment and that the coal would be sold to India to replace much less efficient coal now being burned there, thus actually improving the global net carbon output.

Clearly these are complicated issues, as politicians weigh up the immediate needs of workers and families in northern Australia, where unemployment is relatively high, and the help such coal would be to Indian customers, who suffer from rampant pollution, against the alternatives of government investment in green energy sources and more financially stable businesses. (The Adani Group, the main backer of this project, is reported to be highly leveraged.) That’s what politicians are supposed to do.

What pundits such as I can do to help in this discussion is to point out poor arguments and false information put out by interested parties, and to remind politicians of ethical principles they might have somehow forgotten. Alas, however, what is all too easy to do is what I was asked to do by critical viewers: take time on national television to state my support for clean energy, renewable resources, and proper government priorities in the face of global climate change.

I refused to spout such truisms because, among other reasons, I was convinced that no one on that show was, in fact, in favour of pollution, or supportive of using up non-renewables, or keen on wasting government money. To declare that global climate change is an important issue nowadays is generally not an interesting thing to say, and especially on a program such as *Q&A*, whose editorial tilt to the left is widely recognised in Australia. To say that one favours cleaner energy sources and wiser government priorities is to congratulate oneself on simple common sense. So what is to be gained by making such assertions, beyond a few seconds of pleasant applause from some members

of the audience? What is needed is what Senator Canavan – and, indeed, the other politician on the program, Queensland Labor MP Terri Butler – engaged in, however briefly, on the program: intelligent, measured debate about the pertinent facts, about how to interpret them, and about what then to do amid the clash of various goods.

It is all too easy for someone from the middle class of the developed world to champion green energy sources at the expense of the welfare of the working class of her fellow Australians and of the welfare of people in the developing world. It is all too easy to say that the government ought to spend money better than it does without looking closely enough at what real choices are available, rather than the ones we wish were available instead.

What passes for deliberation over public issues today all too easily descends into what is all too easy to say. But politics usually is hard, as it appears to be in this case, and we must say instead what is hard both to say and to hear: Easy solutions are not at hand for many of the issues that we face. So by all means let’s press for a safer, greener, healthier planet. By all means let’s hold governments accountable for questionable policies. But let’s also be willing to accept the grim truth that progress usually comes incrementally, via compromise and negotiation, with unpleasant costs and unanticipated collateral damage.

And let’s urge our politicians to do what Canavan and Butler tried to do on *Q&A*: keep complicated matters complicated and refuse bumper-sticker alternatives. It might not make for gripping TV, but it will make for a better world. ■

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 John Stackhouse is Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University in New Brunswick, Canada.



WORTH QUOTING. | If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. - Mother Teresa

The mission field on our doorstep.

Embracing cross-cultural relationships

WORDS | KATHARINE DALE

FROM 2003 TO 2016, I had the privilege of serving the people of Ghana at The Salvation Army's Begoro Rehabilitation Centre as an occupational therapist, treating children and adults with disabilities. This experience of crossing another culture enriched my life and left an imprint on my heart that God will continue to use for the glory of his Kingdom.

Leaving the shores of Australia for the first time and travelling to West Africa, I was filled with the excitement and anticipation of what God would do in using my skills to help others in a foreign land. Character building began from day one as I experienced a huge culture shock - nothing was familiar to the daily life I was used to in Australia. Cross-cultural differences included working with an interpreter to treat patients, worshipping in the local language, being the only person who looked different, and learning to eat fufu and goat-meat soup with my hands!

God spoke to me about embracing the positive characteristics of the Ghanaian culture in partnership with my own Australian culture, in order to relate well to the people in my new home. The sense of shared community, the hospitality of the African people, the time taken to listen to others and people's awareness of God at work in every situation, were a few of the many positive aspects of the new culture that I learned to embrace.

Typical Australian friendliness and humour, merged with my therapy skills, were part of what I could offer to the situation. Embracing the best of both cultures helped me to assimilate with the Ghanaian people and integrate into the local community. This concept can be applied in the Australian community as we learn to relate to people from diverse cultures.

Meeting people from diverse cultural backgrounds and hearing their story of travel, arrival and settlement in Australia can give us an awareness of personal experiences and a respect for their resilience. This fosters understanding and results in discovering common passions, which is the foundation of building relationships. The opportunity to introduce someone to Jesus is created when we build relationships with people, including people from different cultures. The world, more than ever before, needs Jesus and there is a mission field of cultural diversity on our doorstep in Australia.

Latest census statistics show that more than 28 per cent of Australians were born overseas, and the Christian proportion of the population has fallen to just over 50 per cent, down from 68 per cent in 2001. The Christian Research Association identified that The Salvation Army's church membership has one of the lowest levels of migrants compared to other denominations. It also found that denominations experiencing growth over the past decade were those that were effective in accommodating people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Of course, an individual's eternity and salvation should always be the priority rather than church growth, however, this highlights a need for The Salvation Army to become aware of its culturally diverse communities and learn from Jesus how to create cross-cultural relationships. Opportunities to create such culturally



inclusive relationships include one-on-one conversations with other school parents, taking a personal interest in those attending Salvation Army church or social programs or by inviting neighbours to share a meal.

When driven by fear or division, there can be a temptation for migrants or established Australians to segregate into familiar cultural groups rather than integrate. Harmony and integration is, I believe, God's heart for his community. Whether people recognise Jesus or not, we are called to love and are united under one Lord who gave his life so that we live in perfect relationship with God. "People from every nation will bow down before him. For the Lord is King, he rules the nations" (Psalm 22:27-28).

Imagine the day when our church in Australia embraces the prayerful devotion of our Koreans, the evangelistic fervour of our Africans, the diligent Scripture study of our Chinese and the distinctive traditions of Aboriginal and European Australia.

"Jesus culture" is always higher and greater than our cultural differences and the Holy Spirit empowers us to relate to each other with the common gifts of the Spirit - peace, patience, kindness - with the greatest of gifts being love. ■

Katharine Dale is the Multicultural Engagement Officer for The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory

Mailbox



A LEGACY THAT REMAINS

A photograph of the ruins of some early settler homes in South Australia caused me to pause for thought. If those stones could only talk! I thought of those who had the 'get up and go' to get up and come to the developed country where I now live. They included a relative of mine whose descendants I am trying to trace.

Some of the settlers were migrants who came under William Booth's *Darkest England* scheme and many of their descendants may not know who blessed them. The homes the pioneers built may now be in ruins but the 'can do' legacy they left remains. Their hard work made a world of difference to large tracts of land. That they brought their faith with them is indicated by the fact that to this day Adelaide, the urban centre of South Australia, is known as 'the city of churches'.

We all leave a legacy for those who follow after us - good or bad impressions, helps or hindrances. That should make us careful. The material things we leave behind may be reduced to ruins.

Hoarded finances may disappear in an economic downturn. But our words may live on and our influence remain.

Olive Schreiner wrote: "When I lie down other men will stand fresh and young. By the steps I have cut they will mount. Perhaps they will never know the name of the builder!. At the clumsy work they will laugh; when the stones roll they will blame me. But they will mount, and on my work! They will climb, and by my stairs!. For no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself."

Christianity is about trying *and* trusting and both may be difficult at times - hard, but not impossible. Try it!

- Commissioner Wes Harris



DEMISE OF THE ARMY'S TRUE EMBLEM A GREAT CONCERN

I must say, amen! and amen! and amen! to Commissioner Doug Davis' comment (Mailbox, July issue) about the demise

of the The Salvation Army crest. It is a great concern that we have discarded the true emblem of The Salvation Army. Even on internal Salvation Army mail the shield has taken the place of the crest. In March 2004, I wrote a prayer poem:

The Salvation Army?

*O Lord,
It's called Salvation Army 'cause that is what we were
But are we really doing the things
You would prefer?
Are we following Your footsteps,
keeping on the Holy road?
Or is our chariot filling with some
incidental load?
Should we take another look at the
call our Saviour gave?
Are we somehow now becoming
someone else's slave?
Oh touch us with Your Spirit, give
Your call to us again,
And from every other pathway,
please help us to refrain!*

I agree that "Blood and Fire" would be a better title for this magazine. "Others" means nothing to those who've never heard of the Founder's message of so long ago.

- Major Lionel A. Ling

others

Your opinion counts. We want to hear from you!



If you've read something in Viewpoint or elsewhere in this issue of *others* that you would like to comment on, then please get in touch. Email your letter of no more than 250 words to: others@aus.salvationarmy.org



Living, loving and fighting.

WORDS | BEN WARD

*“Wherever there is hardship or injustice,
Salvos will live, love and fight
alongside others
to transform Australia one life at a time
with the love of Jesus”
- National Vision Statement*

Our last Australia One article, in the August issue of *others*, looked at the first line of our National Vision Statement – “Wherever there is hardship or injustice”. We explored what it meant to truly seek out hardship or injustice, and the way that this line calls us to go and seek out the places where hardship or injustice exist and, as experts in our community, fight for justice and bring the Kingdom of God to Earth.

After exploring where it is we need to focus our attention, the second line of the Vision unites us as Salvos as we promise to **live, love and fight**.

There is a fascinating section of the salvation-army.org.au website that explores the history and heritage of The Salvation Army in Australia. On a page titled “A Century of Care” you can explore a 100-year history of The Salvation Army in Australia that begins with “The Birth of our Nation”.

The article then takes us through this history, decade by decade, under the headings: Soldiers of the Cross; Men, Money & Markets; Hard Times; The World at War; The Boom Years; New Challenges; A Decade of Disaster; Boom and Bust; Legacies of Change; and Preparing for our Future.

Each decade is marked by a theme unique to that time, yet there is one constant throughout each of them – we as Salvos are living, loving and fighting. Wherever you look through these chapters of Australian history, you can see Salvos

living among everyday people, sharing the love of Jesus with them, and fighting for them.

But who are “Salvos”? Is a Salvo a Salvation Army officer, a chaplain or a soldier? Is a Salvo a member of our congregations, somebody who volunteers at an outreach centre or an employee working at Territorial Headquarters, in our divisions or at one of our centres?

The answer is simple – we are all Salvos. One need only look to our rich history and the wide variety of settings across our country where you might find the iconic “Red Shield” to realise that the definition of a Salvo is as vast and wide as is our great country itself. Some Salvos wear a uniform, some have an official rank, some volunteer once a week at the local Salvos Stores, and some might not have particular role or “job to do” but just know they belong here with us, as one of us.

The “Century of Care” web page finishes with a look towards our future, and this is perhaps the most exciting chapter of The Salvation Army’s history in Australia – the chapter that hasn’t been written yet. As the vision for our future unfolds, it’s clear that wherever you look, there will be Salvos, seeking out hardship and injustice, and living, loving and fighting. ■

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Ben Ward is the Communications Manager for the Australia One Program Office
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PRAYER POINTS

01. Pray for all Salvos in your community.

Pray for as many of them as you can by name – volunteers, employees, chaplains, soldiers, junior soldiers, adherents, donors, officers and all those who are part of a Salvation Army group or ministry. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

02. Pray the following prayer for all who are part of your local community:

“I pray that out of his glorious riches God the Father may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have love together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you will be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16-19).

03. Pray for those in your community who need to experience the love of Jesus.

Take some time to discover any issues of injustice in your community. Spend some time listening to what God may specifically require of you. “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8b).

