

# pipeline

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY  
**SEPTEMBER 2014**  
VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 9

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

**SALVOS LEGAL NAMED  
AUSTRALIAN LAW  
FIRM OF THE YEAR**



ARTICLES BY

COMMISSIONER JAMES CONDON | MAJOR DEON OLIVER | MARK HADLEY | MATT SEAMAN | COLONEL RICHARD MUNN

## COMMISSIONING & CELEBRATION

Heralds of Grace 2013-2014

**Sunday 30 November 2014**

10.00am Commissioning & Ordination  
2.30pm Sending Out  
6.00pm The Movement

**Brisbane Convention Centre  
Merivale Street, South Brisbane**

Leaders:  
Commissioners James & Jan Condon  
Colonels Richard & Janet Munn



Journalist and television presenter Joe Hildebrand threw his support behind The Salvation Army by running with the Salvos Striders team in last month's Sun-Herald City2Surf race in Sydney.  
Photo: Shairon Paterson

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## Salvos Legal a realisation of Booth's vision

It is often said that William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army, was a man ahead of his time.

He loved a new concept and, indeed, he often came up with new ideas himself to advance his freshly established Army for God's Kingdom.

At the turn of the 20th century, new innovations were making increasing inroads into everyday life, and General Booth was right up there with them, embracing cinematography and the motor car, for example.

His mind was continually tuned into better ways to accommodate the poor, to feed them, to house them, to employ them and to act on their behalf for the glory of God.

One of the lesser-known concepts he came up with was his idea for a "Poor Man's Lawyer" service. He outlined his proposal in detail in his groundbreaking book *In Darkest England*

and *the Way Out* which was first published in 1890.

More than 100 years later, God put this pro-bono legal model on the heart of a young lawyer in Sydney named Luke Geary.

After almost a decade in commercial law, Luke felt compelled to use his legal acumen for God, and in 2009 he left a large law firm in Sydney to work for The Salvation Army.

In 2010, Salvos Legal was born – a firm based in Sydney which basically represented people who were unable to afford a lawyer on matters involving criminal law, family law and children's law, debt, housing, welfare and cases dealing in migration and refugee matters.

William Booth would be proud of Luke Geary and his Salvos Legal team.

Luke reckons that last year Salvos Legal Humanitarian provided over \$8 million worth of free legal work for people in need.

In four years they have not only achieved their vision, but they have made a huge impact on the legal landscape, culminating last month with a major award – Australian Law Firm of the Year.

In this issue of *Pipeline* we honour Salvos Legal and their award.

Be encouraged by this valuable work, which has evolved into a highly successful and effective arm of The Salvation Army.

### And another thing

This edition is my last as acting editor of *Pipeline*, with Scott Simpson returning from 12 months' leave to resume the role.

I want to thank all those who have contributed to *Pipeline* in some way over the past year, and a big thank you also to our readers through various corps and centres around the Australia Eastern Territory and indeed the world. May God bless you.

## TC@PIPELINE

# ARMY'S LEADERS MOVING FORWARD AS ONE

An international conference of The Salvation Army's leaders in Singapore has, says **Commissioner JAMES CONDON**, forged a resolve to tackle these challenging days by seeking God's direction



James Condon is Territorial Commander of the Australia Eastern Territory

In late July, I had the opportunity, with my wife, Jan, to join leaders from 60 other territories, regions and commands from around The Salvation Army world for the International Conference of Leaders held in Singapore. Also attending were zonal secretaries and other commissioners from the Army's International Headquarters.

Our chairman for the conference was General André Cox, the Army's world leader. He was supported by Commissioner Silvia Cox, the Army's Chief of the Staff Commissioner Bill Roberts, and Commissioner Nancy Roberts.

The conference provided space and time to share fellowship, teaching, worship and prayer and also to have the opportunity to reconnect with other leaders and make new friendships.

There were papers presented covering issues such as adherent membership, leadership development, lifestyle issues, impact measurement and accountability. Following the presentation of the papers, delegates met in groups to discuss the subject and make recommendations to the General.

These small groups also provided an avenue for morning Bible study as well as times of prayer in groups.

Of particular significance was the worldwide prayer meeting that was held on the Thursday of the conference, when delegates prayed in their own language and the Holy Spirit was powerfully present.

Our first Sunday in conference involved a meeting at Singapore Central Corps. It was a powerful time of preparation for the week of meetings that lay ahead. Individuals and groups contributed in worship prior to the General's passionate reminder to us that the world, more than ever, needs Jesus.

During the week there were many guest presenters who had been invited to speak at the conference. Among them were two officers from the Australia Eastern Territory – Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Durston and Colonel Geanette Seymour. Their gifts and abilities were acknowledged in helping delegates deal with the challenges of lifestyle in the 21st century.

### Issues discussed

At the start of the conference the General presented his keynote address. "Let us realise more deeply and acknowledge more widely, the truth that our one hope and only security is found in a living, growing and ever-strengthening relationship with Christ," he told delegates. "We have much to discuss during this conference but nothing is more important than our ability to pause, to listen and to see that God is here among us ... and that we hear what God is speaking to us in these days."

As I reflected on his address I became very aware that, while they were well-chosen words for delegates ahead of us diving into a week of meetings crucial for the future direction of The Salvation, they were of vital importance to an audience far wider than just those of us at the conference.

For all us, there is nothing more important than making time in our schedules to pause, to listen, and to allow God to speak to us the words he wants us to hear in these days.

These are challenging days in which we live. Please pray for the Army's leadership around the world as they continue to discuss the issues raised in Singapore. But, more importantly, may we all be open to God's leading, allowing him to take us deeper into a living, growing and ever-strengthening relationship with Christ. The future health of The Salvation Army depends on it.



## Mission Priorities

1. Our people marked by prayer and holiness.
2. Our people in every place sharing Jesus.
3. Corps healthy and multiplying.
4. Our people equipped and empowered to serve the world.
5. Our people passionate about bringing children to Jesus.
6. Youth trained and sent out to frontline mission.
7. Significant increase of new soldiers and officers.

One Army, One Mission, One Message

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# SALVOS LEGAL gets the VERDICT



Lawyer Luke Geary had a vision to help others through his contact with The Salvation Army. Last month, writes **SCOTT SIMPSON**, that vision came to a stunning climax with Salvos Legal, an agency started by Luke, being named the best law firm in Australia

**L**uke Geary had a burning desire to help people. And, with a background in law, he wanted to use the legal arena to achieve this.

So, with the help of Auburn Salvation Army in Sydney, where Luke was an adherent, in 2005 he set up a free service for clients who would otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.

Over the next five years, Luke and a small team of helpers provided free legal advice in more than 750 cases at Auburn and nearby Parramatta Corps. Then, in 2010, he knew it was time to take the next step in the development of the service and spread its reach throughout the Army's Australia Eastern Territory.

With Luke at the helm as managing partner, Salvos Legal and its sister, pro-bono firm Salvos Legal Humanitarian, were born.

An office was established at Surry Hills in inner-Sydney. Other offices quickly followed. Last month, at a glittering ceremony in Sydney, the meteoric rise of Salvos

Legal was confirmed with its stunning announcement as Law Firm of the Year at the *Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards*.

Luke, accompanied by three other partners and Salvos Legal chaplain Major Susan Reese, accepted the award on the night.

"The award we won was not a refined category," he says. "It was a competition against every law firm in the country as well as several from overseas who have merged with Australian law firms. So I think that says something about the scope of the competition.

"I think the award validates the fact that you don't have to be doing the same thing that everyone else has done since the beginning of time to be successful.

"I'm also very pleased for all the staff at Salvos Legal, who each made a brave and deliberate decision to sacrifice the opportunity to potentially earn considerable wealth and instead focus their talents on working for an organisation that exists to >>>

**“What greater law firm could there be than an organisation which has access to justice, and not personal commercial gain, as the sole reason for its existence?”**

▲ ABOVE: Luke Geary and some of his dedicated staff at Salvos Legal – (from left) Major Margaret O'Neill (chaplain), Anita Shaw (office manager/PA to managing partner), Major Susan Reese (chaplain) and Mary-Anne Ireland (partner).

◀ LEFT: Luke Geary is immensely proud to be the managing partner of Salvos Legal, which also extends to his tie collection.

FRONT COVER: Luke shows off the award of all awards in the Australian legal industry – the 2014 Australian Law Firm of the Year. All photos: Adam Hollingworth



## “The award we won was not a refined category ... it was a competition against every law firm in the country ...”

help others. This award is vindication that they made the right decision.”

In his acceptance speech, Luke emphasised the unique work of Salvos Legal within the law profession.

“I’m convinced Salvos Legal is the best law firm because everyone is unashamedly enthusiastic about making money – nowhere else is that possible without notions of greed and self-interest coming in to play. Here, it is all done benevolently and graciously, for the greater good.”

Salvos Legal was nominated by Peter Juchau, head of retail facilities management and operations, group property financial services at the Commonwealth Bank.

“What greater law firm could there be than an organisation which has access to justice, and not personal commercial gain, as the

sole reason for its existence?” Peter said in his nomination.

### Booth’s vision

Salvos Legal has now grown to 16 offices across the Australia Eastern Territory, employing 28 staff supported by 180 volunteers. In just four years the firm has provided free legal services in almost 11,000 matters.

The structure of the organisation is simple. Salvos Legal assists governments, the business community and other individuals who have the ability to pay for a solicitor or conveyancer to meet their various legal needs, mainly in the areas of corporate and commercial law, commercial and residential conveyancing, business law and estate law (probate). Revenue received from the commercial work funds Salvos Legal Humanitarian, which serves

people who cannot afford the cost of a solicitor to advise and, in some cases, represent them in court.

Luke acknowledges that (Salvation Army founder) William Booth’s proposal for a Poor Man’s Lawyer service, revealed in the General’s 1890 book *In Darkest England and the Way Out*, is the inspiration for the agency’s establishment.

In his book, General Booth proposed the creation of a Salvation Army department that would include an “advice agency ... where men and women in trouble can communicate in confidence the cause of their anxiety with a certainty that they will receive a sympathetic hearing and the best advice”.

The agency, said General Booth, would also be “a Poor Man’s Lawyer, giving the best legal counsel as to the course



▲ ABOVE: Another one for the trophy cabinet – the Australian Law Firm of the Year award which was presented to Salvos Legal.

◀ LEFT: Celebrating at the awards ceremony – (from left) Rizpah Jarvis (partner), Mark Khoo (partner), Major Susan Reese (Salvos Legal chaplain), Luke Geary (managing partner), Jason Johnson (CTPartners, category sponsor) and Andrea Christie-David (partner).

to be pursued in the various circumstances with which the poor find themselves confronted”.

Thirdly, said General Booth, the agency would act as a Poor Man’s Tribune to “undertake the defence of friendless prisoners ...”

The three points raised by General Booth are those included in the Salvos Legal concept.

“A copy of William Booth’s *Darkest England* book opened to the Poor Man’s Lawyer chapter actually sits at the reception desk to our main office in Sydney,” says Luke. “And it will remain our inspiration as we continue to fulfill our strategic plan, which is to have a Salvos Legal Humanitarian office in every division of the Australia Eastern Territory by 2020.”

For more information about Salvos Legal, go to [www.salvoslegal.com.au](http://www.salvoslegal.com.au) □

## Acceptance speech

Luke Geary’s speech to the *Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards* after Salvos Legal was named Law Firm of the Year

“I am convinced that Salvos Legal is the best law firm because everyone there is unashamedly enthusiastic about making money – nowhere else is that possible without notions of greed and self-interest coming into play. Here, it is all done benevolently and graciously, for the greater good; that is, our humanitarian work. To date, that has resulted in free legal advice, assistance and representation in over 10,634 cases.

As a firm of only four years in age – in fact, slightly less – we never considered that all of this was possible in such a short period of time. For our supporters, this is an affirmation of the faith they had and a fine recognition of all the hard work of so many people. For those that doubted us – sucked in, we were right!

Thanks go to a list of people, specifically all of whom have shared the common characteristic of sacrifice. Whether it was sacrifice at the time of joining us as a staff member, whereby they sacrificed the millions they could have earned at a traditional firm. And those who have sacrificed as our volunteer lawyers and our volunteer administrative supporters, who sit at a desk in a hall at night-time in the suburbs; thanks to our volunteer consultants who share generously their wealth of knowledge and experience so that we don’t have to learn only through mistakes; thanks to those who sit as our advisory committee, including those members here tonight – for their bravery in attaching their own personal reputations to an untested, unusual concept and for sticking with us along the way, advising us and guiding us with a firm hand to success. All of those people have shared a level of sacrifice, a level of volunteerism.

Volunteerism is unique in our particular environment because we

strive to achieve financial success as a commercial law firm, so that we can create opportunities for social justice by enabling Salvos Legal Humanitarian to do its work in changing peoples’ lives. We all know that volunteers don’t get paid – it’s not because they are worthless. In fact, it’s the antithesis – they don’t get paid because they are priceless and you’re just short-changing them if you try. To all of them, for all their efforts – every day we thank you. Tonight, in receiving this award on behalf of our special firms, I acknowledge and I thank all of those wonderful people.

Before I finish, I want to share with you the motivating words of the founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth. In the early 20th century, in his old age, he gave a catch-cry which embodied his life, his spirit and his commitment to those suffering. It resonates with us all at Salvos Legal and reminds us of the importance of our work so that we never forget, never become complacent. He said:

*‘While women weep,  
as they do now,  
I’ll fight  
While little children go  
hungry, as they do now,  
I’ll fight  
While men go to prison, in and  
out, in and out, as they do now,  
I’ll fight  
While there is a drunkard left,  
While there is a poor lost  
girl upon the streets,  
While there remains one dark  
soul without the light of God,  
I’ll fight-I’ll fight to the very end!’*

Thank you all for your contribution in helping Salvos Legal to win the 2014 Law Firm of the Year award.

**Luke Geary**  
Salvos Legal Managing Partner



Photo: Shairon Paterson



▲ FROM TOP: Joe Hildebrand warms up for the City2Surf; Hildebrand and the Army's Jason Poutawa on talk show *Studio 10*; Salvos Striders runners and mascots near the finish line at Bondi.



## STRIDING OUT IN FAITH

**“We are creating new pathways for people to engage with us through an easy, community-based environment.”**

The Salvos Striders were once again out in force to raise awareness for The Salvation Army with 30 members of the running group taking part in the recent *Sun-Herald City2Surf* marathon.

Following on from its successful campaign at the Gold Coast Airport Marathon in July, the Salvos Striders took to the streets of Sydney in their distinctive singlets, running alongside a couple of Red Shield mascots.

More than 80,000 people took part in the 14km event, which starts at Hyde Park in the city centre, continues through the eastern suburbs and finishes at Bondi Beach.

Media personality Joe Hildebrand threw his support behind The Salvation Army by

running with the team and agreeing to match any donations dollar-for-dollar on his Everyday Hero page.