Employment Opportunity



GROUP EXECUTIVE, MISSION ENTERPRISES

- **Newly created leadership role**
- **National responsibility for TSA’s Mission Enterprises**

Over the past year The Salvation Army (TSA) has been working towards joining the two existing Eastern and Southern territories into one unified movement under the leadership of a National Commander. This will deliver a single Australia territory with an aligned vision, united voice, stronger partnerships, better stewardship, and the ability to make an even greater impact on the many people who depend upon its services.

for all of The Salvation Army’s Mission Enterprises, comprising Aged Care Plus, Employment Plus, Salvos Stores, Salvos Legal, Salvos Funerals and Salvos Housing. Providing strategic leadership across the portfolio of Mission Enterprises, this role will drive the portfolio to be innovative, commercially focused and competitive in the sectors in which they operate, while maintaining a mission focus in all operational and strategic decisions.

The Group Executive, Mission Enterprises will report to the National Chief Secretary and be responsible

Key areas of accountability include:

- Strategic Leadership - Ensure that Mission Enterprises have robust strategies in place, aligned to TSA’s strategic plan, that support the achievement of strong missional and commercial outcomes
- Commercial leadership - Provide high level financial and commercial advice to senior leadership, with a sound awareness of the external environment
- Business Leadership - Work with the ME leadership team to develop and implement business plans and strategies to ensure goals and objectives are achieved
- Mission Focus - Maintain close relationships with the National Secretary of Mission and other key stakeholders to ensure that all Mission Enterprises are delivering services that support TSA’s mission
- Stakeholder Engagement - Establish and maintain strong, constructive relationships with external and internal stakeholders
- People Leadership - Develop and lead a high-performing, professional Mission Enterprise leadership team

To be considered for this role you must have at least 10 years’ leadership experience at Executive/General Manager level or above in national service organisations with diverse operations, programs and stakeholders. You will be a strategic thinker with a ‘big picture’ focus and capable of managing barriers to change. You will be an innovative and supportive leader who can question the status quo and generate new options and ideas. Strong alignment with The Salvation Army on a local level is essential and experience in the NFP sector will be an advantage.

The position will be located in Melbourne and require interstate travel.

For questions about the role or to have a position description sent to you please contact Philip Mayers on 9629 6999.

To apply for the position please forward a cover letter and your resume to cv@dakinmayers.com.au

Closing date for applications is 24 September 2017



Northern exposure.

Salvation Army ministry in the Top End

WORDS | SIMONE WORTHING

For many Australians, the Northern Territory is a remote and almost mysterious land, famed for its outback desert landscapes, Uluru (Ayers Rock), unique wildlife and rich Indigenous culture. Older generations will remember Christmas Eve 1974, when the territory's capital, Darwin, was devastated by Cyclone Tracy.

The Salvation Army is active in the Northern Territory with four corps, from Darwin to Alice Springs. Targeted and developing social programs also reach out to the homeless, addicted, abused and lonely, with many focusing on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other marginalised groups.

In nature and intent, the ministries of The Salvation Army in the Northern Territory reflect the Army's values in operation around the world. Their geographic, cultural, social and historical context, though, is unique, as are the people who live and serve in this diverse and isolated Australian federal territory. ▶

Photos: James Courtney and Sonya Hart



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► “Up here, it feels like you’re not in Australia,” is a comment often heard from first-time visitors to the Northern Territory. Or, “I came for two weeks and 20 years later, I’m still here.” Such is the distinctive culture of Australia’s Top End and its compelling attraction to many who come to visit, to work or to find a new life.

“It’s often hard for people to understand what it’s like here,” says Captain Richard Parker, Northern Territory Regional Officer for The Salvation Army. “Towns and communities are small, the overall pace of life is slower, and we constantly see people and hear languages from all over the world – including many different Indigenous languages.

“As an Army, we have closer and more relaxed relationships with the government, but fewer resources to work with. The cost of living is extremely high. Affordable and public housing is in short supply.

“It can also be extremely confronting to see the scale and nature of the Indigenous issues faced throughout the territory. Homelessness, for example, is rampant with so many ‘long-grassers’ [the local term for people who sleep rough in parks,



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01. Darwin Corps Officer, Captain Kris Halliday (back row, left), with some of the corps’ staff and volunteers.
02. Captains Katie and Richard Parker, Regional Leaders for The Salvation Army in the Northern Territory.
03. Manager Michelle Colliccoat (right) with staff from The Salvation Army Red Shield Hostel in Darwin.

Opening doors of hope in Katherine

Often referred to as the “Crossroads of the North”, Katherine is located 300km south-east of Darwin on the Katherine River, with a population of just over 10,766. The Katherine Region is massive, covering 336,674 square kilometres. Its regional population is just over 24,000, with 60 per cent identifying as Indigenous.

The town is bustling, lush in the wet season, and attracts many tourists in the dry. However, it also struggles with a range of problems – crime, homelessness, domestic violence, alcoholism, elder abuse, and below-average health and education levels.

In the centre of Katherine, not far from the town’s only set of traffic lights, is The Salvation Army – a building that houses the Katherine Corps, Beacon drop-in centre and Doorway Hub. Salvos Stores is just around the corner.

Katherine Corps is a small but growing congregation. Captain Julie Howard is the Corps Officer, while her husband, Captain Greg Howard, runs The Salvation Army Flying Padre and Outback Service. Originally from Ballarat, the Howards came to the Northern Territory in 1992 with a plan to stay for a few months. They worked in Darwin, worshipped at the corps there, and are now Salvation Army officers. “We love the territory, it gets in your blood and we’ve just stayed here,” says Julie.

The Beacon drop-in centre is aptly named. Within minutes of seeing a range of clients come in for something to eat, caring conversation, a friendly face and a place to relax, it’s clear that The Salvation Army is



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Salvation Army Flying Padre, and Katherine Corps Officer, Captains Greg and Julie Howard, love being part of the Katherine community.

restoring dignity to people living rough. Most of their clients are Indigenous, while others come from low-income families, domestic violence situations, are locals wanting a chat, or people passing through town.

The “long-grassers” are visible along the highway, in the parks, and in the high grass on the outskirts of town. Their belongings are few, their camps are dishevelled, and their faces are lined with the signs of poverty and hardship.

The recently funded Doorway Hub (a separate entity to the Army’s Doorways program) will soon run parallel to the Beacon and offer additional support, facilities, services and resources. Julie also runs the SAGALA program in the local primary school as part of its social studies class. The Howards are active and well-known in the community.

From his “office in the sky”, Greg covers a phenomenal 3.2 million sq km “mission field” from his base in Katherine. It takes in the top end of the Northern Territory and Western Australia. He visits remote cattle stations where he can land his fixed-wing Cessna

182, and also calls in to isolated townships where he spends time at schools and also talking to police, fire and emergency services personnel and whoever else he comes into contact with.

“I find out how they are, what’s been happening for them, and help them in any way I can,” he explains. “Sometimes it’s helping with cattle in the yards or any other handyman jobs that may need doing. When we’re doing things together, often that’s when people will talk and share their concerns.”

In the wet season, (November-April), the monsoons and storms make flying more difficult, so Greg makes many of his visits by four-wheel drive. He also offers free tea and coffee at camp drafts, where station owners from around the region come with their families to compete in cattle mustering; and at school-of-the-air sports or other events where families come into town.

“I love this work,” says Greg, who is in his fourth year as a flying padre. “Such a variety of people work on the stations and in our communities – great people and a great country.”

urban bushland, and beach areas]. These are not just ‘traditional’ rough sleepers, but those who come to Darwin from outlying Indigenous communities for a number of different reasons and have nowhere safe to stay.”

Captain Katie Parker, who serves in three roles – Regional Director of Women’s Ministries, Regional Secretary for Mission, and Regional Secretary for Officer Personnel – adds that the huge distances between corps and centres, as well as from other Australian capital cities (Darwin is geographically closer to Bali in Indonesia than Sydney), is also a challenge in bringing people together and helping them to feel part of something bigger.

“Within this, though, because places are smaller, there is more opportunity for mission and for The Salvation Army to be involved,” she says. “There are so many things happening here. I see people in our services being treated with dignity and having hope restored. There is, however, huge potential to do more – it’s working out what would align best within our mission and vision to make the biggest difference in people’s lives.”

TENT-MAKING MODELS

Richard made a recent visit to Tenant Creek, a remote town 1000km south of Darwin, and returned certain that The Salvation Army needed to have a presence there. “It’s a challenging place,” he says. “We are looking to see what we could do, alongside the other agencies who are already there.

“We are considering a tent-making model there because it certainly can’t be a traditional appointment or plant. Much is already being done, but there are still gaps in the services and work to do.”

Just outside Darwin, in one of the fastest growing areas in Australia, the Palmerston Corps is also looking at a non-traditional future to keep it viable.

“The congregation is small but ►



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Lieutenant Mark Smalley (back row, third from left), Manager of Darwin's Sunrise Centre, with some of his "incredible" team.

Lisa finds belonging at Catherine Booth House

"I'm strong, independent and funny, but I haven't always been that way," says Lisa, a client at Darwin's Catherine Booth House, a safe haven for women escaping domestic and family violence.

Lisa fled a series of bad relationships and years of depression in New Zealand and came to Darwin to live and work with her brother. Within a month her brother had fired her, told her to leave his house, and Lisa was sent to live with the "long-grassers" around the city.

"I was shocked, alone and scared," Lisa says. "My girlfriend rang the Salvos, asked if there was any support in Darwin, and I was referred to Catherine Booth House. They took me in straight away. I was so relieved."

The staff at Catherine Booth

House, who work with more than 250 women each year, focus on assisting clients through case work, crisis management, and building a caring family environment. More than 50 per cent of clients are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, with others including women from overseas who've married Australians and the relationship has turned violent, women from interstate fleeing violence, and women from a range of backgrounds across the Northern Territory.

"The staff nurtured me, built me up, gave me the support to help restore my confidence and attain my goals," Lisa says. "I'm no longer ashamed of who I am. I see this as a stop-off place to help prepare me for the rest of my life."

"The ladies here have helped me put my life back together with their loving care and support," says Lisa, with a beaming smile. "I have a great outlook on life and want to continue moving forward. I felt that I was lost, and now I am found."

committed," says Richard. "We have a Doorways worker but no running programs. We are exploring the best way for the church to engage with the local community going forward, and through that, see where God leads us in the future."

The corps and social centres in Darwin work together as a team to share appropriate resources, refer and accept clients, and in their networks with other city agencies. They also share The Salvation Army's Top End Chaplain, Major Pamela Marshall.

Lieutenant Mark Smalley is the manager at Darwin's Sunrise Centre, a purpose-built facility that runs two programs – one for men and women experiencing homelessness, and a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Those from all walks of life and backgrounds, including lawyers, police and businesspeople, access the centre. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 65 per cent of the clients. The centre maintains a strong family atmosphere, with client facilities including an art room, computer space, swimming pool and vegetable garden.

Mark has recently added to the team a psychologist and complex care worker for clients addicted to crystal methamphetamine (ICE) and, together with a local pharmacy, has set up new medication processes and a medication counselling service for clients.

"Despite the challenges, I love it here and there is so much work to be done," he says. "We have an incredible team here and there are some exciting opportunities just around the corner."

DARWIN CONNECTIONS

Located in the street that boasts the largest consumption of alcohol in Australia (Mitchell St) the Army's Red Shield Hostel in Darwin provides crisis and medium-term accommodation for up to 80 men and women over 18 who, as hostel manager Michelle Collicoat says, "need somewhere to catch their breath". ▶

Waterhole centre a vital gathering place for community

The Waterhole community drop-in centre is one of The Salvation Army's major programs in Alice Springs, Australia's famous "Red Centre" located 1500km south of Darwin. It offers a welcoming place for people to relax, have a coffee or tea, cook a meal, shower and wash their clothes.

Art is a significant activity at the Waterhole, with members and visitors coming to paint and draw, both as a personal creative outlet and a source of income when their paintings are sold, often via the centre's small not-for-profit art gallery.

"Some of our members and visitors are primarily Indigenous, but not all," says Captain Nari McGifford, who is the Director of Social Program at Alice Springs and also the Corps Officer with her husband, Captain Stuart McGifford. "A lot of people come who are transient, staying in hostels, sharing accommodation, sleeping rough, or need a space to stay in during the day. Others come and visit as they have found community and friendship through our Waterhole."

The corps in Alice Springs is a small but vibrant church, with weekly services and children's activities. More than 75 per cent of the congregation is Indigenous, with other locals and winter tourists adding to the group.

Alice Springs Salvos also run an ever-changing and expanding housing program. Currently, the Towards Independence Program has six houses available for clients with children who do not have stable, secure or ongoing housing. Many have experienced domestic violence or other trauma situations.



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01. Captains Nari and Stuart McGifford lead the work of The Salvation Army in Alice Springs.

02. Art is a significant activity at The Salvation Army's Waterhole drop-in centre.

Sitting alongside the housing program is an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program. "Men taking Control" is a community-based program, working with men to help them break free from their addictions.

Alice Springs is a meeting place for at least five different Indigenous groups who each have their own language and cultural variations.

"While this brings a richness of diversity within our community, it also increases the workload and challenges for those involved," says Nari.

"Sadly, added to this is the undercurrent that our town is not 'dry' [alcohol free] as many of the communities around us are. When people come to Alice Springs to visit, and for those who are locals, the temptation to drink is high. The repercussions of this is the ever-increasing rate of alcohol-related issues and incidents."

"With our caseworker Shannon Bartlett, Doorways program and hub outreach services, we work with clients in what they're trying to achieve – whether it's around mental or physical health, housing, employment or other services – to get them off the streets," Michelle adds.

"It's a work in progress. We take clients that have been forgotten or that other agencies won't take – such as those from the mental health ward, rehab and homelessness programs, or correctional centres. We have a high percentage of Indigenous clients, but see people from a range of backgrounds and cultures.

"We are building a great team who are all working for the betterment of the residents and the hostel. We can't save the world, but we can save a few people and that makes it all worthwhile."

At Darwin Corps, Captain Kris Halliday, with his Associate Corps Officer, Lieutenant Simone Smalley, and their team of staff and volunteers, are passionate about seeing people finding life in all its fullness through Jesus – a passion that underpins all that takes place at this busy centre.

Corps programs include the Darwin multi-cultural youth brass band, the Towards Independence housing program for people transitioning to private accommodation, a bus that takes family and friends to visit loved ones in the Darwin Correctional Centre, a community breakfast six days per week, Doorways, and the Nest housing and mentoring program.

"There is a fluidity between everything we do," says Kris. "The whole thing is really flexible, as is the team, which is wonderful and we are seeing connections being built and lives changed." ■

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Simone Worthing is a writer for *others* magazine
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Fighting the good fight.

Boxing champ now in Salvos' corner

WORDS | BILL SIMPSON

In the ring, they call him the king – King Soliman. Like the biblical King Solomon – after whom he gets his boxing name – he is a wise and wily fighter. He's good. He's been world, commonwealth and Australian champion.

Sam Soliman is his real name and as his extensive and highly successful boxing career comes to a conclusion, he has sided with The Salvation Army to help people living on the streets.

Sammy, as he is known around The Salvation Army's Bourke St building in Melbourne, will have his last professional fight this month after 20 years and 60 bouts in the boxing business. He was International Boxing Federation World Middleweight champion in 2014. He was also world kick-boxing champion in 1991-95 and has won national titles in taekwondo and karate.

Boxing experts predicted in 2011, at 38

years of age, that he would be finished as a professional boxer by 40. He was determined to prove them wrong. Since that prediction, he has had a further eight fights, winning five – including the world title – and will be almost 44 when he hangs up the competitive gloves. His advantage, he said at the time of his predicted downfall, was that unlike many other professional boxers, he had never smoked a cigarette, drunk alcohol or taken drugs at any time in his life. He had also insisted on a healthy diet and was the hardest trainer of anyone he knew.

In boxing circles, he is known as "The Machine". He took 10 weeks off work at The Salvation Army's Melbourne 614 centre to prepare for his final fight. Nothing is allowed to distract him as he prepares for his next bout.

"God willing, the September fight will be my finale," he told us. "After that, I hope

to be still going in my 70s in this job with the Salvos."

ROLE MODEL

At 614, he runs a daily fitness program and café for the homeless. Major Brendan Nottle, who is 614 Corps Officer with his wife, Sandra, says Sammy was a standout for a role he (Major Nottle) wanted to fill. "I first came across Sammy when he was doing some work with the Victorian Justice Department," Major Nottle said. "He was meeting with disadvantaged kids, providing them with strategies for making good choices and avoiding bad choices. I thought, wow, this would be a good guy to have around our centre." 614's main work is with the homeless and people at risk.

Raised on the streets of Brunswick, in Melbourne's inner suburbs, Sammy was taught the value of being kind and helping others during his childhood. His parents, he says, were great role models. ▶



Boxing champion Sam Soliman is a hard man in the ring, but has a soft spot for The Salvation Army.

Photos: Bruce Redman

They were the people who taught him the value of making good life choices.

“Mum and Dad were church people. I went to Sunday school. They taught me to think about the consequences of choices I made. Sometimes, I made bad choices. But I learned from those bad choices. That’s what I talk to kids about today.”

Sammy has addressed young people in more than 300 schools in the past five years. He has a reputation in the boxing business as “a nice and decent guy”. An internet evaluation promoting him as a guest speaker says: “Outside the ring, Sam Soliman is a well-spoken gentleman with a quick wit and infectious smile. Sam has a charisma that very few fighters possess. He not only lights up the room, but when Sam enters a room there is an aura about him. It is not just because he is a world-class fighter, but a genuinely decent person who does not carry airs and graces, and always has time for others.”

That’s pretty much how Major Brendan Nottle sees Sam Soliman at 614. “He’s always smiling; he’s always doing something to help someone. That’s why we love having him around the place here at 614. He is such a positive influence in this place.”

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TRUE CHAMPION

My barber, “Nudge”, a boxing guru, knows about Sam Soliman, the boxer. He has a very high regard for the King. When I told “Nudge” what Sammy was now doing with The Salvation Army, he said: “I’m not surprised. He’s a world champion, you know. He’s also a champion bloke – so humble. He’s always smiling. I saw a few of his fights. When he walked down the aisle from his dressing room to the ring, he always stopped to shake hands with people in the crowd. And he used to say ‘Thanks for coming’”.

Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail* boxing writer, Grantlee Kieza, recalled in an article in April an incident involving Sammy while preparing for a fight against Dutchman Raymond Joval in Las Vegas, USA, in 2004: “Joval came into the ring with his orange hair gelled into a kind of emperor’s crown,” Kieza wrote. “But there was a new king in town, as Soliman hit Joval so often from so many angles, Joval thought he was surrounded.”

“Before the fight with Joval, as he prepared himself under a canopy beside the casino, Soliman spotted a group of kids playing outside in the broiling heat. Soliman stopped his preparation and



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“God willing, the September fight will be my finale. After that, I hope to be still going in my 70s in this job with the Salvos.”

trotted outside to usher the kids back into the shade. The ferocious Dutchman (Joval) didn’t worry him, but he was scared the children might get sunburnt,” Kieza concluded.

In a testimonial to Sammy, boxing legend Johnny Lewis, who has trained six world champions, said: “He has so many qualities, including respect, integrity, honesty, trustworthiness and sportsmanship. He is extremely kind and always well behaved with an attitude that makes him nature’s gentleman.”

HEART FOR HOMELESS

So, this is the Sammy Soliman now working with The Salvation Army.

He has set up a gymnasium in the building basement, teaching homeless people who use 614 as a community base the value of fitness and how to defend themselves.

“A lot of the people who come here are not in a good space when we first see them. They live on the streets, so there’s not much to be positive about for them,” he says. “If they start looking after their fitness and health – and that’s what we do – then it has to be good for their body and mind. It puts them in a better space. That

makes them happier people and makes it easier to start to deal with your problems. We’re already seeing that happen. The ones who come back day after day are getting better motivated. We can see it in them.”

Sammy also serves the homeless in the 614 café and finds them clothing, especially on cold nights.

At a Sunday morning service before going into camp for his final fight, Sammy showed off his world championship belt and shared stories of God’s protection, especially in the boxing ring. He told the congregation of his confidence in God to keep him safe.

“God brought me to this place (614),” he said. “I believe that God has something for me to do with the homeless people who come here. He has helped me make good choices in my life, so far. I’m sure that being here is another good and God-choice.”■

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Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *others* magazine
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04



- 01. Sam the barista pouring coffees in the 614 café as part of his role at the inner-city Salvation Army centre in Melbourne.
- 02. When the gloves are on, it’s all business for Sam, who is known as The Machine in his preparations for professional bouts.
- 03. Sam goes on the attack during his IBF middleweight fight against Giovanni Lorenzo in 2012, which he won with a unanimous decision.
- 04. Sam looks after the health and fitness of Melbourne’s homeless population at his gymnasium in the basement of 614 Corps.

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE



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

Sunday 24 September 2017



The story behind the songs.

Dawn Volz talks to prolific Salvation Army songwriter Major Howard Davies about his new book, *Words & Music*

DV: *When did you first think of writing a book about the inspiration behind your many songs?*

HD: In December 2005, I retired after serving 41 years as an active Salvation Army officer. With more time to reflect, I took an interest in delving into my family history, which led to Wales, 'the land of song'! People often asked how or why I wrote various songs, and only in early 2017 did these two things eventually prompt me to consider writing this book.

D: *Tell us about the first song you ever wrote?*

H: I entered The Salvation Army's officer training college in Melbourne in March 1964. The training principal, Brigadier Geoffrey Dalziel, told me I was to write the cadets' dedication song. Although shocked by this assignment, I produced a song called *I Give My Life*.

D: *Can you estimate how many songs you've written during the past 50 years?*

H: I think in excess of 500, although some were new tunes to existing lyrics. Others were various vocal arrangements, and some were lost or, thankfully, short-lived.

D: *Of all these songs can you possibly have a favourite?*

H: I think not! It is hard to choose between serious songs such as *The Wonder of His Grace* or *Lord, You Know That We Love You* and a happy song such as *God's Still the One*. The recent discovery of a front-room recording of our then eight-year-old daughter Christine singing *God Can Do the Impossible* is a song

hard to resist putting at the top of my favourites list!

D: *Words and music: which comes first?*

H: Either! But perhaps more often my songs emerge from a brief phrase of words.