The generosity of Australians saw donations flood in, with philanthropist Andrew Forrest pledging the final donation, rounding the total up to \$10,000.

Territorial Community Fundraising Director Andrew Hill said it was a fantastic opportunity to bring the church to people taking part in the run on a Sunday morning.

“That was church on Sunday morning,” he said.

“We got to connect with people, we shared a few short moments of life with them and we connected with people who wouldn’t normally come through our doors.

“They got to see that we’re just

a movement out there wanting to do life with them. If Jesus was in Sydney on Sunday, he would have been at the City2Surf.”

Territorial Youth Liaison Consultant Jason Poutawa also saw the marathon as an opportunity for outreach in the community.

“By getting involved in events such as the City2Surf, we are creating new pathways for people to engage with us through an easy, community-based environment,” he said.

Jason helped promote The Salvation Army’s involvement in the race on Channel 10’s morning talk show *Studio 10*. The show is presented by Hildebrand, Ita Buttrose, Sarah Harris and Jessica Rowe.

Salvos Striders is a group started by Captain Adam Couchman as a way to encourage people to use running as a tool for ministry.

To find out more about the group and how to get involved in future events, visit its Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/salvosstriders](http://www.facebook.com/groups/salvosstriders)

To see the *Studio 10* segment, go to [youtu.be/ZcbPiFbeyII](http://youtu.be/ZcbPiFbeyII)



# KINGDOM TUG-OF-WARS

## INTEGRITY

In the second article of a four-part series on social justice issues, **JAMES READ and DON POSTERSKI**, of The Salvation Army's Social Justice Commission in New York, think about how the confrontational events of Holy Week can teach us about peace and justice today

*“IN TUG-OF-WAR TIMES IT IS SOMETIMES THE ROUTE OF REAL JUSTICE TO GIVE SOME IN ORDER TO GET PART OF WHAT IS NEEDED.”*

*“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8 NRSV)*

**A** lot of life is like a tug-of-war. Family quarrels create their strain. Gender debates resist resolution. Workplace disagreements trigger sleepless nights. Church infighting damages friendships. Political powerbrokers attack when they should negotiate.

And then there is my conscience. The disparity between what I am and what I ought to be leaves me in a restless state of mind.

Why isn't life more serene? Why is there so much push and pull – so many loose ends – so much unresolved tension? Was it ever simpler, ever different?

When Jesus was making his mark, establishing his identity and framing his mission, was life simpler with fewer ragged edges?

Were the pathways straighter? The tensions fewer? Were political powerbrokers more inclined to negotiate fairly?

A careful look at the tug-of-war events that surrounded Jesus during his last week on earth addresses the debate.

Let's begin by focusing on the first day of Holy Week – Palm Sunday. There were two processions that entered Jerusalem.

Jesus and his common-folk followers came from the east, Jesus on his donkey being cheered as he arrived from Galilee and journeyed down the Mount of Olives. His message was about the Kingdom of God. His agenda was about peace and justice with a vision of bringing heaven to earth.

From the west, the Roman

governor, Pontius Pilate, entered Jerusalem at the head of a column of soldiers and the imperial cavalry. His political power was on parade. The agenda of the empire was to exercise control. His mandate was to keep the people in their place.

A tug-of-war was pending.

### Confrontation intensifies

The prominence of the temple in the life of Jerusalem added another dynamic that played into the events.

The confrontational exchanges between Jesus and the Pharisees had already set the tone with the religious authorities. Jesus' earlier "cleansing" encounter in the temple meant there was another faction ready to pounce.

So, rather than allies, the religious leaders were Jesus' adversaries.

In Jesus' cultural context, "the high priest and the temple authorities were in effect the rulers of the Jewish people, though of course they owed allegiance and tribute to their imperial overlords."

The balancing act was tenuous. "They needed to collaborate enough with Rome to keep Rome happy, but not so much as to anger their Jewish subjects," (Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan, *The Last Week* HarperSanFrancisco, 2006, pp.12, 19).

Think of the events that followed. The chief priest developed a plot to have Jesus crucified. Judas sold his soul for a few coins. Peter denied he even knew his Lord. Jesus' inner circle went to sleep during his darkest hour in Gethsemane. And then there was the anguished tug-of-war of all tug-of-wars: Jesus pleaded with his Father, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want" (Matthew 26:39 NRSV).

In the end, Governor Pilate decreed the verdict: Death!

Earlier, we asked the question: When Jesus was making his mark, establishing his identity and framing his mission, was life simpler? Were political powerbrokers more inclined to

negotiate in good faith? Were the pathways straighter? The answer is obvious.

### Proximate justice

So what can we anticipate in the future? Will the Kingdom of God agenda find universal favour? Will the heaven on earth agenda of peace and justice be embraced without more tug-of-wars?

In a tug-of-war world part of the way forward is to embrace the strategy of "proximate justice".

Proximate justice is grounded in realism:

Some justice is better than no justice;

More justice is better than less justice;

True justice is marked by sustainable justice.

In these times, a strategy of settling for nothing less than the best may not only be impractical, it may be a barrier to justice.

In tug-of-war times it is sometimes the route of real justice to give some in order to get part of what is needed.

One of the current issues justice advocates and some politicians are pursuing is to increase the minimum wage for the working poor. Some enthusiasts are lobbying for an immediate \$3 per hour increase. The proximate justice matrix would negotiate believing that \$3 is what's needed, but still, \$2 per hour is better than \$1 and \$1 per hour is better than nothing.

When we have issues like climate change, gender equality, sustainable peaceable relationships between Israel and Palestine, and religious freedom on the agenda, a proximate justice approach is more feasible than the "winner takes all" strategy.

Tug-of-wars will continue to be part of the way forward.

God give us discernment, courage, and boldness to know when to pull hard and when to say the ground we have gained is enough for now.

At the International Social Justice Commission – we think about these things and try to do something about them.

# Outter junkie to freedom

Tamara Ashby didn't think she'd ever be more than a drug addict. However, as she tells **NAOMI SINGLEHURST**, all that changed when she gave rehab a second try and then received support from the Salvos



Tamara says is loving life since finding freedom in God through The Salvation Army. Photos: Shairon Paterson



▲ ABOVE: Tamara at her work desk at The Salvation Army's Recovery Services (Pathways) in Penrith where she is a case manager.

At the age of seven, Tamara Ashby took a hypodermic needle to school for show and tell. She had no idea that it was unusual to have new and used needles littered around a family home.

With intravenous drug use an everyday part of her young life (family members told her they were having their "medicine"), Tamara was eventually taken into foster care. She went on to have a shocking 88 care placements and never doubted that she, too, would one day use intravenous drugs.

"I never felt I belonged anywhere - never felt a part of anything or anyone," says Tamara. "All I wanted was a mum to love me and I never got that."

By the age of 12, she was using intravenous drugs herself. "For me, drug use was really normal," she says.

Tamara had her first baby at the age of 14 and another soon after.

With no real home, she chose to give her children into care while she tried to get clean. She went to rehab, but could not beat her habit.

"It just broke my heart not to have my children around, even though I didn't really know how to be a parent to them," she says. "I didn't even know who I was, or how to look after myself, let alone anybody else. I was hanging around bad people and was in bad relationships. I wanted to get clean, but didn't know how."

Finally, encouraged by a drug and alcohol worker, she decided to try rehab for a second time at the Watershed in Wollongong.

"At that time I had nothing in my life," she says. "I arrived at rehab with a broken hairbrush in a plastic bag with a few clothes."

#### Sense of belonging

While on the program, Tamara heard others speak of God. At first she was angry with God for all the

pain she had experienced, but says that finally, in desperation one day, alone in her room, she "got on her hands and knees" and begged God for "something to change".

"That was the start of my journey to finding God," she says. "I no longer felt lonely, or as though something was missing - I felt like I was filled. Since then, my relationship with God got stronger and stronger."

Tamara spent her 21st birthday in rehab and began to attend Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, which remain "incredibly important" to her today.

After graduating, she moved into Sydney's west, and became a client of The Salvation Army's FYRST (Follow-On Youth Recovery Support Team) service at Parramatta (see story on page 18). There she received support to avoid a relapse.

"I believe that [my FYRST worker, Robin] saved my life," says

"Once I was clean, I had no idea how to live. It was like being a baby again - I had to learn how to crawl, then how to walk ..."

Tamara. But getting off the drugs was only the beginning. "Once I was clean, I had no idea how to live," shares Tamara. "It was like being a baby again - I had to learn how to crawl, then how to walk, with life skills and relationship skills. All along the way I had Robin's, and then Sharon's (now FYRST service manager), support.

"They helped me get a house and get settled on my own. They were the first women in my life that I ever had really good, healthy, trustworthy relationships with.

"The FYRST programs were good, but what made the real difference was Robin and Sharon believing in me. I've been clean five years now and I don't think there's any way I'd still be clean without them."

#### God in control

A seemingly out-of-the-blue text message had a life-altering impact on Tamara's future. The text read:

"[You] need to pay your TAFE fees now." Tamara had no memory of ever applying to TAFE.

"I rang up and apparently when I was still completely 'off my head' I'd applied to do a diploma in community services," she says. "What a God thing. How amazing!"

"I started the full-time course, I stayed clean, I was still doing NA meetings and I was applying to get my kids back. I completed the course and moved out of the FYRST program - because I'd finished that - but was still working with Robin and Sharon getting counselling and support," she says.

"Then I got a work experience placement at a mental health support service and they offered me a job - the first job I'd ever had in my life!"

Wanting to work closer to home, three years later Tamara applied for her current position as a case manager with The Salvation Army Recovery Services (Pathways) >>>



▲ ABOVE: Tamara and Sharon McIntyre, who heads up the FYRST program at Penrith, have formed a close bond.

in Penrith, a community-based day program that offers comprehensive treatment for drug and alcohol dependence and access to a range of health and welfare services.

Tamara married in 2010 and has had two more children, plus has almost regained permanent custody of her older sons, with the support of Salvos Legal (she has them in her care right now, but is awaiting court orders).

"I love life," she says. "I've got an amazing, beautiful life! We go to church at Penrith Corps and God's such an integral part of my recovery."

Tamara admits life still has its struggles, but she now knows that every day is a new day with God and tries to learn from her mistakes.

"I was a gutter junkie - but today I have a life. I contribute to society, I'm a good mum, a good friend, I'm a good wife and able to be there for other people," she says.

"The Salvos invested in me. I couldn't live without them and I love being able to now work with them." □

## FYRST RESPONSE

**The Salvation Army's FYRST (Follow-On Youth Recovery Support Team) service supports hundreds of young people aged 16-25 address their drug and alcohol issues. It's run in partnership with the Salvos' Bridge Program and in collaboration with local health services.**

FYRST operates across five local government areas in Sydney's west, running school education programs, recreational programs and women's groups. It also offers individual counselling, positive lifestyle programs, 12-step programs, and support to those completing or who have completed detox, rehabilitation or are leaving detention.

"It is a unique and flexible service because it is so important - particularly with young addicts - that when they call for help you jump then, otherwise you might lose

them," says Sharon McIntyre, FYRST Service Manager. "When you do start to work with them, though, they have the capacity to learn new skills really quickly. We see significant changes and remarkable transformations over time."

While the service offers support and education, Sharon recognises it is the courageous young clients - such as Tamara - who deserve so much of the credit.

"Tamara is an amazing young woman," says Sharon. "Since 2009 she's got clean and stayed clean, forged a career, and has married an absolutely lovely man. She's had two more children who are just wonderful little people, and has fought for her older kids. If you ask Tamara to do something toward her recovery she does it - she implements it straight away. She really is absolutely amazing!"



Every Christian has a favourite Bible verse that has either impacted them at one stage in their walk with Christ, or continues to encourage and nourish them on their spiritual journey. Stafford Corps Officer Major Deon Oliver shares his favourite piece of Scripture

### My Favourite Verse – Major Deon Oliver

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*  
– John 3:16-17

Verse 16 of the third chapter of John's Gospel is probably the most well known Bible verse in the world. It is often used to encapsulate the core of the gospel message by articulating the mission of God, which the *Missio Dei* (used in missional ecclesiology) describes as God's own "self-sending" in Christ by the Spirit to redeem and transform creation.

This is great news for all who at one time or another found themselves on

the outside - marginalised for posture, position, propensity or just for cheap pleasure. God, the sending God, did something marvellous by sending his Son into the world: Jesus' suffering and death made it possible for us to be included in God's divine plan, and thus the sending continues ... The Son sent the Spirit, the Spirit sets the church ablaze and, in response to God's initiative, the church goes forth, empowered and equipped for the work of sharing the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

I wonder what it would look like when every Salvationist took personal responsibility to win and disciple one soul for the Kingdom. Maybe it comes down to me reflecting upon when the last time was I invited someone into a life-giving relationship with the Saviour and just

being more open to seeing where God is at work, then entering into what he is already doing.

I wonder how our mission centres would look and how our priorities would change if we fully understood the mission of the Church. The Founder's daughter Evangeline Booth understood it well. Upon her election as General in 1934, she expressed this sentiment: "The world for God! The world for God! I give my heart! I'll do my part!"

Eighty years later, how is this army of salvation doing? But first, I should probably ask, "How am I facilitating individual and community transformation in Stafford?"

Oh Lord, help me to grab hold of every opportunity to engage in life-giving conversations.

## ZERO TOLERANCE SEXUAL ABUSE

The Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse will inevitably focus at times on past abuse within The Salvation Army.

I want to reaffirm at this time our total commitment to our child protection policies. It is vital that all who work with children follow these policies, as spelt out in our *Caring for Kids/Safe Salvos* manual ([salvos.org.au/safesalvos](http://salvos.org.au/safesalvos)). In keeping with that policy, all allegations of sexual abuse must be reported to the authorities.

I also want to reaffirm our commitment to persons who suffered sexual abuse in the past within a Salvation Army corps or children's home. If you were abused, please tell us. Any persons who come forward with complaints of abuse will be received with compassion. A careful restorative process will then be followed.

If you feel you need to make a complaint, please contact us at our Territorial Headquarters.



**Phone:** 02 92669781

**Email:** [pso@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:pso@aue.salvationarmy.org)

**Mail: PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICE**  
The Salvation Army  
PO Box A435  
Sydney South 1235

**Commissioner James Condon**  
Territorial Commander  
The Salvation Army  
Australia Eastern Territory





Colonel Janet Munn (left), the training principal at the School For Officer Training, says the non-residential pilot being launched in Brisbane in 2015 will give future cadets more flexibility while retaining the current model of ministry placements and mission team involvement (as pictured above), mentoring, academic studies and spiritual formation groups.