D: *Is it more difficult to write songs that are requested for a specific purpose than it is when inspiration comes unexpectedly?*

H: I would say no! A request forces the composer to focus on something quite specific, which I find helpful. Waiting for 'inspiration' can be a slow and unfruitful business, although exhilarating on the rare occasions when one may briefly experience it.

D: *Do you regard your aptitude as a God-given gift?*

H: Yes I do. I believe the lines of the old chorus 'All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above ...' However, on balance I am reticent to claim divine inspiration for everything I write. I prefer the term 'craftsman' and aim to please God first.

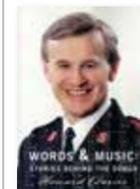
D: *What are your hopes for Words & Music, including the CD with 23 of your songs?*

H: I hope the book provides answers to questions frequently asked about how, when or why a particular song was written. More importantly, I hope the identification of scripture behind the lyrics of songs will be spiritually helpful to readers. I hope also that the CD performance tracks may add a living dimension to the story of writing the songs. In addition, this book gave me the



Australian composer Major Howard Davies, speaking at a recent event, says his book gives an insight into "how, when or why a particular song was written".

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opportunity to mention and gratefully acknowledge the names of scores of people who contributed to the idea for, or performance of, various songs I have written over the past 50 years.



Words & Music is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018) or Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209). ■

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Dawn Volz works in the National Editorial Department
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‘Some of my best men are women!’

Founders wanted gender equity right from the start

WORDS | LAUREN MARTIN

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Australia became the first country in the international Salvation Army to announce a Gender Equity Plan, to “address the systematic gender inequality including that faced by women officers”. It’s been a long time coming.

An article in the *Hallelujah!* history magazine notes that “in the early days of her relationship with Salvation Army founder, William Booth, Catherine wrote to him saying that she would love to bring about a new dawn for women”. Years later, “at an officers’ meeting the night after her [Catherine’s] funeral, William Booth said: ‘She called me up at four o’clock one morning in the week that she died to give me a solemn message. She feared that the women of her beloved Army were not going to rise up to take the place she desired for them.’”

She had good reason for her fears.

Salvation Army historian, Major David Woodbury, writes, “In 1888 the Orders and Regulations of The Salvation Army clearly stated that ‘both men and women were eligible for all ranks, authorities and duties within the Army’. No doubt this was William Booth’s desire; however, it did not always come about, causing him to write: ‘In the way of our salaried officers, we have a great difficulty to meet, because nearly every week there are two officers turned into one. That is, the male officers are joined with the female officers, and then, by some strange mistake in our organisation, the woman doesn’t count. That is altogether contrary to the principles of The Salvation Army. I propose from this night that we count the woman as one; and if you don’t count the woman the same as the man, count the woman two and the man one!’”

Over the years, many women of The Salvation Army, as well as sharing the load of ‘Soup, Soap and Salvation’ with their male counterparts, have also been agitating for full equality within the organisation.

Lily Sampson, an Australian officer from 1926 to 1966, exhibited a passion for women’s equality throughout her career. During an appointment as Women’s Court Officer in Sydney, according to an article written by Salvation Army historian, George Hazell, she protested to Army leadership, including the General, about the living conditions of unmarried women officers in the Australia Eastern Territory. The women “were given a small allowance and left to find their own accommodation. These conditions limited them to a single room with limited access to facilities for washing, bathing and relaxation.” Lily later wrote: “When I felt [a rule or procedure] was unequal, I said so, and kept saying so, until I got into trouble. Then I kept on anyway – it made a better Army. Some things were changed at long last.”

In 1990, the Australia Eastern Territory moved closer to independent appointments for married officer women when it



➤ **Australian officer Lily Sampson was a vocal campaigner for equality in The Salvation Army.**

appointed then-Major Heather Lang as head of a department in her own right. The Chief Secretary stated at the time: “With this appointment we are making a statement to the Territory concerning the appointment of married women officers.” An article in the *Hallelujah!* history magazine noted that for the previous 30 years that appointment had been held by a single woman officer and “now the door of opportunity was opening up for married women”.

One of William Booth’s well-known quotes is, “Some of my best men are women!”, and there’s no doubt that women have made a significant contribution to the development of The Salvation Army. The Australia One Gender Equity Plan is another historic milestone on the journey. ■

.....
Lauren Martin is a writer for *others* magazine
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words Mark Hadley

01.

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE

Rating: G (for very mild crude humour)
Release date: 14 September



Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie is based on the international children's book series written by author Dav Pilkey. The comic-novel crossover holds the dubious honours of selling 70 million books worldwide, as well as being the American Library Association's most complained about publication. Most of this stems from reactions to its bathroom-styled supervillains like Dr Diaper and Wedgie Woman. However, for all its toilet shenanigans, *Captain Underpants* is very much about making good on your mistakes.

Captain Underpants centres on George Beard and Harold Hutchins, two Grade 4 friends. They attend the intensely cruel Jerome Horwitz Elementary School, ruled over by the malicious headmaster, Benjamin Krupp. However, George and Harold maintain their happy mood by producing a school comic called "Captain Underpants" and pranking their principal whenever possible. When the boys tamper with the school's new Turbo Toilet 2000, though, Krupp threatens to put them in separate classrooms, effectively annihilating their friendship.

In a moment of desperation, George uses a hypno ring he's discovered at the bottom of a cereal box to stupefy their enraged administrator. Suddenly, our heroes discover they can turn Krupp into anything they desire, and they quickly decide the world could do with a real Captain Underpants. How right they are! Krupp-as-Captain Underpants is soon called on to battle the evil Professor Poopypants, who has commandeered the Turbo Toilet 2000 with the goal of eliminating laughter forever.

Yes, it's that ridiculous, and consequently just as likely to please primary-aged boys. My wife and I have three, and we learnt long ago that a bit of cheekiness is par for the course. You have to choose your battles carefully when it comes to training up young men. Part of that has been

helping them avoid the mere semblance of morality, and understanding what really matters to God. So, throwing underpants at your brother is less important than fulfilling your obligation to love him.

Captain Underpants' combination of irreverence and responsibility neatly supports our efforts, beginning with the laughs George and Harold's jokes bring, but ending with the realisation their prank at Krupp's expense has gone too far. Krupp's past treatment of them doesn't justify their leaving him trapped in Captain Underpants' persona, or the complications that would result for everyone else. They could just let him live out his fantasy, and no one would be the wiser, but that would be very shallow. Eventually they do the thing that's best for their principal and, in doing so, display the Bible's true definition of love.

Jesus was not averse to using humour to deflate the stuffed shirts of his day. His comparing Pharisees to people with logs in their eyes trying to pick out the specks in others' would have certainly got a laugh. However, as sharp as our Saviour's wit might have been, it was never cruel. The point was to open eyes, not fill them with anger. We too need to know how to laugh at the world's absurdities, but also where to draw the line.

Captain Underpants might end up sanctioning a few minor crudities around the house, but it can also help kids understand the proper place of humour. Jokes might be used to deflate our pride, but they're never meant to destroy us. In the end, we'd rather pull the punchline than see someone really suffer. ■



02.

THE TRIP TO SPAIN

Rating: M
Release date: 3 August



The Trip to Spain is the third in a series of films released by British comedians Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. *The Trip*, *The Trip to Italy* and this latest instalment were originally television series that have been recut for cinematic release. In each case, Coogan and Brydon are playing fictionalised versions of themselves, and touring a range of restaurants to gather information for culinary articles.

On the surface, they're romps through beautiful countryside dotted with

delicious meals, underscored by the near-constant soundtrack of the pair's carping about the state of the television industry, family relationships and each other. On paper, it sounds like a disaster. In reality, it's one of the most laid-back but entertaining comedy series to grace the screen. In addition, each film has offered some important insights on what it means for men to grow old. *The Trip to Spain* is no exception.

For a culinary road trip, *The Trip to Spain* is surprisingly informative. Audiences will find there are entertaining ways to learn about everything from the Spanish Civil War to Spanish literature, and the rise of the Moors to the rise of Cubism. Coogan and Brydon can't resist their usual run of impressions, too. However, the best insights for the thinking filmgoer arise from Coogan and Brydon's continuing attempts to come to terms with life in their 50s.

Coogan and Brydon recognise they are wandering the Spanish countryside in much the same way as the famous literary characters Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Coogan is very much the Quixote character, a dreamer desperately seeking to inhabit a fabulous world that seems just out of reach. Brydon, by contrast, is Coogan's "Panza", constantly bringing him down to earth. The strongest point of tension in this romp arrives when Steve

receives an unexpected Skype call from his son. Coogan has regularly mentioned how he is in the "sweet spot" of life with many great things to look forward to, one of which is catching up at the end of the trip for some zip-lining with his boy. Brydon subtly questions whether he is aware of his age. However, the impact of that query doesn't come until Coogan receives the news that his son won't be coming because he has gotten his girlfriend pregnant. It's hard to tell at that point what disappoints Steve more: his son's unexpected growing up, or the news that he will be a grandfather.

Coogan's fictionalised version of himself is clearly a character who could benefit from reading Ecclesiastes: "Remember [your Creator] – before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."



People who actually have "all the time in the world" are rarely reassuring themselves so much. It's because Steve can feel the sand grains slipping through the hour glass that his journey through *The Trip to Spain* is so poignant. The film finishes contrasting two lives. Someone who has found peace in his family, and someone who is still searching for meaning. However, a third option would have been welcome: someone who has peace with every up and down because they know the God who designs the days they find themselves in. ■

.....
Mark Hadley is the culture writer for others and is one of Australia's leading Christian communicators
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01.

OUR MOB, GOD'S STORY

The Bible Society

Review: Rachel Morris



Once you open the pages of *Our Mob, God's Story*, you will be captivated. The coffee-table book is a unique gift from Australia's Aboriginal people to the wider Church, celebrating our nation's First Peoples in conjunction with the Bible Society's 200th year in the country.

The book contains 115 paintings by more than 67 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across the continent. As you turn each page, you are greeted with two narratives, one from the Bible, painted in glorious colour using the artist's traditional methods of storytelling; and the other a brief description of the artist themselves, their peoples, life and how the Scriptures have transformed them.

This offering to God and the Church is not to be taken lightly, being the first of its kind. A testament that the Word of God is truly for all people and cross cultures, *Our Mob, God's Story* will allow you to experience the Bible in a new, refreshing way, and challenge your perceptions of spirituality and culture.

As we move forward together as the Church, it is imperative we acknowledge the resilience, suffering, beauty and

history of Aboriginal Australians. Perhaps, more than anything else, this book is an invitation for the Church to come together as one, recognising that healing will only occur when we accept that our Aboriginal brothers and sisters have much to teach us about Creator God and how he has been present on this land, in relationship with people, long before our ancestors arrived.

Our Mob, God's Story is an essential for every Australian Christian's home, and is available from Koorong for \$49.99.

02.

FRACTURES

Sons of Korah

Review: David Parker



A Christian band which confines itself to singing the words of Psalms may not sound like a recipe for sustainability or success. Not so with this home-grown Aussie band, Sons of Korah, formed in 1994 by three friends studying at Bible College in Geelong.

With a dozen studio and live-recorded album releases, this group has built a dedicated audience of supporters who will turn up at their regular performances to worship God through songs of praise that date back to biblical times. Thousands more will purchase each new recording, which have now covered more than a

third of the 150 Psalms in scripture.