The Australia Eastern Territory is in the planning stage of launching a School For Officer Training non-residential pilot opportunity commencing in Brisbane in January 2015. **ANNE HALLIDAY** speaks with Colonel Janet Munn, the training principal at the School For Officer Training in Sydney, about this innovative approach

**Q: What has prompted the training college to consider offering a non-residential training option for officers?**

**A:** The purpose of this non-residential training option is to equip and deploy more people for mission in The Salvation Army by making training immediately accessible to people whose circumstances prevent them entering residential training in Sydney.

**Q: Apart from being non-residential, will the curriculum differ from the current school for officer training?**

**A:** The primary difference between the Sydney officer training experience and the Brisbane officer training experience is the residential piece. This will mean that the Brisbane-based non-residential cadets will be responsible for their own accommodation and living expenses while engaging in the following, all of which are also present in the current residential officer training experience:

- Participation in a spiritual formation program including a spiritual formation group with other non-residential cadets.
- Meeting with School For Officer Training staff for support, and review.
- Working with a Training Officer.
- Working closely with an appointed mentor.
- Participation in an appropriate and helpful ministry placement in the Brisbane area.
- Working out an academic pathway in consultation with School For Officer Training.
- Involvement in School For Officer Training mission teams.

**Q: Will there be training officers based in Queensland or will learning take place in a different format (i.e online or by intensive)?**

**A:** Our desire is to have School For Officer Training officers based in Queensland, as well as for the Brisbane-based cadets to participate in intensive courses for a week or two per year, on the Sydney campus. This will provide

opportunity for all the cadets in training to connect and develop a sense of solidarity as a session.

**Q: What excites you about this initiative?**

**A:** The potential to equip and deploy more labourers in the Lord's harvest field. I believe the Lord is speaking to people in this regard, and am praying that this opportunity will connect the ones who are eager to serve the Lord in this way, with the great need in the world – the fields that are "white unto harvest".

**Q: What benefits are you anticipating for cadets?**

**A:** The chief benefit for the cadets is the opportunity to train now, immediately, and to then be engaged sooner in full-time mission.

**Q: And the benefits for the Army?**

**A:** This has the potential to mobilise more people to action, to deploy more people into service sooner.

**Q: What challenges does it present?**

**A:** The challenges are primarily those present in any new initiative – effective communication, and anticipating the necessary preparations for an effective training experience. It is a privilege to partner with the territorial officer recruitment team, the Salvo leaders of the South Queensland Division, and the current SFOT officer staff, all of whose vision and contribution are invaluable in this new venture.

**Q: Has it been done in other territories in Australia or overseas?**

**A:** There are several other territories overseas whose officer training program is non-residential and others who offer a variety of means to full-time ministry. Australia Southern Territory is also exploring some very similar alternatives, as is Australia Eastern Territory.

**Q: How have those experiences influenced what you will be doing?**

**A:** In that non-residential officer training has not been the norm in most of our experience, there is something reassuring in knowing that such a model exists in Salvationist contexts. From their experience we know it is possible, can be effective, and we can learn from their experience.

**Q: Can only those who already live in Brisbane take up this opportunity?**

**A:** The Brisbane-based cadets will be in a cohort, they will take classes together, participate together in a spiritual formation group, commit to field-training in South Queensland Division, and relate to various School For Officer Training staff as a session. Therefore, they will need to be near enough to Brisbane to access those opportunities in person.

**Q: How can potential candidates find out more information?**

**A:** By contacting their divisional leaders, or divisional youth secretary.

# Recycled Salvos

Brisbane Salvationists Lyndon and Kathy Armstrong feel they have come full circle in their spiritual journey, writes **SIMONE WORTHING**

**“L** yndon and Kathy have been a real blessing to God’s Sports Arena,” says Bill Hunter, leader of this alternate Salvation Army church in Brisbane. “They inspire, encourage and disciple so many of our people in so many wonderful ways.”

Lyndon and Kathy Armstrong were both senior soldiers, moved to the Baptists and have now made their home, as adherents, at God’s Sports Arena (GSA) on Sunday evenings, the Army’s Bayside Community Church on Sunday mornings and for week-day activities, and the midweek chapel service at Brisbane Recovery Services (Moonyah).

“We’re recycled Salvos, re-joining the [Army] journey again,” laughs Lyndon.

The journey, although full of many good memories and years of service, hasn’t always been easy, or a laughing matter.

Lyndon and Kathy faced some painful and challenging steps and some difficult decisions along the way, but looking back, they are thankful God has brought them full circle and is both nurturing and using them as they now serve together in retirement.

## Salvation Army roots

Kathy began attending The Salvation Army as a young teenager in Townsville, when an elderly neighbour invited her and her sister Kay to a “meeting”.

“We both got involved in Girls Legion,” explains Kathy. “We got Mum to come and we three all became involved.”

Kathy met Lyndon in



Townsville when he was studying at James Cook University. They were married in 1974 and served in the corps together.

Lyndon spent his early years at Machine Creek, a small farming community between Rockhampton and Gladstone that became a Salvation Army outpost for 40 years. Lyndon’s mother, Edna Will, retired as a Salvation Army officer and married Lyndon’s dad, George Armstrong.

Lyndon went to Gladstone Corps and was active in both Junior Soldiers and Corps Cadets.

As a university student in Townsville, Lyndon completed a Bachelor of Science with honours, and a PhD in chemistry. The couple moved to Melbourne for Lyndon’s first job with CSIRO and served in the Footscray Corps with youth.

The Armstrongs moved to Brisbane in 1978, six weeks before their daughter, Melissa, was born.

Their son, Gavin, followed two years later. Kathy was involved with Home League and SAGALA at

the Carina Corps (now Carindale). They served together as youth group leaders before Lyndon focused on his career and having time with his family.

## Turning point

After several years and a couple more moves, the family headed to Gladstone and was immediately involved with the corps, mainly in young people’s work. Kathy was later employed to manage The Salvation Army family day care centre. After about 10 years, the family’s involvement in the corps began to diminish.

“During that time I started to go to other churches in Gladstone,” says Lyndon. “I attended the Baptist church for nearly a year and did some preaching there as well.”

Kathy and Lyndon discussed at length the issues of worship and service and how to best work through some frustrations.

“I still was involved with the ladies and kids at the corps, so wanted to give it a bit of extra



time,” explains Kathy. “I stayed on without Lyndon for a few months, worshipping at two places but still working at the Salvos Centre, which was really difficult.”

The Armstrongs returned to Brisbane when Lyndon was offered a new research position. Kathy became very busy with volunteer work in the community.

## Challenging times

At this time, the Armstrongs searched diligently for a spiritual home and began attending the local Baptist church where Lyndon became church secretary and a deacon. “I was baptised with full water immersion and took communion,” he shares. “These rituals were spiritually meaningful for me.”

Kathy was not involved initially, but gradually became more so over the five years they worshipped there.

“I didn’t want to get baptised as I still felt that I was a Salvo and I didn’t want to change,”

she explains. “... I felt like I was a nothing – not really Army and not Baptist. It was a difficult and different time for me.”

In 2007, the Armstrongs left the Baptists after an administrative issue and made contact with Centenary Corps.

“The officers made us very welcome and got us involved,” says Lyndon. “We felt like part of a team and were being fed spiritually. It was like a homecoming.”

The Armstrongs met Bill Hunter at Centenary and began worshipping at GSA in the evenings. They also stayed at Centenary Corps until a recent move across Brisbane put them close to Bayside Salvos.

## Retirement ministries

Lyndon retired in 2011. “We both wanted to do something worthwhile with our lives and resources for God’s work while we were healthy and active,” he says.

They are an integral part of the unofficial mentoring program at

Moonyah, keeping in touch with residents during and when they complete the program.

Kathy is hoping to do some craft classes with the residents, and also assists with prison ministry.

The couple will also accompany the GSA mission team to Papua New Guinea in October and have initiated and organised fundraising activities for the team.

Not limiting their service to Salvation Army ministries, the Armstrongs did a five-week mission trip to East Africa and now support projects there – building a school, church and community centre at Mlolongo in Kenya, and supporting several other centres in Kenya and Uganda.

They feel they have come full circle in their spiritual journey as they serve together at Bayside Salvos, GSA, Moonyah and across the world in Africa.

They are deeply committed to serving, to meeting needs and to growing as God refines them for his work and for his Kingdom. □

▶ **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Kathy Armstrong works with some children during her mission service in Africa.

▲ **ABOVE:** Lyndon and Kathy Armstrong have brought a wealth of experience in church service back to The Salvation Army and are using their gifts as part of the God’s Sports Arena church in Brisbane. Photo: Shairon Paterson



◀ FROM FAR LEFT: Jenna Newton, Nate and Shandri Brown, Claire Hill and Esther Pinn form the backbone of the MORE team.



## LESS IS MORE AS WEBSITE GETS OVERHAUL

By ESTHER PINN

The MORE website was the beginning of an era for The Salvation Army's Australia Eastern Territorial

Youth Team six years ago. It was innovative, a one-stop-shop for youth-related information and designed to fill a gap that existed within the Army.

"Young people were spending more and more time online and the Salvos had an incredible opportunity to connect with young people in this space," says Claire Hill, Territorial Youth and Children's Leader - Resources.

Furthermore, the territory's youth team were passionate about seeing young people engage with the mission of The Salvation Army. They believed a website to be the most effective way to achieve this goal. In 2008 the website was born with the tagline, "Same Mission. New Generation".

"Whether it was the 'From the TC' [Territorial Commander] segment, the 'Save. Grow. Serve' testimony stories (which later became 'Freedom Stories'), the video clips or the reports on local events, every aspect of the site was

there to help young people better understand and live out the Salvo mission," says Claire.

And it was successful - young people flocked to the MORE website and began to engage with the Army's mission.

But the time has come for change and, while an overhaul takes place, the website will run on "light mode", with limited new content available.

"We have received a huge amount of positive feedback over the years. The statistics in the early days were quite astounding with thousands in Australia, and beyond, visiting the site regularly," explains Claire.

"When we visited youth events, young people would tell us about the articles they'd been reading and how they'd been challenged or encouraged."

A community across the territory began to form. It connected young people who were geographically isolated - whether in Townsville or Port Macquarie. Young people could read their peers' testimonies, make online comments and engage in discussion around articles about faith-based issues. They could also create

conversation through social media on MORE's Facebook page.

"Young people in small corps or in remote parts of Australia would tell us how grateful they were to have this connection point," says Claire.

The most visited section on the website was "Save. Grow. Serve". Young people from every division could submit a short testimony in either the save, grow or serve category and share how God had changed their lives. It was also an opportunity to teach the wider online community about the mission of the Army.

"These were the most popular features on the site, with young people often choosing to share the link to their testimony through Facebook," says Claire.

Another popular section on the website was the "Mailbag". Young people could send through questions about topics such as sexuality, depression or social justice issues.

Somewhere along the way, the territorial youth team also unofficially became the MORE team - a name that quickly became respected and well-loved by many young people across the territory.

Jarrold Newton, former youth team member and now Director of Digital and Special Projects (Online, Video and Internal Communications), developed the MORE website alongside the Army's online team. "MORE paved the way for the future of The Salvation Army online," he says.

Since 2008, however, technology and web trends have altered dramatically. Social media, tablet devices and mobile phones have changed the way people view and interact with online content, says Claire. The youth team has also changed. The Territorial Youth and Children's Team has a new mandate to focus all of its energies on resourcing youth and children's leaders to raise disciple-makers. The team is extremely excited about this focus, says Claire.

"The former members of the 'MORE team' are still serving in The Salvation Army, but with slightly different focuses to their roles. We are as committed as ever to seeing healthy young disciples raised up across our territory."

The Salvation Army is now faced with an exciting opportunity to find new, ground-breaking ways to engage Generations Y and Z into the future. The Salvation Army's Communications and Public Relations Department is exploring fresh options.

"We love the way God has used the MORE website over the years," says Claire. "We are so thankful to him for giving the initial vision and for every person who has contributed to or been blessed through the site."

This isn't goodbye. While the MORE website era is coming to end, a new season is about to begin.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or feedback regarding this new space, email Esther Pinn at [esther.pinn@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:esther.pinn@aue.salvationarmy.org)

## Funding cut forces closure of Hadleigh Lodge

By NAOMI SINGLEHURST

The Salvation Army's Hadleigh Lodge Recovery Services Centre in the Blue Mountains has closed its doors after a decade helping people with drug and alcohol problems. More than 80 people, including many former participants and graduates, gathered for a celebratory chapel service in late July to mark the closing of the centre.

Gerard Byrne, the Army's Australia Eastern Territorial Mission and Resource Clinical Director - Recovery, acknowledged the tremendous dedication of staff over the past 10 years.

"The Department of Community Services funding which supported the mission of Hadleigh Lodge is no longer available for alcohol and other drugs treatment," he said. "This brought about the very difficult decision that Hadleigh Lodge would close."

"During the past decade, Hadleigh Lodge has been a vital part of the [Army's] Recovery Services network and of the alcohol and other drugs service sector, not only in the Blue Mountains and Nepean area but right across the state. The life of Hadleigh has seen many people's lives transformed."

"Many dedicated staff served at Hadleigh Lodge and we want to acknowledge their commitment to the people who came here seeking a transformed life."

Hadleigh Lodge opened at Leura in 2004. Majors David and Catherine Rogerson (now corps officers at Tamworth) established the 22-bed residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation service in the Blue Mountains. Subsequent managers have been Majors Scott and Jacqui Warrington (now managers at Canberra Recovery Services) and Captains Paul and Kaylene Morrice.

"Many shared about what Hadleigh has meant to them - about being part of a family, about the love shown here and the fact that it has helped so many get their lives back on track," said Captain Paul Morrice about the celebratory chapel service.

"We have seen so many lives changed and it has been a blessing in the more than three years we've been here."

# CHILDREN LEADING THE WAY FOR JESUS



Mission Priority 5 is being fulfilled to great effect in a small corps on the NSW Mid-North Coast. Moorland corps officers, **Envoy LEICA LAUDER** and **Envoy MELISSA GILLIES**, explain how God is at work in the children of their region

**M**oorland Salvation Army is living proof that we, as a territory, are passionate about bringing children to Jesus. Moorland Salvation Army is an outpost of Hannam Vale Salvos (known locally as the Brotherview Cluster) and the majority of our children's programs operate out of Moorland as it is geographically central in our area.

The vision of our cluster is to see transformation by Jesus through growing healthy disciplers in our region and beyond. We feel that this vision is vital for the children in our region.

In our experience, if the process of discipling does not begin with building relationships that lead to salvation, followed by intentional discipling, then children will walk away. No matter how fantastic the programs are, if children are not disciplined well, the attractions of the world will lead them astray.

We find that children discipling children is very effective.

Discipleship is a vital ongoing process with children that is easily reproducible amongst their peers. Kids, and teens for that matter, are eager and more than capable of leading others to Christ and then effectively discipling them under supervision (with parental permission), with encouragement and the correct tools.