Founding member, music composer and lead vocalist Matthew Jacoby, says the album title, *Fractures*, reminds us that "the Psalms are firmly grounded in the realities of life and give abundant expression to the tensions and hardships of being broken people in a broken world. The Psalmists are always moving from alienation to reconciliation, sadness to joy, fear to courage, anger to peace and despair to confidence."

Musically, Sons of Korah has what it takes, drawing on their considerable skills and artistry through a range of instruments and genres that stretch beyond the typical boundaries of contemporary Christian music. Several songs feature driving rhythms from a resonator guitar and creative percussion, balanced by quieter interludes with nylon-string acoustic-guitar decorations of the vocal melody, accompanied by cello, piano and occasional synth sounds. Jacoby's lead voice has a warm, dynamic texture that carries the whole album through the contrasting musical moods, enhanced by the sweet backing vocals of Anna Waters, who joined the band for this recording.

Two contrasting highlight tracks are *Psalms 134: Lift Your Hands*, which starts with a foot-tapping mandolin and guitar-driven shout of praise, and the following song, *Psalms 34: Taste and See*, which offers a sensitive vocal and piano worship reflection.

Five of the 10 tracks are devoted to Psalm 68. These can be listened to in sequence as a song of praise to God for protection in battle and for victories won, but will also be enjoyed as individual songs that declare God's faithfulness.

If you've heard of Sons of Korah but never intentionally listened to them before, *Fractures* is a worthwhile introduction to their music and ministry.

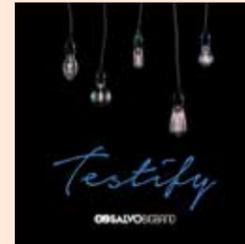
Fractures is available from Koorong for \$19.99.

03.

TESTIFY

Salvo Bigband

Review: Adam Cole



The Salvo Bigband's new album, *Testify*, will appeal to a wide range of music lovers, and fans of jazz will gravitate towards the many hours of enjoyment found in the sweet sounds of the bigband playing some of the Church's most enduring tracks.

Having just been involved with the Jumpers and Jazz festival in Warwick, Queensland, it is again refreshing to hear that Salvo musicians can offer alternative styles of jazz music that are not adult in content, but just good pleasant music that will appeal to young and old alike.

Timeless classics such as *It is Well With My Soul*, *Now I Belong to Jesus* and *I'm in His Hands* are recognisable with their well-known melodies, and the arrangements treat these songs with emotion, love, and a new, fresh vibe.

Close your eyes for a moment and you can feel the emotion of the words just resonating in the soul.

There are beautifully measured soft and delicate moments, and at times you feel like shouting God's glory out to the mountains. In everything, there is always such control, and you know the band is sharing its heart and soul with you.

Listening to *Testify*, I can say that this music resonates deeply, and it's all due to the band's intention to bring joy. As the cover states, "We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy!"

Testify is available from salvobigband. bandcamp.com for \$20, Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209) or Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018).

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Hawkesbury Hope Centre a 'dream come true'

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO serve is one of the hallmarks of a thriving **#salvoschurchlife**, and this was powerfully evident at the launch of the Hawkesbury Hope Centre last week.

When Communities of Hope Coordinator, Major Bryce Davies, arrived at the launch of the new Hawkesbury Salvation Army Hope Centre in Sydney's north-west, he expected the usual pomp and ceremony of a Salvos "grand opening". What he got was the added warmth and excitement of a community of people who had been "saved to serve", so to speak.

"The bloke who served me coffee, the woman who runs the community market, they're people who have been helped out of their crisis and given the love and support to feel like they belong and the empowerment to realise that they can contribute," said Major Davies. "This is the Kingdom of God expressing itself in The Salvation Army in Hawkesbury; how brilliant!"

The Hawkesbury Hope Centre was born from a dream. A God-inspired one.

The centre's coordinator, Kim Taylor, kept having the same dream night after night. In it, she kept seeing the faces of three local women whom she knew had kids at the nearby primary school. She knew she needed to reach out to these women but her days as a working mum were already so full, she just didn't know how.

Not long earlier, she and her only volunteer, Diane, began a weekly food service to assist the many families in their community who struggle to make ends meet. On Monday mornings, the women would drive to Foodbank to pick up the free and low-cost food for the Tuesday ministry. Troubled by her recurring dream, Kim asked Diane to stay longer one Monday afternoon so that



Major Bryce Davies with Diane, who runs the Hawkesbury Hope Centre weekly food service.



they could put a selection of the produce out on a table in front of Hawkesbury Corps to offer to parents and carers who were walking past on their way home from school pick-up.

That very first Monday, the three women from Kim's dream came up to the table and were assisted with fruit and vegetables.

"That was a God thing," Kim said. "At the beginning [of the ministry] it was just Di and I. Now there is a whole team. People will come! And this is how you connect with them. Not by banging the Bible over their head but by putting out something that

they need – fresh fruit and veggies – and connecting with them that way. Any Salvo church out there who thinks, 'we just don't have the people for this, we just can't do this', you can! It will grow and then the people [who volunteer] will grow, God will provide."

The Hawkesbury Hope Centre now provides financial counselling, case work, food hampers, a free fruit-and-vegetable program for all, advocacy, a listening ear, support and a safe place for anyone to visit. Its Hope@Expresso coffee, tea and cake café is also open three days a week.

"Our biggest aim is to offer a place for people to come to feel supported and safe. Once they're here we can sit down and chat with them and work out what their struggle is," Kim says.

Members of Hawkesbury City Council and other local service providers were also present at the launch.

– Lauren Martin

Staff Songsters hit the right note with key donors

MELBOURNE STAFF SONGSTERS took the opportunity to strengthen links between The Salvation Army and its community supporters with two inspiring performances on successive weekends.

The first of these occasions involved songster members travelling to Elgee Park on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula where, at a Saturday afternoon tea, music was shared with Baillieu Myer and members of the Myer family and their invited guests.

The following Saturday the songsters joined with members of The Australian Club Choir for a "Christmas in July" concert at the German Lutheran Church in East Melbourne.

The performance at the historic bluestone church came about through the church organist, Genie Fiebig, who is a Salvo donor.

One of the members of the Australian Club Choir, George, is also a Salvo donor.

Prior to the concert it was arranged for George to visit the 614 Corps in inner-city Melbourne, where he was shown around by



The Melbourne Staff Songsters performing at a function on the Mornington Peninsula.

the Corps Officer, Major Sandra Nottle.

Songsters pianist, Kevin Wood, also supported The Australian Club Choir in their pieces, and cellist Zoe Knighton presented a solo item and accompanied the songsters in presenting several pieces.

The audience shared in singing several carols while Major Judith Soeters brought the courtesies prior to both choirs and the audience joining for the rousing finale, *Jerusalem*.

The two performances were an investment in future benefit for the ongoing work of The Salvation Army, which members of the Melbourne Staff Songsters were privileged to support.

Songster member Judi Agnew, Donor Relations Manager for The Salvation Army Southern Territory, has developed quality relationships with these three important donors.

– Athur Drummond

#salvoschurchlife campaign tells story of corps life across Australia

SALVATION ARMY CORPS around Australia are getting onboard the **#salvoschurchlife** campaign. The three-month *others* magazine campaign, launched on 23 July, puts a weekly spotlight on Salvation Army corps or services that are actively and successfully engaging with their community.

Lauren Martin, *others* Social Media Editor and campaign creator, says, "We really wanted to tell the stories of Salvos across Australia who are investing into church life that is not just surviving, but really thriving, and ask the question, 'Why?' and what are the elements of an authentic Salvation Army

that is going to see our movement grow into the future, not just follow church trends and decline. As a person who tells stories for a living, I am richly blessed to hear first-hand from passionate members of our movement who are being the church wherever life happens. The **#salvoschurchlife** campaign is a way of celebrating this."

Everybody's **#salvoschurchlife** will look different. It could be meeting for "coffee and Jesus" with friends, going for a bushwalk and sharing in prayer, bowling with a life group, prayer-walking the streets or putting on a meal. God has a great imagination and he

wants us to be the church every day of the week, not just on Sunday.

If you would like to contribute your **#salvoschurchlife** photos, simply use the hashtag when you post to a public social media account. If you don't have a public account, you can email your photo to: **others@aus.salvationarmy.org**, and if you've got a story to tell about an area of our Army that you're involved in that's thriving, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you!

Email us at: **others@aus.salvationarmy.org** or private message our Others_AU Facebook page.

Sports carnival continues to score for Christ



MAJOR TREVOR NICOL likes to describe The Salvation Army's annual Basketball and Netball Carnival as "the friendly games with impact".

Last month's event on Queensland's Gold Coast was no exception, with 25 teams from around the country and three from Papua New Guinea taking part.

"It's an opportunity for Christians to invite their non-Christian friends, and everyone to play a sport they love in a safe and non-threatening environment," said Major Nicol, who organises the NSW and PNG teams.

"It's a great way to develop new friendships and renew relationships from past carnivals. And it's also missional. A church service always kicks off the carnival on the Sunday night and every day, during a break, there is a short testimony or scripture reading with a comment."

More than 250 people took to the courts



The men's basketball competition at the national carnival is always a keen contest.

from Monday to Saturday 10-15 July, with a presentation night on the Saturday.

In basketball, Western Australia Salvos won the men's and women's A divisions, with Queensland taking out the Men's B and South Australia the women's B divisions. Queensland won the under 18s division and South Australia the under 14s. Tasmania won the netball.

"Many non-Christian players have been

coming regularly – one of our NSW players has been coming for 15 years," Major Nicol said. "Over the years, quite a few players have made decisions for Christ, including one man from a Muslim background who met a Salvos girl at a carnival and started to go to church with her. He is now a Christian."

Next year's carnival will take place in Sydney, from 8-14 July.

– **Simone Worthing**

Salvo 'grey nomads' sow seeds in dusty soil on outback mission



"YOU WILL NEVER know how much you've lifted the spirits of the town and the community," is what a group of retired Salvationists were told on a recent trip to outback Queensland.

The group of more than 30 Salvo "grey nomads", organised by Major Bob Strong at the request of Outback Flying Service chaplain, Captain Mark Bulow, and rural chaplains, Lieutenants John and Karen Jackson, travelled to Eulo, Windorah, Jundah, Quilpie and Stonehenge to visit schools, perform concerts, conduct open-air and lead Sunday services.

Their band and timbrels also performed at the Yowah Opal Festival, which Captain Bulow has been attending for some years.



The Salvo "grey nomad" band strikes up in the red dust of an outback Queensland town.

"They haven't seen rain out there for many years," said Major Strong.

"The whole community out there is a bit depressed. They were just so impressed that

people travelled that far, you know, just to give them a concert."

Self-confessed "Bushie" at heart, former Australia Eastern Territorial Commander, Commissioner James Condon, was a member of the mission team.

"I'd heard about these missions for years and I'd always wanted to be part of it," he said. "It was a great experience; you just had amazing conversations with people."

According to Major Strong, the mission's greatest strength is its ministry of presence.

"The evening program is usually an hour, but often we were all still standing around talking and connecting with the community for nearly two hours afterwards," he said.

– **Lauren Martin**

Churches 'better together' in supporting ageing population



THE SALVATION ARMY is part of an inter-denominational push to challenge ageist views within the Church and to provide resources, run conferences and offer training for seniors.