## Taking responsibility

The most effective way for kids to understand and retain the knowledge and love of the Gospel

is to have them teach it. We teach the children from the very first lesson that they should pay attention to what and how they are being taught because they will have to do it with someone soon. Hopefully it's one of their friends they have talked to about Jesus. When we first introduced the discipleship book, we taught the lessons to the children of our churches and taught them that it is their responsibility to be evangelists and disciplers at school, home or wherever they go.

It is an amazing thing to witness "Christ in action" in our children.

Take for example the following testimony (an edited version) ...

*Hi, I'm Tahlia, I am 13 years old and when I was in Year 5 I started to disciple two kids that I hardly knew. The only connection I had with them was during the church service because I work on the AV desk. On Monday nights I was getting taught how to run the AV desk and so was another girl (who I was going to disciple, so I was very nervous). But now we are very good friends and I became confident enough that I also started to disciple another person who I went to primary school with. She became a Christian when she came to a kid's camp with me, where she gave her heart to Jesus.*

*I am now the prayer pal/big bud of my next door neighbour, I teach our tiny disciples (crèche) and very soon I will also be teaching our little disciples group. I enjoy discipling other people because it's fun. I enjoy teaching other people about Jesus but I am also learning heaps, too.*

There are other examples of discipleship working with children.

We have a 10-year-old girl who is an amazing evangelist and invites all her friends to our Tuesday afternoon discipleship group and has helped lead them to a decision for Christ. She wants to be a minister when she grows up.

We have teenagers who are very effective at discipling not only their peers but the younger children in our groups. They have led their friends to a decision for Christ in person and over the internet.

## Vital connections

Over the years, the connections we have made with parents and children through various children's ministries (such as Scripture, Playtime, Kidzone, children's discipleship groups and Junior Soldiers) have resulted in not only the salvation of children but their parents as well.

We also run a simple Sunday evening "Messy Church" suited to the needs of families that have an attendance predominately of children with the vision of seeing their families join us.

Relationships are being built with the children's family members and, because we value these relationships so much, our children's ministry worker and her family moved to Moorland. In doing this, the relationships have opened to the point that when life gets on top of the parents they drop by for love, support and prayer.

We are very passionate about bringing children to Jesus and discipling them in their faith to ensure that they grow into healthy disciplers for Jesus.



The panel on the platform at Carindale Corps where the Q&A forum was held last month.

## FORUM WRESTLES WITH CRUCIAL QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

By SIMONE WORTHING

**“W**e are looking forward to a robust and scintillating debate tonight, but let's make sure we keep the discussions rooted and grounded in grace,” said Major Peter McGuigan, chairman of The Salvation Army's Territorial Moral and Social Issues Council (MASIC) and Dulwich Hill Corps Officer.

Major McGuigan was speaking at MASIC's inaugural "Question and Answer" forum at Carindale Corps, south of Brisbane, on Saturday 2 October. Major Michele Terracini, Carindale Corps Officer, facilitated the discussion.

Topics on the agenda included suicide, abortion, homosexuality, singleness and euthanasia. More than 100 people attended the forum.

As the evening progressed, a panel of speakers made introductory comments about each subject before addressing questions. Some questions had been sent in prior to the forum while others were directed to the panel by audience members.

“Our society is asking questions and making judgments about the issues we're facing and the Church needs to make a stand,” said Major McGuigan. “At times, the Church hasn't shown compassion, respect or love but instead has tried to blame, isolate and judge people and we need to change that.”

Major Kelvin Alley, MASIC member and National Secretary for The Salvation Army in Australia, summed up the approach of MASIC in dealing with complex and controversial issues.

“This is a journey of grace and we need to accept people and look at them through the perspective of God's grace and come at all these issues from that same perspective,” he said.

Lester Ford, who was in the audience, said he was greatly encouraged by the initiative.

“A few points stood out to me such as the complexity of the issues discussed, the fact that they are seriously considered by people with a range of expertise and experience, and the openness, understanding, compassion and grace with which the topics were discussed,” he said.

## Role of MASIC

MASIC in the Australia Eastern Territory is made up of 13 Salvationists from a range of backgrounds across NSW, Queensland and the ACT. They grapple with complex issues facing both the Church and the world, working closely with MASIC in the Australia Southern Territory to develop national positional statements which are then subject to approval by the world leader of The Salvation Army, General Andre Cox.

“It can take time to come to agreement on these statements because we are each independent

councils, but our mandate is to produce national statements and we are committed to that,” explained Major McGuigan.

MASIC also produces guidelines for Salvationists and discussion papers, which are approved in Australia by the territorial commanders of both the Eastern and Southern territories and their leadership teams.

“Once agreement has been reached in Australia on the papers they are sent to the international MASIC and we go back and forth with them until they are approved,” said Major McGuigan.

MASIC meets six times a year to discuss the world's complex and rapidly changing moral and social issues and come to an agreement on The Salvation Army's stand on them.

“We have great expertise, experience and depth within the council and we are currently seeking to engage more with Salvationists at the front line,” said Major McGuigan. “Beginning these Q&A sessions is a step towards doing that.”

More forums are planned and will be announced when details are finalised.

For more information, go to [my.salvos.org.au/about-us/moral-and-social-issues](http://my.salvos.org.au/about-us/moral-and-social-issues). Some sections of this site are closed until final and approved documents are available.

If you have any questions or feedback for MASIC, email: [masic@ae.salvationarmy.org](mailto:masic@ae.salvationarmy.org)

# SPREADING THE Word

Devotional book unites Salvationists worldwide

By KRISTIN OSTENSEN

When Major Beverly Ivany became an officer almost 35 years ago, she never expected she would also become a writer. But today, as the author of *Words of Life*, The Salvation Army's international daily devotional book, Major Ivany spends her days praying, reading and writing messages that she hopes will inspire Salvationists around the world – and she keeps a globe on her desk to remind her of how far those messages can reach.

Major Ivany is in her fourth year of writing *Words of Life*, and it may be the most exciting year yet. For the first time in its history, *Words of Life* is being officially

translated into Spanish by the USA Western Territory. This new version is planned for release by the end of 2014. "A fair percentage of The Salvation Army is Spanish-speaking so it will be a real blessing," says Major Ivany.

*Words of Life* is also expanding into the digital sphere: an official app for phones and tablets is in development and is expected to launch by the end of the year.

These initiatives underscore the devotional's significance in a growing, international Army.

"The great thing about *Words of Life* is that, on any specific day, Salvationists from around the world are reading the same thing," says Major Ivany. "It unites us and helps us feel connected to the larger Salvation Army."

### Encouraging words

A new issue of *Words of Life* is published every four months. Each entry offers a Scripture reading, an encouraging message and a call to action. On Sundays, Major Ivany includes excerpts from *The Song Book of The Salvation Army*.

"My hope is that readers will be able to apply what they read to their lives in a practical way, and live out what the Word is saying to them," says Major Ivany. "It's not

just informative; it helps them feel fired up for another day."

Over the past three years, *Words of Life* has covered every book in the Bible, following the overarching themes of faith, hope and love. Next year, *Words of Life* will focus on the Trinity.

"For example, with the Son, I am looking at the names of Jesus that are found in the New Testament and Old Testament, and focusing on who Jesus is and what he means to us," says Major Ivany.

Even when handling seemingly abstract topics such as the Trinity, she aims to make *Words of Life* down-to-earth and accessible for everyone. In addition to the Bible, she draws on a variety of sources, from newspapers to novels, as well as her own life and experiences as a wife, mother and officer.

In her early years as a writer, Major Ivany wrote mostly about family life and produced two devotional books for young people, *Kid Talk* and *Teen Talk*, which started off as devotionals for her own children.

### Frontline ministry

Her four children and seven grandchildren continue to inspire her, as does her work as a corps officer at Toronto's Corps 614,

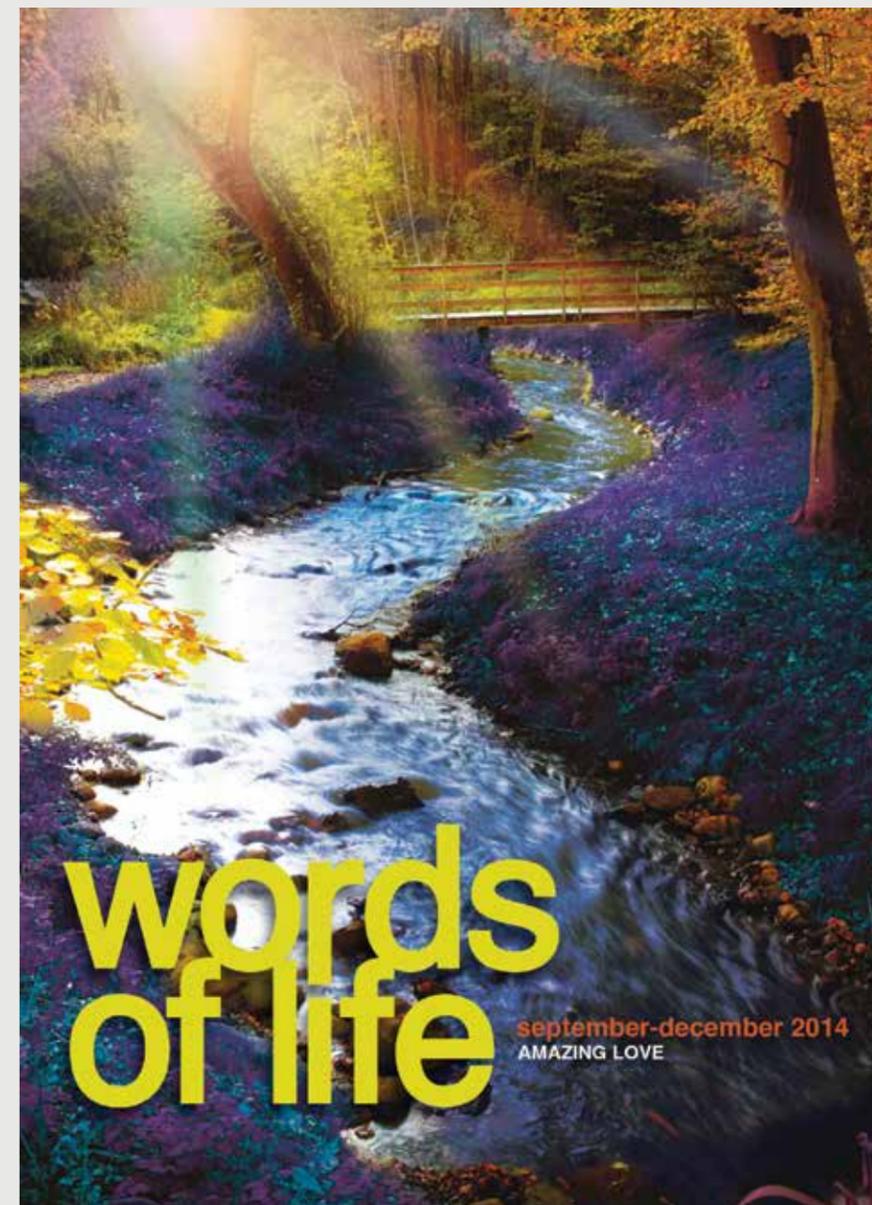
where she and her husband, Major David Ivany, have been appointed since 2012. The corps is located in Regent Park, a neighbourhood where nearly 70 per cent of residents are considered low-income.

"A lot of the people at our corps are very vulnerable, marginalised people," she shares. "It's really frontline ministry; it's what the Army is all about." As well as giving Major Ivany an opportunity to engage in practical ministry, the appointment often provides illustrations for *Words of Life*.

"I really feel that writing this is a partnership with God," she says. "Sometimes thoughts come to me that I would never have on my own, and I feel God saying that this is what people need to hear."

"The feedback I've received has been a real blessing," adds Major Ivany, who regularly receives letters from readers. "People have told me how they were blessed on a certain day – that the message was just for them – and yet, it was written over a year ago. That encourages me to write more, if only for that one person who is going through a crisis."

*\*Article appears courtesy of the Canada and Bermuda Territory.*



## WORDS OF LIFE: SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2014 EDITION

By Colonel RICHARD MUNN

One of the quiet, international Army gems is the consistent publication and availability of *Words of Life: The Bible Day by Day*.

Many are probably so familiar with its presence – spanning decades – that we may be taking it for granted; or, less understandably, becoming lax in daily Scripture reading.

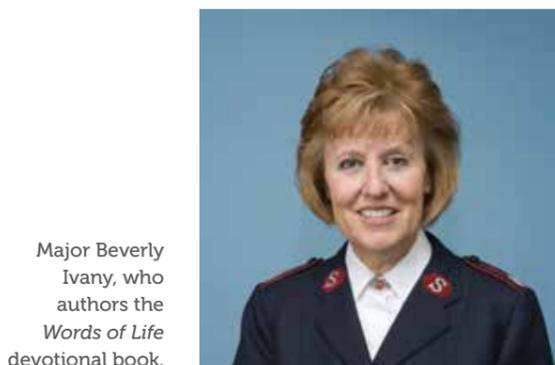
Let me commend to you, afresh, the September–December 2014 *Words of Life* edition. The writer, Major Beverly Ivany, focuses our attention on 'Amazing Love' with a series of insightful

meditations on Ezekiel, four minor prophets and a range of New Testament writers including Paul, Peter and John.

Most *Words of Life* editions will include a guest contributor; this particular series features devotionals from an African officer, Major Kapela Ntoya.

I recommend this book, with the added suggestion that it would make a worthy gift for those in your corps, musical section or employees, or as a resource in your corps lobby.

Yes, indeed, we need regular words of life; and we certainly want to receive God's amazing love.



Major Beverly Ivany, who authors the *Words of Life* devotional book.

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

UNLOCKING THE ARMY'S ARCHIVES

For well over a century people have been The Salvation Army's greatest asset, empowering wide-ranging ministries and leaving an ongoing legacy of influence, writes **Major DAVID WOODBURY**



◀ **LEFT:** Ada Milford of Sydney Congress Hall Corps receiving her long-service award from Major Bernice Cairns. Ada served as the Young People's Treasurer from 1916 up until the time she was 90 years of age.



▲ **TOP:** Envoy Eric Moore served as local officer in a number of corps in Queensland and is seen here in the Brisbane Trade Department, which he managed for 11 years.



▲ **ABOVE:** Etna Keirs of Lidcombe Corps in Sydney served for many years as the Young People's Sergeant Major.

**M**any factors have contributed to the success of The Salvation Army since it commenced in Australia on 5 September 1880. In its early years, The Salvation Army had little in the way of resources and whatever funds it needed had to be raised locally. Limited manpower was available from International Headquarters in London and it had virtually nothing in the way of immediately available property or other material resources. It was an organisation commenced on a shoestring with people as its greatest asset – something that has remained constant for more than 130 years.