"Better Together" came out of partnerships developed by Major Jennifer Cloke, Territorial Seniors Ministries and Salvos Caring consultant from The Salvation Army, Australia Southern Territory. Churches from across Australia and New Zealand – including Baptist, Anglican, Church of Christ, City Life, Alpha Australia, Fresh Horizons, Q4 and The Salvation Army – were all part of the formation of "Better Together".

"Our key priorities are to build God's Kingdom, assist our older adults to develop a deeper walk with God, and to find their 'fit' in life's second half," Major Cloke said.

Australia and New Zealand, like so many other countries, has an ageing population. Two-thirds of congregations across these countries are aged over 50.

"This is not a bad thing," Major Cloke said. "In fact, it is an asset to the Church and is God's idea – it is not by 'accident' that there are more people aged 60-plus alive



Envoy Roz Edwards (centre) is NSW/ACT Divisional Seniors on Mission Coordinator. Photo: Jacob Dyer

today than if you add every previous generation of 60-plus people that have ever lived together – it is for 'Such A Time as This'.

The group believes that empowering and engaging this group in the life and ministry of churches is vital if they are to respond to the growing needs of our communities.

Major Cloke and her Australia Eastern Territory counterpart, Envoy Roz Edwards, have this message for the Army's seniors: "There is no retirement age in the Kingdom of God – God has not finished with you yet! We can't do without you."

– **Lauren Martin**

Army to play key role at social justice conference



THE SALVATION ARMY will play an integral role at the third annual Justice Conference at Melbourne Town Hall on 27-28 October.

The Army's two territorial social justice departments from Melbourne and Sydney will come together to contribute to a global discussion about biblical justice, under theme of "Love thy Neighbour".

"It was a really strategic decision to engage with the Justice Conference, because it's a reminder to all people that justice is a core part of the Gospel and it's a core part of what God asks us to do as Christians," said Amanda Merrett, Assistant Social Justice Secretary (AUS).

Historical Society to share in 10-year anniversary



AGED CARE PLUS will celebrate its 10th anniversary by partnering with The Salvation Army Historical Society, Sydney Chapter, in a special event to be held in the Territorial Headquarters chapel in Sydney on Thursday 28 September.

In the early part of the 20th century, The Salvation Army opened institutions in Sydney and Brisbane to specifically care for the elderly. One of the most notable of these was Florence House at 1039 Pittwater Road, Collaroy.

Tracing the establishment and history of aged care in the Australia Eastern Territory has been the job of Major Robert Broadbent, who has been sifting through old newspapers and archives to compile a history of the



Army's ministry in this area. His research will be the basis of his presentation at the anniversary evening.

The event will also include a presentation from Sharon Callister, Aged Care Plus Chief Executive Officer, on the status of The Salvation Army's aged care ministry and future plans for the service.

Aged Care Plus and The Salvation Army Historical Society extend a warm welcome to all who are interested to join them for the evening, which starts at 7.30pm. The presentation will be followed by a supper.

Kokoda Reflection honours Army role in famous battle

PETER FITZSIMONS, the prominent journalist, speaker and author, was special guest at the Australia Eastern Territory Historical Society's "Kokoda Reflection" at Menai Salvation Army in Sydney's south-west on Sunday 30 July.

Author of *Kokoda* and several other books on World War One and Two, Peter spoke about his father's wartime experiences and the stories of the many veterans that he has come across during his research. He also fondly remembered the times when The Salvation Army would come calling to his family's farm at Peats Ridge, on the NSW Central Coast.



The Kokoda Reflection marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda. Award-winning newsreel footage from the period was shown, and those gathered heard about The Salvation Army's unique involvement through Red Shield Defence Services personnel such as Albert Moore, Jock Inglis and John McCabe. Soloist Mandy Williams presented several songs from the era, including *Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye*.

The Salvation Army's Peter Cleave, who led the 2017 Kokoda Anzac Trek through the Army's Adventure Fundraising Program, spoke about the emotional and physical challenges of walking the Kokoda Track.

Hurstville Band presented a moving tribute to Salvation Army composer Arthur Gullidge when they played his march, *Emblem of the Army*. Gullidge died on board the transport ship, the *Montevideo Maru*, when it sank, along with members of the Brunswick Corps band who had been captured by the Japanese.

The event was attended by Red Shield Defence Services Chief Commissioner, Major Brett Gallagher (pictured), who performed the remembrance segment.

— Lauren Martin



Lieutenants Troy Munro (left) and Matt Ryan are members of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry and want to encourage all Salvos to use their hobbies for God's glory.

Rockdale revved up by their new 'hobby' – Ministry and Machines

PEOPLE WITH A passion for cars, motorcycles, remote-control machines and flying devices were in their element at a unique "Ministry and Machines" event at Rockdale Salvation Army in Sydney's south last month.

Event organiser, Lieutenant Troy Munro, a Rockdale Salvationist and a member of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry, said the day was all about engaging with people who "love toys just as much as we do!"

Salvationists and members of the public were invited to bring a machine or vehicle to display, or simply come along to have a look. The family-friendly event, on Saturday 29 July, also featured a jumping castle for kids and a sausage sizzle dinner and movie screening.

"I've been riding a motorbike now for a number of years and I've also played with remote-control planes and aircraft and things like that," Lieut Munro said.

He added that the "machines ministry" simply "happened", rather than being structured or planned, due to a passion for his hobby.

"There's more to ministry than actually physically going out with mission in mind. It's actually a daily event that you can do even with your hobbies ... rock up somewhere with the thing that you like playing with the most and engage with other people with a similar interest and eventually you may end up with faith conversations occurring," he said.

Lieut Munro hopes Salvationists will be inspired to use this philosophy with their hobby.

"Just being out there, having fun in a hobby, will end up opening the door for God conversations with people," he said.

The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry also led the Sunday morning meeting at Rockdale Salvation Army.

— Lauren Martin

Territorial arts camp unveils Army's creative diversity

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM all over the Southern Territory were encouraged to explore their creative gifts for God at the 2017 Territorial Creative Arts Camp (TCAC) from 9-14 July.

More than 70 delegates danced, sang, played, designed and performed, learning more about their God-given identity and his creative purpose for their lives.

The week-long camp was held at Rutherford Park Country Retreat near Daylesford, Victoria, with leaders from all over the territory adhering to the camp's three key principles – "spiritual, social, skill".

The week covered a variety of streams, including instrumental, drama, dance, visual arts and contemporary band. Keynote speakers were Captain Kate Baudinette, from Reservoir Corps in Melbourne, and Justin Michael Gall, from Kardinia Church in Geelong. The Kardinia Church band also led worship.

The spirit of the traditional Salvation Army was also well-and-truly alive in the vocal and instrumental ensembles, which were led by Ken Waterworth and Brian Hogg. Electives and master classes were offered, with topics such as "Preaching" with Captain Baudinette, "Song Writing" with Nathan Rowe, "Designing Funky Shirts" with Captain Jo Brookshaw and "Social Media with Heart" with Kristyn Cameron.



The instrumental program is always popular at the creative arts camp. Photo: Justin Sebastian

"TCAC is very much a discipleship camp," Ken said. "Creative arts streams, studying the Word and engaging in powerful worship times are effective tools in nurturing the growth of these young people during their time at camp. It's a place where young people can go deeper with God; it's a place where they grow together and develop their gifts to use in their local corps."

"There was space for open discussions with peers and leaders. When young people are grappling with all sorts of stuff in a world that's going in all sorts of directions, a fo-

rum for them to talk openly in a Christian environment is extremely important.

"In many ways, creativity helps us express ourselves in ways words can't. The delegates displayed a passion for the creative arts and a desire to express and develop their own Christian faith through this medium."

Parents, friends and family were invited to an end-of-camp concert on the Friday where delegates showed what they had learnt about the character of God during various performances.

— Jessica Morris

Donate a beanie and help keep Red Centre hearts and heads warm



Clients at The Salvation Army's Waterhole drop-in-centre sorting donated beanies.

AS UNUSUAL AS it may sound, The Salvation Army in Alice Springs needs beanies – for men, women and children sleeping rough, and for those who don't have adequate housing or bedding.

"Alice Springs is a place of many extremes," explains Captain Nari McGifford, Social Programs Director and Corps Officer there. "This is especially noticeable with the weather. Winter is making itself felt now in the centre of Australia, and while the sun is still shining, overnight and in the morning,

the temperature is often around zero degrees.

"To those feeling the cold, a beanie makes the world of difference and it's hard here to find donated or handmade beanies."

Captains Nari and Stuart McGifford, and their team, will distribute any donated beanies to clients in need who come through the Waterhole – The Salvation Army community drop-in centre – and other programs.

Beanies can be posted to Salvation Army, PO Box 2187, Alice Springs, NT, 0871.

— Simone Worthing

Walking Home raises \$50,000 for Salvos centre

MORE THAN 500 people from Geelong and across the Bellarine Peninsula stepped out for The Salvation Army to participate in the 10th annual Walking Home event.

Organised by SalvoConnectBarwon to be staged during Homelessness Prevention Week, the 37km walk raised more than \$50,000. The funds will go towards SalvoConnectBarwon's work with the homeless community.

"Together the community walks to raise awareness about the chronic issue of homelessness, lack of housing supply in the Barwon region and to raise funds for the Salvos to make a difference," said Lorrinda Hamilton, SalvoConnectBarwon Network Director. "Walking Home shows the region mobilising around issues that matter. Early feedback on last weekend's walk has been great, and the corps support has been amazing. It truly is an Army united."

Lorrinda said that rising rates of home-



The Block's Ben and Andy lent their support to the Salvos by compering the Walking Home event.

lessness in the region had increased pressure on the region's social services, which made this year's walk particularly significant.

Local schools, families and social services, including Bethany Community Support, G-Force and Barwon Youth and Child Services, took part along with Walking Home ambassador, model Brittany Davis, and Geelong AFL captain Joel Selwood.

"Walk Home 2017 was significant be-

cause it provided the opportunity for the community to unite against homelessness, walk together in activism, tire together, feel the elements and consciously think about those who have no home or secure housing to walk home to," Lorrinda said.

Walkers had the option to complete a 3.5km, 11.5km, 20km or 37km course, which all culminated at the Geelong Waterfront.

- Jessica Morris

Relocation uncertainty settled as Parramatta Corps stays centred

THE FUTURE OF The Salvation Army in Parramatta is no longer uncertain, with the purchase of a property that will keep the Army in the heart of the western Sydney suburb where it's been for the past 133 years.

"In our view, that's where The Salvation Army belongs - in the town centre - that's our heartland in terms of our ministry," said Parramatta Corps Officer, Major Grant Sandercock-Brown (pictured).

The corps sold its building last year, but the property it was trying to secure fell through, causing uncertainty about the future location of the corps.

"It would have been a much cheaper option for us to go to an industrial site," Major Sandercock-Brown said. "But we sur-



veyed the corps and the overwhelming response was that they wanted to stay in the CBD, that they felt that the Army should be doing mission and ministry in the town centre. So we pushed very hard for that to happen."

The new two-storey property is located in Parramatta's main street, Church St, and has existing retail on the ground floor, which will remain. The first floor will be renovated to house mission and ministry expressions, as well as a worship centre.

It's expected to open in 2019, 50 years after the recently sold premises was opened

and 100 years after the opening of the first Parramatta Corps building in George St.

Major Sandercock-Brown says the timing of the purchase is perfect as the functionality and design of the building will reflect the NSW/ACT Division's new Hope Rising strategy. Services, ministries and corps will work together and there will be capacity for different congregations within the western Sydney area to worship at the one location, while maintaining individual Communities of Hope in numerous suburbs.

The corps is now searching for an intermediate location where its services, ministries and worshipping community can gather during the planning and construction phase.

- Lauren Martin

ENROLMENTS

■ HOBART CORPS TAS



MAJOR ANGELA WATSON enrolled her niece, Abby Roddam, at Hobart Corps on 2 July. Abby is pictured with her Big Bud, Felicity Natoli, and Major Watson. Her sister Laura (obscured), held the flag.

■ DANDENONG CORPS VIC



CAPTAIN CLAIRE EMERTON, Dandenong Corps Officer, enrolled three junior soldiers - Bol, Senny and Maraya - on 18 June. Pictured are two of the new junior soldiers, Bol with his Big Bud, youth pastor Isaac Mead, and Senny with her Big Bud, Eileen Williams. The flagbearer is Rod Mahon.

■ INGLE FARM SA



CAPTAINS DAVID AND KYLIE Collinson enrolled one senior soldier and accepted three adherents on 23 July. Pictured with the Collinsons are (from left) new adherents Don Baker, Heather Baker, and Margaret Fitzjohn, and senior soldier Janet Hill. Neville Wright is holding the flag.

■ CASTLEMAINE CORPS VIC



TAI KERIN WAS RECENTLY enrolled as a junior soldier at Castlemaine Corps. Tai is pictured with with Big Bud, André Wierenga, and Corps Officer, Captain Judy Shaw, while his Pa, Dean Curtis, is holding the flag.

■ ARNDALE CORPS SA



MAJORS LINDSAY AND JENNI Frost enrolled Ria Rajan as a junior soldier on 25 June. Ria is pictured being prayed for during his enrolment.

■ MARION CORPS SA



Information relating to a junior soldier enrolment at Marion Corps was incorrectly printed in the August issue of *others*. The caption should have read (from front left) Isabella Lee, Eden Sampson, Holly Wheelright and Cameron Kuchel, and their Big Buds (from back left) Marion Sampson, Betty MacSween, Major Loris Knowles and Les Shute.

Duchess gives Army's modern-slavery ministry in Poland the royal approval



Salvation Army representative, Joanne Trela (right), meets the Duchess of Cambridge.

JOANNA TRELA, The Salvation Army's Project Manager for Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Poland, was part of a small group that recently met the Duchess of Cambridge for a private conversation on the issue of modern slavery.

The Duchess, and the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, were on a tour of Germany and Poland last month.

Joanna oversees a project that raises awareness of modern slavery in Poland, as well as providing employment support to former victims. The initiative also includes a job-checking service, which aims to prevent

people accepting offers of employment from criminals posing as employment agencies advertising jobs in countries such as the UK.

The service in Poland is funded by the International Projects Office of The Salvation Army's United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

Joanna spoke to the Duchess alongside representatives from the Polish police force and the charity La Strada. After the meeting, Joanna said: "We were delighted to receive her acknowledgement of the importance of the Army's work across Poland and the UK to stamp out this cruel exploitation of people."

Helping US town rise from racial unrest

THE SALVATION ARMY in the American city of St Louis is playing a significant role in rebuilding community relations following civil unrest in 2014 when 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot dead by a police officer.

In partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan St Louis,

the Army has opened a Community Empowerment Centre on the site of a QuikTrip store that was burned down during the civil unrest. The centre is symbolic of the hope, healing and progress it wants to bring to the community.

The official opening drew 400 people, including Michael Brown's parents.



Salvation Army and Urban League representatives open the new Community Empowerment Centre in St Louis.

'Host family' project to home in on trafficking

THE SALVATION ARMY in the United Kingdom has launched the Community Awareness and Recovery (CAR) project in Nigeria and the Philippines.

Funded by the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund and administered by the United Kingdom's Home Office, the program will work to prevent modern slavery and trafficking of people from these two high-risk countries.

For the CAR project, The Salvation Army will recruit suitable families in both countries willing to host trafficking victims as they receive support during their recovery and assistance to become more self-sufficient and, ultimately, much less vulnerable to re-trafficking.

Staffers will also recruit and train anti-trafficking volunteers as "champions", who will serve as a point of contact in their communities and help identify survivors who can then be referred into the program. The training programs will be run through established Salvation Army churches and community centres in both countries, bolstered by partnerships with both local and national agencies.

"These projects in the Philippines and Nigeria are a fantastic opportunity to stamp out the problem at its source," said Anne Read, The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Director for the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

Kenyan kids spread message of peace through song

AHEAD OF GENERAL ELECTIONS in Kenya last month, The Salvation Army put into place peacemaking plans to help avoid a repeat of the violence and bloodshed that followed the 2007 elections.

One of the main elements in the plan was the release of a specially-written song, *Kenya, My Home* as part of a wide-ranging joint venture organised by The Salvation Army's two Kenya territories (Kenya East and Kenya West) in partnership with International Development Services and International Emergency Services.

The song for peace was written by children across the country. Set to a Kenyan beat and beginning with rhythmic sounds made by everyday items, *Kenya, My Home* uses different tribal languages and has contributions from Christians, Muslims, children who are blind, others who live on the streets, some at school and some living without families, to show through words and music that "everyone is somebody" and "Kenya is my home ... I choose peace".



Children recording *Kenya, My Home* as part of peace-building activities at the Thika Corps.

As part of the show of unity, the chorus was written by pupils from The Salvation Army's school for the visually impaired in Thika, which is attended by children from all over the country.

People across Kenya and beyond were encouraged to share the song and its accompanying video. The video for *Kenya, My Home* and a documentary can be downloaded from sar.my/kenyamylhome.

General highlights hope during film launch at IHQ

SPEAKING AT THE launch of *Together – A Journey of Neighbourhood Conversations*, The Salvation Army's international leader, General André Cox, described the new film as showing that "in every situation there is hope". The premiere was attended by many officers and employees from IHQ, along with guests from a number of faith-based organisations.

Together – A Journey of Neighbourhood Conversations (#TogetherFilm) follows Salvationists Dr Ian Campbell and Alison Rader Campbell to four communities, in China, India, the USA and Zambia. It demonstrates the power of families and neighbourhoods working together to overcome their problems, with the Church playing its part through integrated mission and encouraging community conversations. The stories from the four countries included Salvation Army ministry.

The audience also spent time looking around



Just one of Dr Ian Campbell's moving photos on display at the exhibition at IHQ in London.

the exhibition of Dr Campbell's photos, on show at IHQ until 5 September.

The film, photos and other resources are also available online at www.affirmfacilitators.org/together.

Salvation Army responds to bushfires in Canada

THE SALVATION ARMY in the Canadian province of British Columbia has been busy assisting several communities affected by bushfires that have burned through vast areas of land as a result of an extremely hot (northern) summer.

With more than 14,000 people evacuated, Salvation Army emergency response teams supported several communities, including Williams Lake, where nearly 2000 meals have been served.

Another team in Prince George partnered with local restaurants to distribute 450 meals, as thousands of evacuees continued to enter the city.

A Salvation Army team assisted about 3500 evacuees in Kamloops.

LAWRENCE COLEMAN



MAJOR LAWRENCE Greyhill Coleman was promoted to glory in Melbourne on 7 July, aged 88. His funeral service was conducted by Major Mim Adams on 14 July at Inala Village Chapel, Blackburn South. Laurie had been a resident at Alawarra Lodge in Inala Village.

three-year term as Regional Commanders (Tanzania Region) before returning to Australia for their final role as the Assistant Superintendent and Chaplain at Inala Village.

Majors Laurie and Joy Coleman entered retirement on 1 September 1992, but continued serving God as active members of the World Mission Fellowship. Joy was promoted to glory in April 2015.

JEAN CHILDS



MAJOR DOROTHY Jean Childs was promoted to glory on 28 June from Oz-care Retirement Village in Queensland, aged 95. A celebration service for Jean, as she was known for the majority of her life, was held at Redcliffe City Corps, on 5 July, conducted by Captain John Tatters.

Born on 18 December 1921, Jean was converted at age 13. She attended The Salvation Army at Ascot Vale, Victoria, and after leaving school she worked in a clothing factory where she became a clothing forewoman.

In 1945, at age 23, she entered The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne as a cadet in the *Fearless* session. Her first appointment was to Bayswater Boys Home, followed by a role at Bethesda Hospital where she competed nursing training, gaining qualifications in general nursing and midwifery.

From January 1951 until mid-1959, Jean served at The Haven Maternity Home in Melbourne, eventually being appointed as Sister-in-Charge. She completed further training, gained a certificate in infant welfare and became qualified as a triple-certificated nursing sister. She was appointed as Matron at McBride Hospital in Adelaide 1959. Although dealing with the adoption of babies, she was a strong advocate for greater support for young unmarried mothers wishing to keep their babies.

After nearly 11 years, Jean moved to Elim Maternity Hospital in Tasmania and then Hillcrest Maternity Hospital in Western Australia. An exchange to the Australia

Eastern Territory in October 1975 followed a brief time at Mary Anderson Lodge in Victoria. Jean was then appointed to Boothville Hospital in Brisbane, and three years later to Papua New Guinea, serving at Omborda Health Sub-Centre, Onamuga School and went on to become Sister-in-Charge at Onamuga Health Sub-Centre. She retired on 1 October 1982 and settled in Brisbane, sustained by God's calling on her life.

ROBERT REDMAN



ROBERT ERNEST (Bob) Redman was promoted to glory in Brisbane on 12 May, aged 79. A service to celebrate his life was held at Stafford Corps on

17 May, conducted by his lifelong friend, Commissioner Doug Davis (Ret.). Lieutenant-Colonel Don Woodland and Major Dean Clarke also took part, with Dorothy Jones and Lionel Wood giving musical support and Bob's children and grandchildren paying tribute. A large band also contributed.

Born in Melbourne on 8 March 1938, Bob was the first child of Ernie and Maisie Redman. Bob was only four when his father died in war service. Supported by Legacy, Bob attended Footscray Technical College where he completed a degree in mechanical engineering. He was the first Australian mechanical engineer employed in the air-conditioning business. He worked at AE Smith and Son for over 40 years until his retirement in 2002. Many AE Smith colleagues were present at the memorial. Bob met his wife Merle at Moreland Corps. They married six days after he turned 21. Bob is survived by three children – Bruce, Kerryn and Melinda – four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

The Salvation Army was always central in Bob's life. He attended corps at Moreland, Nundah and Brisbane City Temple, playing tenor horn, flugel horn and percussion in various bands. Many will fondly remember Bob as the welcoming face in the balcony section of Brisbane City Temple on Sunday mornings. He'd greet folk with a friendly smile, a firm handshake, and a songbook.

Laurie was born on 16 December 1928 and grew up in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, accepting Jesus into his heart at age 10. He attended Essendon Technical College and completed an apprenticeship before becoming a cabinet maker in 1942. He left Moonee Ponds Corps in 1948 to attend The Salvation Army Training College as a member of the *King's Messengers* session of cadets.