The Salvation Army's commencement in Australia was not initiated by officers sent from England or by a decree from General William Booth, but by grassroots individuals possessed by a love for God and fallen humanity and the burning passion often called the Army spirit.

Pioneers John Gore and Edward Saunders epitomised the quality and temperament of those who were to write the mission of The Salvation Army into the fabric of Australian society. Gore, a platelayer on the South

Australian Railways, and Saunders, a stonemason, typified the individuals who were to become the backbone of The Salvation Army in Australia – working class men and women willing to give their entire lives to God in the mission and ministry of the Army.

### Lifetime commitment

From its start the great strength of The Salvation Army lay in its appeal to and support from the common man, many of whom could not identify with the various established churches. It was here among the working class men and women of Australia that The Salvation Army found its officers, soldiers and local officers. Its greatest resource then, as now, was people totally committed to serving God.

In that era, becoming a Salvationist meant making a lifetime commitment to serve God in The Salvation Army. The Articles of War – to which all who would become yellow, red and blue soldiers appended their name – required them, by God's help, "[to be] a true soldier of the Army till I die". This lifetime commitment was one of the great pillars on which the success of The Salvation Army rested. The fervency inherent in

such a promise produced soldiers and local officers who gave away their lives extravagantly to God in the Army's mission.

This mission called for men and women who were to live and breathe its calling and values. Being a Salvationist meant a complete and inclusive lifestyle, not just attendance at a Sunday meeting. It was the hub around which their lives and those of their families revolved. The promise gave a great sense of permanency and stability to the local corps enabling them to endure tough times, economic depressions, world wars and, at times, inadequate leadership.

Many early day Salvationists had an uncomplicated faith. As a young boy at Auburn Corps, I saw the male voice party singing in the holiness meeting every Sunday morning. One chorus of a song they regularly sang contained words that reinforced this idea of lifelong commitment for me:

"I want my life to tell for Jesus!  
I want my life to tell for Jesus,  
That everywhere I go,  
Men may his goodness know,  
I want my life to tell for Jesus."  
(Carrie E. Breck)

### Faithful and dedicated

For these early Salvationists,

their simple and devout lifestyle marked them out as different. Their abstinence from alcohol and tobacco, their abandonment of worldly trappings and their acute social conscience gave evidence of an uncomplicated and functional religion whose witness was noticed. In some ways they were oblivious to the impact they were having on the developing nations of Australia.

Many Salvationists can tell of the significant impact for good made on their lives by a local officer, Sunday school teacher, corps cadet counsellor or other Salvationist. Many of these influencers have passed on to Glory and only eternity will reveal the impact of their faithfulness. Their names could well be appended to the heroes of the faith listed in Hebrews chapter 11. Some may have received insufficient acknowledgement in their lifetime but in the memories of those whose lives they touched their name lives forever.

It is often the pioneers and entrepreneurial innovators who grab the headlines in historical articles but it is the faithful and dedicated officers, local officers and soldiers who have given The Salvation Army in Australia its strength and endurance. Their lives

spoke simply of God's goodness to them and their unwavering commitment to him and The Salvation Army.

As in many parts of the developed world, The Salvation Army in Australia faces great challenges in the second millennium as it seeks to be both relevant to the culture in which it exists and faithful to its own values and beliefs. While good leadership is important, faithful and dedicated people at the corps level are indispensable. Could it be that the survival of The Salvation Army in Australia rests not with the learned and the clever but with the uncomplicated Salvationist involved in local corps ministry? The consistent, day-to-day faithfulness of such servants of God has been the backbone of The Salvation Army. May the Army long be blessed with those who live such lives of influence.



**Major David Woodbury** is *Pipeline's* founding editor

# Digging deep to grow community

It is often said that one is never closer to God than in the garden. Salvationist eco-theologian **MATT SEAMAN** goes deeper and outlines a number of benefits from getting back to nature and building community through working the earth

In last month's *Pipeline*, we read about two wonderful projects (Bayside Blitz pp.18-21, and Service Sunday pp.28-29). Community groups, businesses and Salvation Army church families came together to spend time outside building, repairing, learning, sharing and caring.

Landscaping gardens and paths, installing water tanks, planting herb and vegetable gardens, and even building chicken coops were part of the constructive community-focused projects.

I have to admit, I was rather excited to read about those wonderful stories! They brought to mind the closing line from a wonderful poem by Wendell Berry, which is simply: "Practice resurrection."

Following on from these stories, it seems relevant to spend some time considering how ministry that links people together, while being out in and part of nature, can bring about extremely worthwhile, nourishing and God-glorifying experiences.

Looking back over The Salvation Army's history, it is wonderful to read that getting back in touch with God's creation has been encouraged. For example, Catherine Booth delighted in nature: "I love nature, even what little of its beauties I have seen have almost enchanted me sometimes."

She was also a great supporter of vegetarianism and of the protection and care of animals.

Other Salvationist visions, particularly William Booth's *In Darkest England* scheme, aimed to assist people both physically and spiritually. Booth's plan involved supporting people to move from crowded and dirty city situations to smaller rural towns and farming communities. There was a view that farming was "work which healed and made people whole and drew them into rhythm with God."

## Community research

I see clear links between increased understanding of the biblical imperative to care for the entirety of the earth and being aware of and actively seeking ways in which we as Salvationists can be more in tune with the rhythms of God and God's creation. This can happen in lots of different ways, of course. From recycling (*Pipeline*, Nov 2013), being wise with water (*Pipeline*, Oct 2013), what we do with, put in and on our bodies (*Pipeline*, Jun, Jul and Aug 2014), reducing our energy use at home and in Salvation Army corps and centres, through to ministries such as Salvation Army-based farms and community gardens.

Over the past year, I have been deeply grateful for the opportunity to undertake research enabled by The Salvation Army

Fellows Scholarship. This research specifically involved visiting community gardens and farms linked in with the local expression of The Salvation Army, looking at the tangible benefits and potential issues that have emerged from the projects, and to see what more can be done to strengthen and encourage this area within Salvation Army work and ministry.

The Fellows Scholarship research experiences have been encouraging, enlightening and challenging! For those who like statistics, I visited 26 Salvation Army centres in six territories and conducted nearly 30 hours of interviews with more than 45 people involved in community gardens and farming ventures within the United States, New Zealand and Australia. There is still a lot of work to do to complete the research. I hope and pray that it will be of benefit not just to those who are involved in and assisted by The Salvation Army, but also to the broader church, society and for all of God's creation.

Even as the research is not yet complete, I'd love to share some of the wide range of beneficial outcomes that can arise from getting back in touch with the earth in community. Benefits can be experienced in areas such as:

**Health and well-being:** Having a direct connection with

Matt Seaman has created a Facebook page called "Salvation Army Farming, Gardening and Ecology Network (SAFGEN)" as an online space for networking, sharing information, stories and encouragement about worldwide Salvation Army work such as community gardening and farming projects. The SAFGEN Facebook page is available at: [www.facebook.com/tsafgen](http://www.facebook.com/tsafgen)

our food source affirms that God has provided good food for our nourishment in the form of plants that grow straight from the soil, not from a packet. It is in the form of plants - fruits and vegetables - where we find nourishment, fibre, vitamins and minerals. A number of people I have interviewed stated that having gardening as part of their community support and food banks has been beneficial in this area.

**Financially:** Being more responsible stewards of resources, energy and materials can only improve the financial situation for The Salvation Army and its centres, and also for those who aim to be responsible stewards of God's gifts and blessings.

**Evangelistically:** We can find new ways to share and live out the gospel in our local communities. Increased awareness of environmental issues and community-focused gardening schemes within The Salvation Army is a positive and wonderful point of resonance with many in today's society. To share a common concern for the earth with the community, and communicating the message of love and hope that Jesus has for all of Earth has great potential for growing the kingdom of God (*Pipeline*, Apr 2014).

**Psychologically:** Throughout my research people have expressed contentment and felt closer to God when spending time in the garden and out in nature. This also links in with the early Salvationist Frederick Booth-Tucker's views on farming communities as re-uniting "the landless man with the manless land."

**Spiritually:** An increasingly holistic view of God's web of life

and our place within it can bring an increased sense of wonder, praise and of giving of glory to God through worship - not just on Sunday but in everyday actions such as getting out in the garden.

## Nurturing instinct

An officer from the United States noted that "gardening is nurturing and our work - Salvation Army work - is about nurturing people's lives."

And an Australian officer mentioned the holistic and far-reaching character of Christ-like care and compassion: "If you're not looking after the people and the plants, and the animals, then you're probably not looking after anything. Do you need to look after the people before you look after the plants, the animals, the sky, the seas and the rest of creation? Or is there in fact a oneness about it?"

I'm excited by the projects I have seen, by the stories of people who have linked their faith to the land on which they live. Might there be an opportunity in your local community and church family to begin something new, or partner with others to bring about life and healing to people, community and creation through gardening?

How might we imaginatively and thoughtfully follow in the way of Jesus?

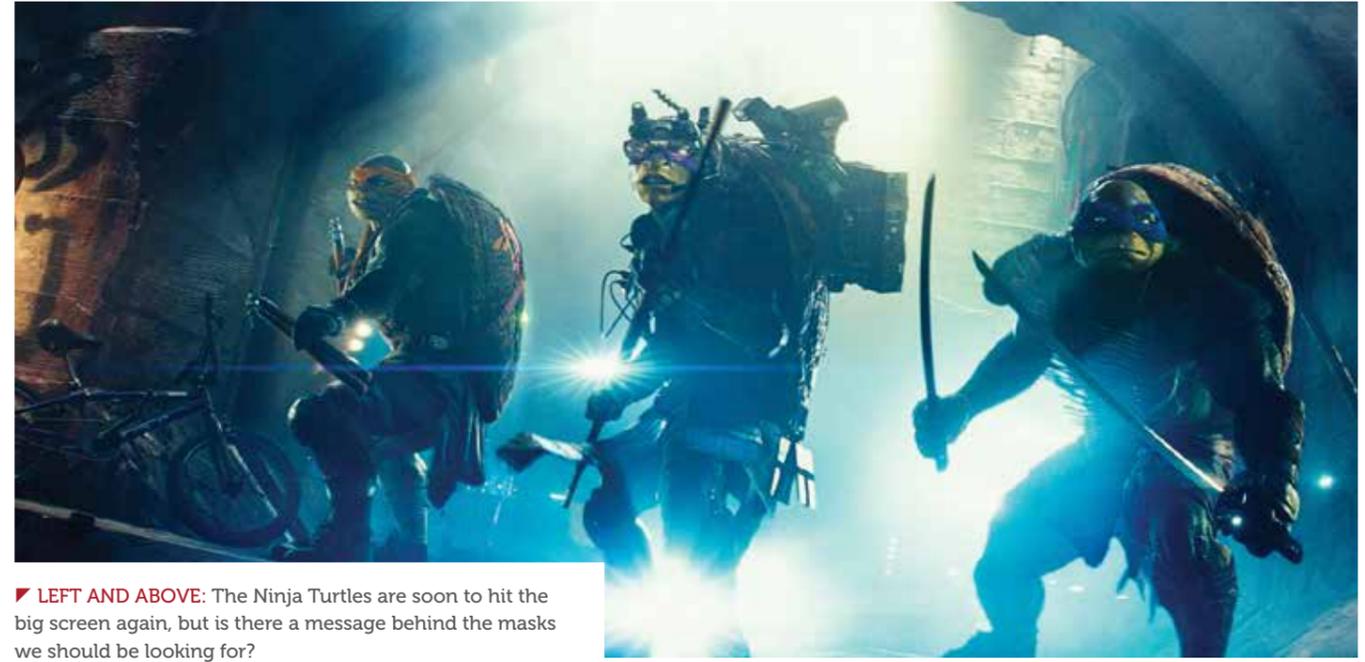
Let us continue to "practice resurrection".



**Matt Seaman attends Nambour Corps and is The Salvation Army representative for the Qld Churches Environmental Network**



# What's behind a film's mask?



LEFT AND ABOVE: The Ninja Turtles are soon to hit the big screen again, but is there a message behind the masks we should be looking for?



Mark Hadley is Pipeline's culture writer

Film reviewers we often get asked the same question over and over again, "What's good to watch?". In this special article Pipeline's culture writer **MARK HADLEY** discusses the key questions that any Christian can ask so they can understand whether or not a particular movie is the sort of thing they or their family should be watching.

Questions. We learn to ask them almost as soon as we can speak. I remember taking one of my boys to an art gallery when he was two and wandering from room to room trailed by a little piping voice that kept asking, "What dat daddy?" It was cute right up until we arrived at that naked statue ...

But questions are how we learn. In fact, there's an entire learning style based on questions that's called the Socratic method. The Greek philosopher Socrates maintained that, "Life without examination is not worth living", and habitually used questions as a means of testing the validity of his friends' and opponents' beliefs. The right question often

revealed the inconsistencies in their philosophies. The same can be said for the worldviews proposed by film and television productions.

Back to that two-year-old. I'd been writing popular culture reviews for about five years by the time he came along. As a journalist, I'd been helping my audiences understand the messages behind the movies they watched; as a parent I wanted to do the same thing. If I couldn't help my kids understand a film, I reasoned, what chance did I have helping an adult? Once they'd gotten old enough to take to the pictures I set my plan in motion. Initially I began by strapping them into their car seats and launching into a two-syllable version of what I thought of *Finding Nemo*, *Kung Fu Panda* or *Cars*. The results were mixed. By which I mean that sometimes they stayed awake and sometimes they didn't. But one day I struck gold.

### The breakthrough

I'd been struggling to get my three boys to stop asking, "When are we going home?" long enough to hear my wisdom about *How To Train Your Dragon*. In frustration, I asked the first thing that came to mind - "Who did you like the most?" The floodgates opened. Honestly, I couldn't get a word in

edge-wise for 15 minutes. But when I finally did, I asked the next easiest question - "Why?" Before I knew it we were having a conversation about that film's values, kiddy style. I've built on it over the years, teasing out what touched them the most and why, affirming and challenging where appropriate. I don't aim for much, just the first five minutes on the drive home. But now the same boy who wanted to ask embarrassing questions about naked art has his own favourite question after every show: "Daddy, what do you think that film was about?"

Of course, whether it's answering that one or simply guiding the conversation to somewhere positive, it won't be long before a parent realises they need to do some deeper thinking before they can help their kids do the same. But one of the intrinsic problems is that big and small-screen stories tend to naturally evade questions.

Film and TV productions are designed, at least on one level, to put your conscious thought processes to sleep. There is a certain detachment necessary to enjoy a good story, a surrendering of our present world so the characters can step off the screen. But over and above this, film and TV promote

something like hypnosis. I'm not the first to note the contemplative state human beings associate with staring into light sources - stars, sunsets, campfires - and, in a darkened room, it's that much easier to find ourselves slipping into that comfortable suspension of reality where this month Tarzan, James Brown and the Ninja Turtles will come to life.

### Ask the question

So how do we stay aware enough to decide whether what we're hearing is worth valuing? Be prepared to ask *yourself* some questions after you've finished watching a movie. Here are a few helpful ones I've collected over the years:

#### Adrian Drayton: What about this film moves me?

Adrian is a Christian writer who had already been reflecting on popular culture for more than a decade by the time I wrote my first review. He's a past master at considering the real effects fiction can have. Adrian calls it "the phenomenological response" - the laughter, the tears, the goose bumps. "Filmmaking technique can manipulate a message through intercutting, editing, attaching an evocative soundtrack," he says. According to Adrian, if we don't

consider what a film is asking us to feel strongly about, and whether we agree as Christians, we're more likely to just passively consume a culture rather than speak into it.

#### John Piper: Does it express or advance my holiness?

American pastor John Piper expressed his thoughts on recently Christians watching the MA15+ HBO series *Game Of Thrones*. "In the Bible, from beginning to end, there is a radical call for holiness - holiness of mind and heart and life. 'As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.'" There's more at stake than just understanding how much a production agrees with or contradicts the Bible. Has the production helped or harmed you spiritually? It can only do one or the other.

#### Greg Clarke: What does this production tell me about God - humanity - right and wrong?

Long before Greg became the august CEO of Bible Society Australia he was a valued colleague for picking apart popular culture. His is the first question I take into every review and the last one that's on my mind as I write my response. What picture of the world is the production offering? One

with God or without - and how is he presented? Is there anything in the film that needs correcting, or defending? The world's best performances and special effects fade away in the face of the answers.

#### Myself: Are there bits of broken treasure?

Our Christian culture is often at odds with this world and so, just as often, I find myself exiting a screening with a mounting list of things I *don't* agree with. But I need to remind myself that, as the apostle James puts it, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights ..." (James 1:17). Healthy father-son relationships? A strong desire for justice? The conviction truth will win out in the end? The Devil didn't create any of these; everything worth celebrating is from God's hand. Sin might obscure his masterpiece but I do my readers a favour by pointing out where the Creator's handiwork shines through. By doing so I can slip under the guard of his creatures, who were designed to agree. And by pointing out where it comes from, I can challenge their worldview as well as prepare my Christian friends to tell the next generation about Jesus.

## Yuills bless Taree anniversary celebrations



FROM TOP LEFT: Chick and Margaret Yuill in full swing; Taren Purnell and Akeisha enjoying the weekend; Lyndell Giles, Captains Mark and Cathryn Williamson and Lyndel Taylor sample cupcakes; Port Macquarie songsters perform.



By ESTHER PINN

International Christian evangelists Chick and Margaret Yuill gave Taree a weekend to remember as the corps celebrated its 125th anniversary on 2-3 August.

Following a Taree corps tradition, an open-air concert was held at a local park followed by a free barbecue. The Taree corps band and members of the Club Taree Community Band played well-known hymns and songs.

"Historical documents record the regularity and impact of open-air in the early days of the corps. In all weather conditions the open-air went on, with many souls won over the years of faithful service," said Captain Cathryn Williamson, Taree Corps Officer.

The Yuills opened the weekend with a Bible study, centring on Acts 10 and sharing about blessing. Chick also spoke at the Sunday morning services with his theme being "Through the roof and out the door".

The focus of the anniversary weekend was to thank God for the past, recognise him in the present and to trust him in the future, said Captain Williamson.

Following the Bible study, a 350-page history book called *A Record of Records* was launched. The book is a compilation of events and people from written

resources and photographs relating to the history of the Army in the Manning Valley from 1889 to the present.

Throughout the weekend a display of Salvation Army memorabilia was available, including bonnets worn by Annie Drury (nee Bryans), who was the first officer at the corps. Her framed "Marching Orders", issued on 24 July 1889, was also on show.

A free evening concert was held on the Saturday evening and featured performances by the Port Macquarie band and songsters, two timbrel groups and a vocal solo of *Burst Into Cheers* by Major Christine Atkinson.

Children from Taree Corps performed *Jesus Loves Me* on the ukulele.

The Yuills also presented the story of Zacchaeus from the Bible as a rap and sang a song Chick had written, based on Luke 15, highlighting the worth of every individual.

The meeting also acknowledged previous corps officers. Lieut-Colonel Lynette Green who began the Taree Corps 80+ Prayer Club, a prayer group for 30- to 50-year-olds, presented badges to all members of the club at the anniversary weekend.

The weekend ended with a youth service which saw young people attend from Taree Corps, Hannam Vale Corps and local Baptist and Anglican churches.

## Catering boost for Army's emergency services

By SIMONE WORTHING

The delivery of a new catering truck to The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) in the South Queensland Division will increase its capacity to serve at natural disasters, emergencies and training events.

"The need for a new and larger emergency catering unit [truck] was clearly evident after the 2010-2011 Queensland floods," said Norm Archer, The Salvation Army's Director of Emergency Services.

The catering unit includes a mobile commercial kitchen, fridge and freezer capacity, pantry, self-serving refreshment bay, 400-litre fresh-water storage and three washing-up sinks. It also features a large generator that allows for multiple tasks to be carried out simultaneously.

"We have played a key role in the development of the unit and made sure it has the ability to support large-scale emergency operations," explained Adam Cole, state coordinator for the SAES in Queensland.

"The unit can also be deployed

into other areas as required and arranged. We want to enable and equip corps to use the unit and my goal is to have at least four people in every corps making up an SAES team so we have people everywhere to call on in case of emergency."

The older South Queensland catering unit is being refurbished and will be redeployed to Townsville, in the Central and North Queensland Division, later this year.

"Equipping the SAES in a strategic location will give us a fantastic ability to respond to any disaster along the coastal areas of Queensland within four to six hours," said Adam.

The SAES territorial headquarters has also acquired a new base camp, made up of two large shelters, with the ability to facilitate emergency catering and other disaster responses.

Two new catering trailers in Far North Queensland - based in Bundaberg and Rockhampton - are also available to travel across the Army's two Queensland divisions.

The new catering truck is just



The Salvation Army Emergency Services' new catering truck.

one of many SAES developments across Queensland and the Australia Eastern Territory.

"SAES teams across the territory have been supported with additional equipment through successful grants from the Department of Families, Community Services and Independent Affairs volunteer small equipment grants program," said Adam.

"From the 2013 round of grants, Salvation Army Emergency Service teams in 17 locations have had the opportunity to enhance their ability to provide an emergency catering service no matter what the location may be."

## Chief secretary specials at Cardiff's memorable morning service

Chief Secretary Colonel Richard Munn was the special guest as Cardiff Corps (Newcastle and Central NSW Division) celebrated several special moments during a recent morning service.

Major Nellie Moed, Corps Officer, said the day (20 July) will live long in her memory as three adherents were accepted, three bandmen received long service badges, four people were given local officers commissions for Home League and a new corps treasurer was commissioned.

The service was also attended by the Newcastle and Central NSW Divisional Commander Major Gavin Watts. "The hall was full," said Major Moed. "It was a God-honouring day!"

"Colonel Richard spoke on Exodus 3 - Moses encountering God in the burning bush. He challenged us with these questions, 'What is God asking you to do in your service to him and your corps?' and 'What are you doing about it?'"

"His leadership and message was inspiring and challenging."

Local officers commissions were handed out to Lorraine Glew (Home League Secretary), Major Bev Drayton (Assistant Home League Secretary), Janet Barrett (Home League Treasurer) and Maria Williams



Colonel Richard Munn accepts three new adherents at Cardiff.

(Warrant for Assistant Home League Treasurer).

The three bandmen who received long service badges were Major Stan Hindle (60 years), David Bradburn (50 years) and David Barrett (40 years).

Colonel Munn also accepted three new adherents - Jean Brown, Allan Sheldon and Norma Baker - before commissioning the new corps treasurer, David Barrett.

"It's a joy to be the corps officer at Cardiff," Major Moed concluded.

## Flag dedication shows support for Sydney youth



**The Oasis Youth Support Network in Sydney dedicated its centre's Salvation Army flag at an official ceremony on 14 July.** The flag was dedicated by international Salvation Army officers – Lieut-Colonels Doug and Colleen Riley, Southern California Divisional Commander and Divisional Director for Women's Ministries, USA Western Territory. At the ceremony, Lieut-Colonel Doug said the flag is a reminder to people of God's love. Oasis Youth Support Network Director, Major Keith Hampton, agreed with this statement. He intends for the flag to show the community of Sydney that Oasis is here to help disadvantaged young people.

## Leeton community garden grows with help from State Water

An empty paddock of weeds has been transformed into the beginning of a thriving community garden in Leeton, part of the Riverina region of NSW.

Twelve volunteers from the State Water Office joined a team from The Salvation Army on Thursday 10 July to clear the land, build the garden bed and create and prepare 10 waist-high sleeper boxes for vegetable gardens.

As part of its "State Water Cares" program, the State Water Office allows employees to take part in volunteer work for a day each year. This year, the Leeton volunteers chose to assist the local Salvation Army – something which Captain Jennifer Stringer, Leeton Corps Officer, truly appreciated.

"There is no way we could have completed that amount of work in close to one day," she said.

"We are very grateful for their assistance and hard work and are now looking forward to seeing our community garden growing.

"We are also thankful to Prolop tree removal and stump grinding for their great work, Area Pre-Mix for the blue gravel, Prestons for the planter boxes, the Leeton Shire Council for the road base and Mike Schultz from Riverina Wildflowers Native Nursery for his advice and assistance in selecting, planting and caring for a native garden."

The garden is open to the community to come and grow their own vegetables.

"It's a work in progress that is about building sustainability into our community and helping people help themselves," said Captain Stringer. "It's also a positive way to bring people into the corps building."



Once the corps' fresh produce has been grown, it will be used in the community lunches that began in August, and in the planned community cooking classes.

"The lunches, which are monthly at the moment but will be increased next year, are to help those who may not be getting three meals a day, the homeless or for people who want to meet and make new friends," explained Captain Stringer.

The garden, which is also now lined with native shrubs and fruit trees, completes the newly-built and refurbished corps facilities.

Commissioner James Condon will officially open the new facilities on 20 September.

- Simone Worthing

Captain Jennifer Stringer shovels the first spade of soil into the new planter boxes, put together by the State Water staff. Photo courtesy *The Irrigator*

## Scholarships awarded to Salvos making a difference

The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus has announced its successful applicants for the 2014 Fellows Program at an official ceremony in Sydney.

For the fourth time, Aged Care Plus has awarded scholarships of up to \$5000 to talented individuals who have shown creativity and are making a difference in their work for The Salvation Army.

This year, 21 scholarships were awarded to Salvation Army employees, officers and one volunteer. In 2013, two new categories were opened for volunteers and new employees to apply.

Many will be furthering their education including Keily Baker, Administration Assistant for Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre, who will undertake a Certificate IV in Project Management Practice.

Ryde Corps Team Leader Nathan Moulds is looking to develop his leadership ministry skills through participating in a training program run by Sydney Alliance.

"It's a great feeling to not only

be endorsed but supported by your organisation/church to pursue [an] area of passion and personal development," said Nathan.

Some – including Captain Vanessa Garven, Woden Valley Corps Officer – will be attending conferences through Fellows Program scholarships. She will be going to an Emotionally Healthy Leadership Conference next year.

"I will be co-facilitating workshops with officers in our division on Emotionally Healthy Spirituality," she said. "This conference will give me additional knowledge to help with the workshops. My hope is to be able to run these workshops in future appointments."

Others will be travelling overseas to attend conferences such as Razz Khan, Lotus Notes Development Manager and IT Project Manager. Razz will be flying to San Francisco to attend the QCon software development conference in November.

Alana Parker, 2013 Fellows Program recipient and Aged Care Plus Marketing Manager, spoke at the Fellows Program ceremony



and shared how the scholarship has benefitted her and her work for the Army. Then, Territorial Commander Commissioner James Condon presented the scholarship certificates to the Fellows Program winners and shared on the topic of motivation.

"I want to thank you this morning for being motivated to serve for The Salvation Army," he said. "And to all who will be awarded this morning the Fellows Program opportunity, I offer my warm congratulations and pray this will be further motivation for you."

Captain Vanessa Garven, Woden Valley Corps Officer, is presented with her certificate by Territorial Commander, Commission James Condon. Photo: Adam Hollingworth

## Fellows program changing lives in Estonia

When the leaders of The Salvation Army's Recovery Services saw the work of the Army with addicts in Estonia on a Self Denial Appeal video two years ago, they felt deeply convicted to do something to help.

"Estonia doesn't have an established Recovery Services program at all," says Major David Pullen, the Territorial Mission and Resource Director (Recovery).

The Fellows Program scholarship allowed Major Pullen and Gerard Byrne, the Territorial Mission and Resource Clinical Director (Recovery), to contact the Finland and Estonia Territory and offer their support through the use of the Bridge Program.

The Salvation Army's Bridge Program is an award-winning model of recovery developed by the Australia Eastern Territory.

"The opportunity to share Bridge Program resources with the wider Salvation Army and thereby assist them in their work was a privilege," the pair wrote in their Fellows Program final report.

Their visit to Estonia was warmly received, with Salvation Army leaders and

personnel on the ground enthusiastic about using the Bridge Program to assist in clients' recovery.

The program is being translated into Russian and will then be sent to Estonia for implementation. It will be the first time the program has been used outside of Australia.

The Fellows scholarship also enabled the leaders of Recovery Services to present at the 14th European Federation of Therapeutic Communities International Conference in the Czech Republic. They presented papers on spirituality in recovery, training staff in comorbid screening and the role of shame and self-forgiveness in recovery.

"The Bridge Program was again seen by many as a world leader in the treatment of addiction and in undertaking action-based research that leads to evidence-informed practices in service delivery," the pair wrote in their Fellows Program final report.

For further information about the Fellows Program, visit [my.salvos.org.au/inspire/articles/fellows-program-2013/](http://my.salvos.org.au/inspire/articles/fellows-program-2013/)

- Lauren Martin



A framed print of The Salvation Army crest hanging on a wall in Estonia.

## Newspaper campaign helps Employment Plus place job seekers

Employment Plus Ipswich recently partnered with the *Queensland Times* to help locals find employment through its "50 Jobs for 50 People" campaign.

For four weeks, the newspaper ran daily photos and biographies of two job-ready candidates. Overall, 50 job seekers were profiled.

Each biography contained an outline of the candidate's work history, their personal attributes and the type of job they were looking for.

The newspaper also included a banner on its front page, an editorial about the campaign and stories of placements.

"The campaign was an out-of-the-box way to promote our local job seekers," said Naomi Duff, Employment Plus site team manager in Goodna.

"I think it went really well and it worked on a number of levels. It certainly got people into jobs, it's produced a large number of leads, which we are still following up, and it has raised the profile

of Employment Plus enormously, which will provide additional dividends in the future."