He was appointed to Eaglehawk Corps as the Assistant Corps Officer in 1949. He was then appointed as the Corps Officer at Kerang Corps, followed by various duties throughout the Southern Territory, including staff roles at the training college.

In January 1952, Laurie married fellow *King's Messengers* cadet, Joy Gardner, who also came out of Moonee Ponds Corps, and they were blessed with four children – Edward, Barbara, William and Julie (deceased) – and six grandchildren – Estelle, Lawrence, Ciaran, George, Rosemarie and Max.

Together they served in corps appointments at Yea, Sandringham, Brunswick West, Springvale and Bentleigh. Their longest appointment was in the Kenya East Territory, where they spent more than 20 years on missionary service. Laurie served in schools for the disabled, as training principal, and various roles at Territorial Headquarters.

On return to Australia, between 1978 and 1987, Laurie served as the Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent at Bayswater Youth Training Centre followed by a role as Assistant State Social Services Secretary in Victoria.

Laurie and Joy returned to Kenya East for a

ABOUT PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 1 August: Colonel Geanette **Seymour**, Assistant National Secretary for Mission.

Effective 4 September: Captain Malkanthi **Walton**, Courts and Prison Services, Moorabbin Justice Centre, Chaplain State Social Command Victoria.

BIRTH

Lieutenants Matthew and Katie **Ryan**, a son, Justice James, born 5 July.

MARRIAGE

Captain David **Buckle**, to Sue Vella, on 21 July.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Aux-Captain Graeme **Jobling**, on 19 July; Brigadier Patricia **Gibbons**, on 26 July; Major Merle **Lock**, on 28 July; Major Mary **Farr**, on 9 August.

BEREAVEMENTS

Major Winsome **Mason**, of her father, and Colonel Cecil Williams and Major Thelma **Ezzy**, of their brother, Les Williams, on 13 July; Aux-Captain Pamela **Jobling**, of her husband, Aux-Captain Graeme Jobling, on 19 July; Major Warren **Lock**, of his mother Major Merle Lock, on 28 July; Captain Megan **Couchman**, of her grandmother, on 31 July; Lieutenant Chris **Marsh**, of his mother, on 8 August; Aux-Captain Irene **Farr**, of her sister, Major Mary Farr, on 9 August.

RETIREMENTS

On 31 July: Major Christine **Atkinson**, Major Bruce **Dobbie**, Major Margaret **Dobbie**, Major Bob **Wilson**, Major Elwyn **Grigg**, Major Annette **West**.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD (NATIONAL COMMANDER) AND TRACEY TIDD

Indonesia Sun 27 Aug-Sun 3 Sept – Zonal Leaders Conference

Indonesia Mon 4-Thurs 7 Sept – Zonal Women Leaders Conference.

* London Wed 6 Sept-Fri 8 Sept – High Council Reform Group.

* Sydney Tues 19 Sept – Leadership lecture, School For Officer Training.

Commissioner Tracey only

* Commissioner Floyd only

COLONELS MARK (NATIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY) AND JULIE CAMPBELL

Indonesia Tues 29 Aug-Sun 3 Sept – Zonal Leaders Conference. #Indonesia Mon 4-Thurs 7 Sept – Zonal Women Leaders Conference.

* Tuggeranong Wed 13 Sept – Going Deeper.

Eastern Victoria Division Wed 13 Sept – Silver Star lunch. Waverley Sun 17 Sept – Guest leaders with Melbourne Staff Band.

Colonel Julie only

* Colonel Mark only

COLONELS GRAEME (CHIEF SECRETARY-IN-CHARGE AUS) AND KARYN RIGLEY

Indonesia Fri 1 Sept-Tues 5 Sept – Zonal Leaders Conference Perth Sun 1 Oct – Installation of Western Australia Divisional Leaders.

LIEUT-COLONELS KELVIN (CHIEF SECRETARY-IN-CHARGE AUE) AND CHERALYNNE PETHYBRIDGE

Indonesia Fri 1 Sept-Mon 4 Sept – Zonal Leaders Conference Indonesia Territory.

Sydney Fri 8 Sept – Launch of Aged Care Plus Walkathon Temora Sat 16 Sept-Sun 17 Sept – Opening of new Temora hall (Saturday).

Slacks Creek Sun 24 Sept – Life Community Church visit.

Sydney Fri 29 Sept – Macquarie Lodge Retirement Village official opening.

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Shedding the old me for a new life.

WORDS | ELLANOR



Ellanor (left) with Jenny Wayman from Rockhampton Salvation Army.

I HAD MY FIRST alcoholic drink at the age of 13, and I became an obsessive binge drinker throughout my teenage years. I was abused as a child and I wanted to forget that dreadful experience. My parents didn't want to know.

After I left school I worked as a registered nurse. I'd binge-drink at nights and on my days off. After marrying later in life, we had a child. Sadly, he only lived for three hours. I felt the loss very deeply and that's when my addiction got really serious.

Five years after the loss of our child, my husband died of cancer. The drinking continued, and it got to the point where I didn't want to be here anymore. I became ever more isolated. The alcohol changed me completely. It changed my personality and I'd get very aggressive.

Then, in 2014, I had an accident. I was inebriated, slipped in the shower and fractured my back. I lay there from the Friday evening until the Monday morning and then spent five days in intensive care, as my organs were starting to fail. I went into nursing-home care. After more than a year, I thought, "I'm too young to be in a situation like this", so I worked very, very hard getting myself physically and mentally fit.

In 2016, I found a unit for rent. However, it is right near a hotel. I have not had a drink since the accident, but even the smell of the alcohol is a trigger for me and tempts me when I get stressed.

"The drinking continued, and it got to the point where I didn't want to be here anymore. I became ever more isolated. The alcohol changed me completely. It changed my personality and I'd get very aggressive."

Last July, Jenny from the Rockhampton Salvation Army wrote in the local paper about a program she was starting for people and their families affected by addiction. I went for a while, but being more than a bit pig-headed, I thought, "I can do it myself" – but actually, I couldn't!

It was Jenny's persistence that got me through. She'd ring up and say, "We miss you in the group!". I have gained a new strength and I am now not as shy as I used to be. When I first went in, I wouldn't talk, but now I'm opening up, and in time I would like to be able to help others.

I was estranged from my family for many years because of my alcoholism and mental health issues, but I'm pleased to say with Jenny's help and the help of the group, I have now reunited with my family. Christmas last year was beautiful. I have also come back to church.

It was going through the 12-step program that brought me to faith in Jesus. Although it took me many months to finally walk into The Salvation Army, I did, and I love it. They have encouraged me to join in with Home League, Bible studies and all the activities. I gave my story twice at the beginning of the Red Shield Appeal and I've participated in collecting. I also love cooking for any event at church.

I know I can still be a bit obnoxious at times and I think God has his work cut out for me! But I'm so glad he is a God who does not give up. The old me was isolated and on a path of destruction. I had no value in my life. The new me has a loving God and joy in my heart. I have my close family; my caring church family and I have genuine friends for the first time in my life. I finally have found peace in my heart and I am so, so blessed. ■

As told to Naomi Singlehurst

HOSPITALITY

ENGAGING THE OTHER

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Hospitality is a strong biblical theme with a radical edge. It implies a willingness to make space and offer kindness, to partner with and to protect. So what does our willingness (or unwillingness) to extend hospitality say about our identity and practice as people of God in an increasingly extreme and self-interested world? Join us to explore the implications of this hospitality for The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific.

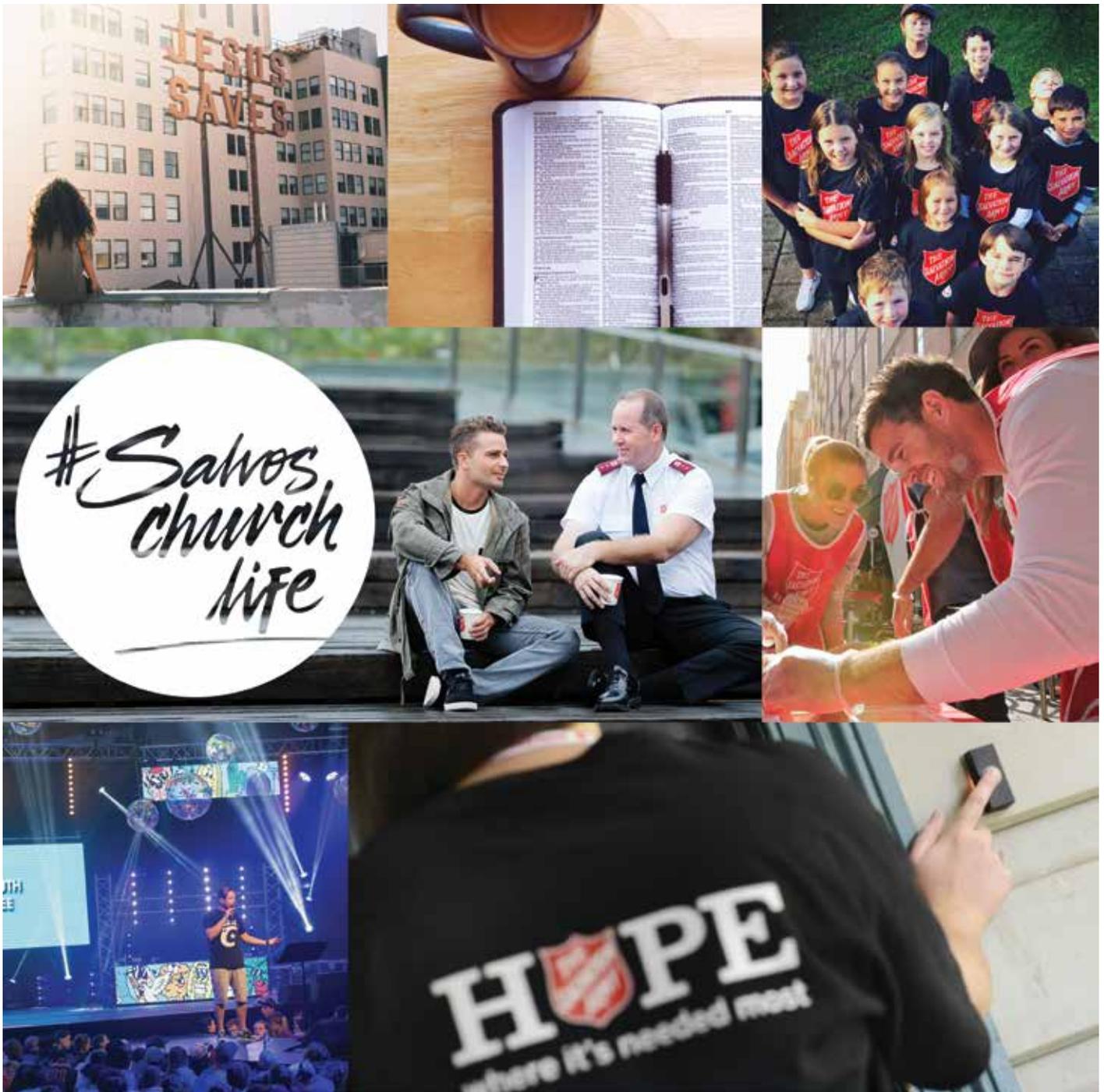
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