It's estimated that once all employment leads have been chased, the campaign will see some 20 people employed.

"All the job candidates really appreciated being involved because it was a great way to progress their job search," said Naomi.

Cody Dodds is already an example of this. After spending two years looking for work, the 17-year-old recently found employment through the 50 Jobs campaign with Cedar Sales.

"The *Queensland Times* deserves a lot of praise," said Naomi. "Ipswich has a serious unemployment problem and the paper wanted to do something positive to help the local community."

The Employment Plus sites in Ipswich and Goodna continue to do their bit to tackle the issue, having found employment for about 80 local job seekers in July.



Cody Dodds, right, is congratulated by work colleague Aaron Hornbuckle after becoming the first successful participant in the *Queensland Times* Employment Plus 50 Jobs for 50 people campaign.

## New initiative to fight modern slavery

The Salvation Army launched a new initiative last month to help bring an end to modern slavery.

The Freedom Partnership will provide Australians with information and knowledge to help them identify slavery and slave-like

practices that exist in Australia.

Jenny Stanger, National Manager of The Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership, says the initiative will use online tools and social media to engage and support the Australia public as they act and fight against slavery in Australia.

"Online tools - including social media - have created incredible opportunities for both individuals and organisations in advancing human rights around the world," says Ms Stanger.

The Salvation Army, through the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House, has already been supporting people who have experienced human trafficking and slavery in Australia. This service is the only one of its kind in Australia.

The Freedom Partnership initiative will take on the policy, advocacy and public awareness roles that the Safe House previously covered.

While there has been progress made at a Federal Government

level in combating modern slavery, local and state governments and the business sector still need to increase their awareness of slavery within their own organisations and supply chains.

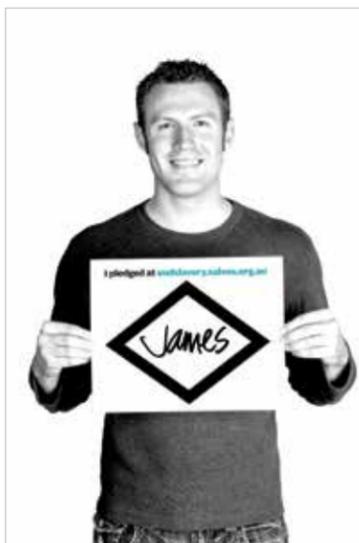
"The Freedom Partnership initiative aims to fill this gap between these groups by carrying the anti-slavery message to a mass audience which is critical in a nation such as Australia," says Ms Stanger. "We are so reliant on imported goods and services produced in areas of the world where basic human and labour rights are a daily struggle."

While online tools and social media are a cornerstone of the Freedom Partnership initiative, the program will also have staff based in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. They will help to support clubs, students, faith based groups, trade unions, community service providers, businesses, government agencies, policy makers and others to engage in its aims.

"Modern slavery is a system made up of complex parts and it is only through the collaborative effort of individuals, community groups, the business sector and government that this exploitative system will crumble," Ms Stanger says.

To make a pledge against modern slavery, or for more information about the Freedom Partnership initiative, visit [endslavery.salvos.org.au](http://endslavery.salvos.org.au).

- Simone Worthing



## Equipping creative Queenslanders for ministry

EQUIP QPAS is not just a creative arts camp. It's an opportunity to combine the artistic abilities of young Salvos from Queensland with spiritual encounters with God. From 6-12 July, that's exactly what those young Salvos experienced.

This year, more than 200 young people from across Queensland attended EQUIP QPAS (Queensland Performing Arts School) at the Alexandra Park Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast, including a dozen young Salvos from Papua New Guinea.

For the first time, drama was split into two electives: screen drama and stage drama. The art elective was also divided this year into photography, graphic design and art.

"Our focus is how can we best train [young people] to go back to [their] local corps, centre or setting and use the skills [they] have learned this week to enhance [their] ministry or, in some cases, it's these kids who are starting ministry," explained Jared Proellocks, South Queensland Divisional Worship Arts Facilitator.

Each day at EQUIP QPAS started with a spiritual focus through morning worship sessions called "Overflow". A more focused worship session called "Encounter" was also held on two nights, giving

the campers an opportunity to spend deeper time in worship and reflection. "Onesong" was another opportunity where young people used their creative abilities to honour God as all electives from brass to tech production joined together to play worship songs.

At the first "Encounter" session, young people were encouraged to literally chip away their brokenness by hammering a cinder block.

At the end of the night, the art team gathered the cinder scraps together to work on a representation of the night's teaching: how God takes the broken pieces to mould you into someone new. Throughout the week at EQUIP QPAS, the art team built a sculpture from the cinder scraps of a bird soaring, while the tech production team filmed a time-lapse video of the art team making the sculpture.

Many lives were transformed at EQUIP QPAS, said Jared. Some came knowing no-one and left with friends. Others were shy at the start and left feeling confident. For Jared, the opportunity to come alongside young Salvos and encourage them about their value as individuals and ministry leaders was an important aspect to EQUIP QPAS.

"Creatively, it was a massive success, but the spiritual impact it has in these kids - you can't



replicate that, and that's the most important aspect," said Jared.

At the end of EQUIP QPAS, a concert was held, attended by 600 people. While it was an opportunity to showcase the talent unlocked by young people at the camp, Jared said it was also a sincere and meaningful worship experience.

ABOVE: Worship and elective times proved a winning combination for the young people at EQUIP.

## PM's message honours victims of airline tragedy

The Salvation Army has commended Prime Minister Tony Abbott on his message at the national memorial service for victims of the MH17 Malaysia Airlines tragedy, held in Melbourne last month.

More than 1800 people attended the service at St Patrick's Cathedral to remember the 38 Australian citizens and residents who were among the almost 300 people who died when their plane was shot down over Ukraine in July.

Borrowing from Ecclesiastes chapter 3, the Prime Minister told those gathered that the day was not the time to judge the guilty, but to honour the dead and grieve with the living.

"Long ago it was written, there is a time to die, a time to weep and a time to mourn," Mr Abbott said. "There is also a time to

mend, a time to love, a time for peace and a time to keep. In time, our thoughts will linger not on how the passengers of flight MH17 died but on how they lived. We will remember them as they were, joyful, open, kind and optimistic."

The Salvation Army's National Secretary, Major Kelvin Alley, said the Prime Minister's message was well considered.

"I was particularly moved by the depth of the Prime Minister's words, especially his reference to God and his reference to the Scriptures," said Major Alley.

"Since the service, I have been able to spend some time with Mr Abbott and have reflected with him on his words and the depth of his sincerity. I don't know anyone who says that he has not handled this in any other way but commendable."



A speech by Prime Minister Tony Abbott has been praised by The Salvation Army.

## Family Store wins local business award

By NATHALIA RICKWOOD

The Salvation Army's Family Store at Panania in Sydney has been named winner of the specialised retail category at the Bankstown Local Business Awards.

Panania Corps Officer Lieutenant Nathan Hodges accepted the award on behalf of the store. He highlighted the fact that all profits from the Family Store directly support the social work of The Salvation Army in the community.

"The store is well respected in the local community and many people travel to shop with us due to the high standard we set," he said.

Panania Family Store manager, Anju Singh, said the award acknowledges the ministry the store offers and honours the hard-working team who provide great customer service.

"What could be a better way of serving God than to serve those in need?" she said. "I believe that our work benefits everyone in our community, especially the needy and the elderly."



(From left) Tim Webb, Anju Singh, Lieut Nathan Hodges, Jeanette O'Brien and Shirley Lee celebrate their win at the Blacktown Local Business Awards. Photo courtesy of SABO Media

The Panania Family Store has been in existence for more than 20 years. It is run by a team of two paid employees and about 40 volunteers, community service

workers and people seeking work experience.

It is the fifth time the store has been a finalist at the awards, winning in 2010 and 2011.

## Old Belmore Corps buddies get together to reminisce

The fifth biennial reunion of "Belmorons" - or, people who attended the "old" Belmore Corps from the 1950s-1980s - was recently held at Arrawarra on the Mid North coast of NSW.

The 37 attendees travelled from around NSW, Queensland and even the United States to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, catching up with old friends and giving thanks to God for the wonderful experiences that occurred while attending Belmore Corps.

People wishing to find out more about the Belmorons should contact John Bennett through the Maroochydore Corps office.



The group of "Belmorons" who gathered for the fifth reunion of the "old" Belmore Corps.

## GYMPIE CORPS

Corps Officer Major Peter Maynard enrolled three new senior soldiers during family worship on 27 July.

The new soldiers - Gail and Kevin Davidson and Helen Innes, all testified to the amazing way God had led them to Gympie, to The Salvation Army and to soldiership.

"All of them have been involved in the worship and activities of the corps for some time," said Major Royalene Maynard, Corps Officer. "Gail and Helen both teach in Kid's Church and are OASIS members, and Gail is in the singing group. Kevin is the corps bus driver and videos the worship services.

"Their joy, commitment and sense of purpose was evident and a challenge to us all.



The new soldiers celebrating their enrolment, (left to right) Kevin Davidson, Gail Davidson and Helen Innes.



## REDCLIFFE CORPS

Corps Officer Captain Ed Henderson enrolled six senior soldiers - Len Matthews, Les Wheeler, Suzie Parker, Cunera Braiden, Sandra Murphy and Jean Atkinson - on 27 July.

"It is exciting to see God challenging and calling people to service in this corner of his kingdom," said Captain Henderson.

All of the newly enrolled

soldiers are active in the corps in different capacities including street ministry, emergency services, hotel ministry, Bible studies, and catering within the corps. Len is also the manager and coordinator of Salvo Care Line at South Queensland Divisional Headquarters and is involved with prison chaplaincy and Positive Lifestyle training courses.



The newly enrolled senior soldiers (from left to right) Len Matthews, Cunera Braiden, Les Wheeler, Jean Atkinson, Sandra Murphy and Suzie Parker.

## BUNDAMBA

Corps Officer Captain Emma Johnson recently enrolled Sonya Adkin, Ranjith Keerthi, Penny Palmer and Shaunna Stevens as senior soldiers. During the special meeting, Captain Johnson also accepted Kathy Heer as an adherent, and dedicated little Micah.

"We are seeing people entering into and growing in their relationship with Jesus from all walks of life and diverse cultural backgrounds," said Captain Johnson.

It's a great testimony to God's grace and a team of people who are committed to seeing God's Kingdom grow wider and deeper in this community.

It's awesome to see how so many people from the corps are working to influence, include and invest in the wider community - and God is bringing people into his Kingdom!"



From left to right: Petrina and Scott Dolan with Micah; Sonya Adkin, Kathy Heer, Penny Palmer, Captain Ben Johnson, Shaunna Stevens, Captain Emma Johnson and Ranjith Keerthi.

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## Salvos provide aid to quake victims

The Salvation Army has been providing support in Yunnan province, China, after a 6.1-magnitude earthquake last month caused widespread devastation.

More than 600 people lost their lives in the disaster, which had its epicentre in Ludian county, and more than 3000 were injured. Local reports suggested that at least 80,000 houses collapsed and nearly 230,000 survivors have been in need of emergency resettlement.

Salvation Army emergency relief personnel were able to reach Ludian shortly after the quake struck and connected with local relief officials. The survivors have been placed in more than 100 resettlement points in the area.

Regular aftershocks and torrential rain causing landslides, made rescue work increasingly difficult.

Emergency supplies were sent by The Salvation Army to the

worst-affected areas, including Lungtoushan township and Huodehong village. Some victims walked from Lungtoushan to the centre of Ludian county to be housed in tents that have been provided.

A Salvation Army relief team reached Shuimo township and Longshu village within a week of the quake to distribute relief supplies. On reaching Shuimo, they found that most of the houses were either seriously damaged or had collapsed. They immediately distributed food and children's books to the survivors, while a second batch of relief supplies included bags of rice and barrels of cooking oil.

In addition to the emergency food supplies, The Salvation Army has sent social workers from Hong Kong to Ludian, setting up counselling teams to help children who have been affected.



Rescue workers search for survivors of the quake which struck Yunnan province last month.



Salvation Army personnel have been offering help to people impacted by the quake.

## Army a refreshing presence at Glasgow Games

The Salvation Army gave out more than 50,000 free bottles of water to spectators arriving at Glasgow Central railway station during the recent Commonwealth Games in Scotland.

"The Bible talks about refreshing people by simply giving them a drink of water," said the Army's sports ministry co-ordinator in the UK, Bobby Weir. "So our idea was to offer them a bottle of water and to show hospitality."

As well as handing out water, team members made available Christian literature including an edition of Luke's Gospel produced by sports ministry organisation

More Than Gold.

The Army also took part in a More Than Gold scheme to give athletes' families and Games volunteers a place to stay during the event. More than 170 people from churches across Scotland hosted such visitors, many of whom would otherwise be unable to afford the experience.

Bobby was also chosen to run with the Queen's Baton through his home town of Airdrie. He shared the honour with Captain Stephen Moir, corps officer in Cumbernauld, in recognition of the work they are doing in their respective communities.



Captain Stephen Moir (Cumbernauld) carried the baton on day 10 of the Commonwealth Games relay around Scotland

## PROMOTED TO GLORY

## Peace of God



Delia Epps was promoted to glory on 27 June, aged 95, from Wollongong, less than three months after husband, Herb, passed away.

Corps Officer Captain Phil Inglis led a celebration of Delia's life at Wollongong Corps on 1 July.

Herb and Delia had been married for 75 years and had three children, Joyce McIver, Joseph Epps and Colin Epps (who died in 2004). They also had seven grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Delia Lowden Epps was one of six children born to Margaret and Jack Trueman in County Durham, England, on 28 August 1918. She was the last surviving member of her family.

She came to Australia with her family when she was five, settling in Wollongong and connecting with the local Salvation Army corps.

Delia left school at 12 and worked as a nanny for a prominent Wollongong family. She later worked in the retail grocery business in partnership with Herb and his mother, Florence, and as a cake shop manager. She was a talented seamstress, designing and modelling clothes for Knitwit fabrics.

Delia was also active in the community, serving several terms as Wollongong Quota Service Club President and District Governor, and Foundation President of Wollongong Women's Probus Club. Her service at Wollongong Corps included Sunday school teaching, children's singing company leader, as a songster, establishing women's fellowship and hospitality.

She was best known for her singing, forming a trio with Chris Langtry and Jean Stewart, supporting the band and male voices group as a soloist, and regularly appearing on the 2CH Sunshine Hour. She also shared in many Illawarra church concerts with her friend Eunice Webster (elocutionist).

Delia's celebration service included a musical prelude by grandson Joe McIver and Anne Walker, and a vocal solo by granddaughter Lindy Davies. The Wollongong band supported the congregational singing.

Joy Pittard gave a tribute on behalf of the corps and Major Ray Allen (former Wollongong corps officer) shared a corps officer tribute.

Family tributes were given by daughter Joyce McIver, Sarah Gulloch on behalf of the grandchildren and

Matthew Roberts on behalf of the great-grandchildren.

In her tribute, Joyce talked of a mother of great faith, who was often found in her room singing songs of God's faithfulness. She also strongly supported each member of the family by praying for them.

Joyce recalled that near the end of her mother's life, she talked with her about how the peace of God was beyond human understanding. Joyce said: "I said to her, 'You've got that peace, Mum, haven't you?' She looked me straight in the face and said: 'Absolutely'. And I know that she did."

## Faithful servant



Envoy Matthew Blessington was promoted to glory on 30 April, aged 88.

Captains Tim and Laura Gittins (Corps Officers, Bonnells Bay Corps) conducted a celebration of Matt's life at Bonnells Bay Corps on 6 May. Captain Tim Gittins spoke words of encouragement and paid tribute to Matt's faithfulness to God and The Salvation Army.

Matt had chosen the songs for the service: *Blessed Assurance*, *Amazing Grace*, *To God Be The Glory* and *Psalms 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want*. He also requested that Captain Laura Gittins sing his favourite song, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, at the end of the service.

Family tributes were given by Matt's brother Cecil, son Stephen, daughter Suzanne and grandchildren Niketa and Shane. Bonnells Bay Corps tributes were given by Benjamin Moyes and Vivienne Bruce, and Major John McGuigan spoke on behalf of the Trigg Village Cottage - where Matt and his wife Joan had lived for some time.

In recognition of Matt's service in World War Two, Desmond Green (vice-president of the South Lake Macquarie RSL sub-branch) shared a tribute on behalf of the Returned Services League.

Matthew Blessington was born in Cooranbong on 25 February 1926. He lived in Morisset Park with his parents, four brothers and two sisters.

Matt went to school at Morisset East Primary School (now known as Bonnells Bay Public) then attended Gosford High School. When he was 17, he joined the Navy and served on HMAS Westralia in World War Two.

Matt married Joan on 1 May 1948 at Morisset. They lived in Newcastle then resettled in Gosford. Matt travelled

to Sydney to work on the railways for more than 20 years and after joining The Salvation Army, he played in the band at Gosford Corps.

In 1978, he left the railways and Gosford, and managed The Salvation Army Conference Centre in Collaroy for two years.

Colonel Baker, from The Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters asked Matt if he had ever thought about going to Papua New Guinea to relieve officers stationed there.

After a lot of thought and prayer, Matt and Joan agreed to go for two years, and ended up staying for six. During that time, they held many roles including managing young boys from the courts on a working farm, working on a coffee plantation in the highlands and, for Matt, overseeing construction on all Salvation Army buildings - a role that saw him travelling all over PNG.

After concluding their service in PNG, Matt and Joan retired to Warrimoo in the Blue Mountains. Matt travelled daily to Sydney to work at Salvo Care Line as a volunteer counsellor.

From there the Blessingtons moved to Trigg Village Cottage in Collaroy. Matt was the bus driver for the nursing home and conducted Sunday meetings. He also volunteered his time and knowledge as the maintenance man.

Matt and Joan then moved to Bonnells Bay Lakeside Retirement Village where Matt became active with The Salvation Army's Miracle Haven drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, collected at Coles on "street ministry", led home churches (one of which - Monday night REACH home church - brought great delight) and, most recently, served as chaplain for the Salvo op shop.

Matt was involved on many committees in the retirement village and arranged the Anzac services for several years. He is survived by his wife Joan of 66 years, two children Stephen and Suzanne, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched.

## A life of faithful service



Brigadier Elizabeth Frances Drew (known as Beth or Bessie to her family and friends) was promoted to glory on 26 June, aged 93, from the Salvation Army's

Riverview Gardens Aged Care Complex.

Major Margaret Dobbie (senior chaplain) conducted a memorial service

celebrating Beth's life, at Riverview Gardens on 1 July.

In addition to family tributes, tributes were given by two staff members who had been part of the team that provided loving care to Beth during her eight years as a resident.

Major Phillip McLaren conducted the burial and a thanksgiving service at Carindale Corps on 2 July. A family tribute was given by Beth's son Major Graham Drew and by two of her granddaughters, Karen Perkins and Dimity Drew.

Major Alf Ford gave a tribute on behalf of retired officers and Ron Cox - who was the Corps Sergeant Major when Beth was the officer at Carina Corps - gave a tribute on behalf of Carindale Corps. Granddaughter Helen Drew sang one of Beth's favourite songs, *He Giveth More Grace*.

Beth was born on 4 October 1920 in Mareeba, North Queensland, and was the second of seven children born to Henry and Charlotte Fittock. She grew up on a farm and went to various schools on the Atherton Tablelands.

After completing her schooling, she commenced work in a solicitor's office in Atherton and began studies to become a lawyer. She never completed these studies for God had a better plan for her life.

While attending the Baptist Church in Atherton, Beth expressed an interest in learning more about holiness. On the recommendation of a friend, one Sunday she attended The Salvation Army in Atherton where the corps officer, Lieutenant Roy Drew, was known for his preaching on holiness.

Beth accepted God's call for full-time service in The Salvation Army and was dux of the *Liberty* session of 1944.

She married Roy Drew on 17 February 1946 in Atherton. They were blessed with four children - Graham, Judith, Ross and David - eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Beth and Roy spent 40 years in faithful service to God through The Salvation Army together. This service was spent almost entirely in corps in Queensland and NSW, with the final appointment at South Queensland Divisional Headquarters.

Many of the corps at which they were the officers in the early years were struggling financially. The regulation was that the last payment to be made was the officer's salary. If there was not enough money, then they went without.

It took a lot of faith and belief in their calling to remain an officer. When the family was young, they often had nothing to live on, however God provided. There

were times when the butcher would hand them some meat and say, "It's paid for", or fruit and vegetables would appear on the back step. This typified their living by faith.

After retirement in 1985, Beth and Roy soldiered at Bundamba and then Carina corp's where Beth was actively involved, particularly with women's ministries.

Roy passed away in 2003 and Beth lived with her family until 2006 when she moved to Riverview Gardens.

Beth enjoyed a wonderful relationship with many of the staff and residents at Riverview Gardens. She witnessed to those around her, even in her final days. Beth looked forward to going home to her heavenly father and challenged staff as to whether they would also be going home to heaven.

In her last days while she was receiving palliative care, a group of staff were heard singing to Beth the chorus *Jesus Loves Me*, which Beth had frequently sung in recent times.

Beth's life was well lived and well served. She was ever faithful to her family, The Salvation Army and to her God and Saviour.

## A life full of joy



Myrtle Laban was promoted to glory on 25 February, aged 88, from Redland Hospital, Queensland.

Corps Officer Major Gary Craig led a thanksgiving service at Wynnum Corps on 7 March.

Myrtle came to Australia from England and settled at Mount Isa. Following the death of her husband, she remarried. They were not church people but she sent her children to Sunday school at The Salvation Army.

Later, Myrtle came to know Jesus as her own Saviour and Lord, (which she testified to many times). She said the grace of God and the prayers of her children saved her. Myrtle's life was full of joy: joy in Jesus, joy in her family and joy in helping others.

She moved from Mount Isa to the Atherton Tablelands, then to Wynnum, where her daughter Sharon lived. Myrtle's service for God included Home League Secretary at Mount Isa, then at Wynnum as Junior Soldier Sergeant and Correspondent for Child Sponsorship children through Home League and Silver Threads.

Myrtle worked tirelessly for The Bible Society, and included in her ministries

were the Women's Temperance Union, Know Your Bible Studies, Line, Gideons and the Divisional Missionary Fellowship Bible School at the Gospel Chapel and combined church services.

Every month she visited nursing homes with the League of Mercy (Community Care Ministries) team. She was a good leader of meetings and a good speaker.

Myrtle was always willing to testify to everyone including her hairdresser, taxi driver and folk on trams - anyone and anywhere for her Lord.

Her car was always used to help people when they were in need. She sent birthday cards to everyone at the corps and encouragement cards to folk who were ill.

She was also willing to pray; her prayers were for others. Though, for herself and the congregation, in meetings she would ask "That something we receive today will help us to help others during the week".

Years ago, she wrote: "It is not until we allow Jesus access to our hearts and lives that we can live out this joy. It is not until we allow his nature to take over ours, his love to fill our hearts. Then, all we will want to do is help others. We will want to spend all our time serving God in his way."

This she fulfilled and was loved by all for it.

Myrtle's service of thanksgiving include a welcome from Garth Hentzschel, prayer from Major Marie-Louise Craig, and a thanksgiving prayer prepared by Glenda Lopez.

Great-granddaughter Alicia Harvey, granddaughter Brittany Laban and grandson Justin Laban read the Scriptures. Son Christopher gave the family eulogy of remembrance.

Major Glen Williams shared a tribute on behalf of the corps. The territorial leaders Commissioners James and Jan Condon sent a personal tribute, commenting on Myrtle's joy-filled life of service and her commitment praying for them.

Major Gary Craig referred to The Beatitudes in his message of comfort before the benediction.

The songs chosen for the service reflected Myrtle's experience, *What a Friend, How Great Thou Art* and *I'll Go In the Strength of The Lord*.

A copy of The House on the Bible (Home League emblem) was printed on the Order of Service.

This plaque adorned the outside of her own home for all who came to her door to see.

## about people

### Appointments

*Effective 14 August:* Captain Paul **Morrice**, Associate Development Officer, Upper Blue Mountains Corps (pro tem), The Greater West Division; Captain Kaylene **Morrice**, Associate Development Officer, Upper Blue Mountains Corps (pro tem), The Greater West Division; Captain Jo-Anne **Chant**, Chaplain, Ipswich Courts and Prisons, South Queensland Division.

### Bereaved

Major Lyndal **Barker**, Major Bruce **Robinson**, Captain Malcolm **Robinson** and Major Alwyn **Robinson** of their aunt and Major Thelma **Robinson** of her sister-in-law, Mona **Robinson** on 22 July; Captain Peter **Bennett** of his mother, Joyce **Bennett** on 27 July; Majors Norm and Isabel **Beckett** of their mother, Esther **Beckett**.

### Birth

Lieutenants Sean Li and Lydia **Hong**, a girl, Michela Ann **Li** on 3 August.

### Promoted to glory

Major Edward (Ned) **Sanders** on 27 July; Captain Mrs Rita **Robinson** on 28 July.

### Promotion

To Divisional Envoy: Bill **Hunter**.

### School For Officer Training

The following people have been accepted to enter full-time training in 2015-2016 in the "Joyful Intercessors" Session: Sally and Lloyd **Stanimirovic**, Tamworth Corps.

### Recognition

Major Lillian **Hodges**, Major Tony **De Tommaso**, Major Kaye **Townsend**, Envoy Ivan **Kelly**, Major Christine **Tamsett**, Major Graham Tamsett were all named and recognised as Paul Harris Fellows; Major Joy **Wilson** received the 2014 Citizen of the Year award in Gunnedah.

### Resigned

Lieutenant Craig **Sutton** on 30 June; Major Luke **Coller** on 18 July; Lieutenant John **Humbley** on 18 July.

## time to pray

### 31 August – 6 September

Property Department, Red Shield Defence Services, both THQ; Queanbeyan Corps, Raymond Terrace Corps, both NSW; Redcliffe City Corps, Riverview Gardens Aged Care Services, both Qld; South Queensland Division Review (4-5).

### 7-13 September

Captains Glenn and Julia Price, Eastern Europe Territory; Rockdale Corps, Rouse Hill Corps, Ryde Corps, Sal's By The Lake, all NSW; Roma Corps (Qld); Father's Day (7); Wider Cabinet (8-10); Divisional Mission and Resource Team Leaders Forum (12).

### 14-20 September

Colonels Wayne and Robyn Maxwell, The Philippines Territory; Salvation Army International Development Office (SAID),

Salvos Housing, Salvos Legal, all THQ; Salvo Care Line Brisbane, Qld; Salvo Care Line, NSW; Generosity Day – Planned Giving (14); DYS – Consultative Forum (16-18); Territorial Counselling Service Retreat (17-19); Newcastle and Central NSW Division Review (19); Sydney Staff Songsters – Ballina (20-21).

### 21-27 September

Majors Graeme and Heather Craig, Ghana Territory; Salvos Stores, School for Christian Studies, School for Leadership Training, School for Multicultural Ministry, all THQ; Samaritan House Mackay, Qld; Frontier Ministries Conference (22-24).

### 28 September – 4 October

School for Officer Training, THQ; Serenity House, Qld; School for Youth Leadership, Shekinah Campbelltown, Shellharbour Corps, Shoalhaven Corps, all NSW; International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking (28); EQUIP NSW (28 Sep – 4 Oct); North NSW Division Review (3).

### 5-11 October

Tanzania Territory; Singleton Corps, NSW; South Burnett Region Corps, South Queensland Divisional Headquarters, South Queensland Division Chaplaincy Services, South Queensland Divisional School for Mission and Ministry.

## engagement calendar

### Commissioners James (Territorial Commander) and Jan Condon

\*Sydney: Mon 1 Sep – Westpac and Salvation Army lunch  
Brisbane: Thu 4-Fri 5 Sep – Divisional Review, South Queensland Division  
Rockhampton: Sat 6-Sun 7 Sep – Central and North Queensland Southern Celebration  
Collaroy: Mon 8-Wed 10 Sep – Wider Cabinet Conference  
Collaroy: Mon 15 Sep – Aged Care Plus Chaplains Forum (dinner and meeting)  
Leeton: Sat 20-Sun 21 Sep – Official Opening of Corps Building  
\*Sydney: Mon 22 Sep – Investment Advisory Board  
Bexley North: Mon 22 Sep – Tri-Territorial School for Officer Training Conference – dinner and meeting  
Collaroy: Thu 25 Sep – Property Conference (midday meal and fellowship)

\*Commissioner James Condon only

#Commissioner Jan Condon only

### Colonel Richard Munn (Chief Secretary)

Sydney: Mon 1 Sep – Westpac Lunch  
Stanmore: Tues 2 Sep – Inspire dinner and panel discussion  
Bexley North: Thu 4 Sep – Spiritual Day with cadets  
Sydney: Thu 4 Sep – Chairman's dinner, Westpac  
Collaroy: Mon 8-Wed 10 Sep – Wider Cabinet  
Sydney: Thu 18 Sep – Salvos Legal 10,000 cases celebration  
Newcastle: Fri 19 Sep – Newcastle and Central NSW Divisional review  
Wollongong: Sun 21 Sep – Band spiritual meeting and morning worship  
Bexley North: Mon 22 Sep – Leadership lecture to cadets and Tri-Territorial School For Officer Training dinner  
Collaroy: Fri 26 Sep – Devotions at Property Conference