

salvos

magazine

Patterns of change

The ongoing impact
of everyday
kindness



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FEATURE

Everyone
is welcome

FAITH TALK

A change
in plans

MY STORY

Junie's
journey

“What could I do if
I just knew it didn’t
need to be perfect?”

– Lin-Manuel Miranda





The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

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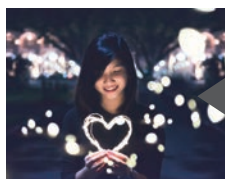
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Feature [4]
Patterns of change



Faith Talk [10]
The impact of the unexpected



My Story [12]
From childhood struggles to corporate success

Finding your fit

Welcome to our first edition of *Salvos Magazine* for 2025! We hope and pray that the year is a gentler, kinder and less tumultuous one for all our hurting world.

As we launch into the new year, writer Jo-anne Brown explores how she dislikes New Year's resolutions and instead, prefers to focus on how she wants to live her life in the coming 12 months. This involves working out the values we most want to strengthen in our lives, which in turn helps us discover who we are and where we belong.

Definitely something to consider at this time of year!

This edition also features The Salvation Army's inclusion statement and its work around making sure everyone feels safe and welcome in Salvos spaces, that Jesus is shared and that human needs are met without discrimination.

Junie's journey from a difficult childhood to achieving his goals and helping his family is a heartwarming and encouraging read – and we can all use more of that in our lives!

Wishing all our readers a hope-filled 2025!

Simone Worthing **Editor**

PATTERNS OF CHANGE

The ongoing impact of everyday kindness

By Jo-anne Brown

I don't do New Year's resolutions. I find they easily lead to unrealistic or failed expectations, often by the end of January! I do, however, like to reflect on where I'm going and who I'm becoming as a new year begins. What do I want the year ahead to look like? How do I want to live my life in the next 12 months?

Sometimes, a 'word for the year' seems to guide me in this process. In January 2024, the word 'shine' became my word. Shine. Actually, Shine! (The exclamation is important!)

I spent some time reflecting on what that meant for me, especially in a world that turned out to be turbulent and fuelled by hatred, division and financial insecurity for many. How can I shine, with all my imperfections? What kind of light can I bring to the world when I don't hold any positions of power or significance? And how can I offer brightness when sometimes I don't feel very bright at all! When I'm tired, busy, or overwhelmed with what's going on around me, I don't feel I have much capacity to shine.

MY PLACE IN THE WORLD

When I was much younger, I longed to make a big difference in the world, to be known for something significant. I didn't even know what that might look like – and it never seemed to happen.

Then someone suggested I simply live the life I have as well as I can, rather

than trying to be something I'm not – and that makes a difference. I was reminded of the words attributed to Mother Teresa: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

For me, this is about discovering who we are, and what we have to offer – and doing that to the best of our ability. I might long to do something magnificent, but it's more about doing something ordinary – which can feel magnificent to another person when offered with kindness and love.

“

ONE THING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON
... IS THE DESIRE TO BELONG.

”

We might still be trying to find our place in the world, where we belong. We all have a place and a purpose – and the possibility to discover more about ourselves and what we can offer to the world around us.

EVALUATING VALUES

The beginning of the year is a great time to reflect on how we want this year to be, and how we want to be. There is much in the world we can't change, but also a lot we can change.

Think for a moment of what you value most. Is it kindness or patience? Relationship with other people? Building new friendships or improving current friendships?

One thing we all have in common, even when it's not immediately obvious, is the desire to belong, for connection with others. What qualities do you possess that can help others feel welcome and connected?

Sometimes, when I'm not sure about the kind of qualities I want to nurture in my life, I look around at the people I admire most. They often embody what I'm looking for in my own life. Perhaps you have people you admire, whose values resonate with yours. What can you learn from them? You probably already have some of these qualities, since they line up with what you value.

IDENTIFYING GAPS

A helpful way to reflect on this is to jot down your most important values. (There's plenty of online material to help you with this.) Some examples: justice, compassion, integrity, beauty, boldness, adventure. Look back on the last year and note how you have seen these values in your life. Are there gaps between what you hold to be significant and how you actually lived your life?

Choose three values that you want to see strengthened in your life. Now brainstorm! Think of anything and everything you can do to develop that value. For example, if you'd like to live more compassionately, perhaps you can join an organisation that visits elderly people or offers acts of service in your neighbourhood.

By looking at our values, and how we are expressing them in our lives, ►

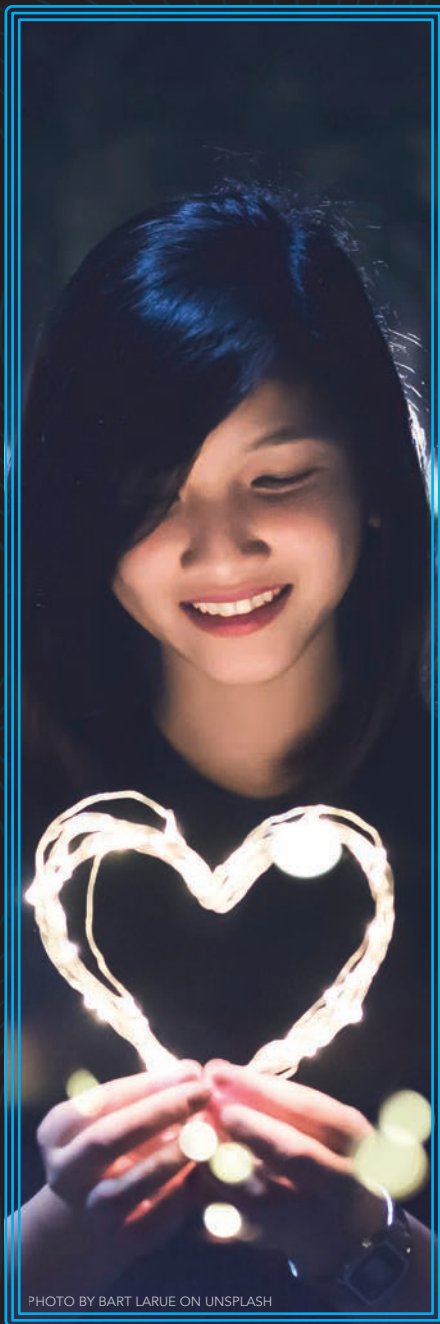


PHOTO BY BART LARUE ON UNSPLASH

PHOTO BY AMY VOSTERS ON UNSPLASH



we discover more of who we are and who we are meant to be. We find where we belong and how we can offer that belonging to others.

Mother Teresa's "small things with great love" become big things, because small acts of love create ripples that radiate outwards to touch more people than we realise.

THE GOD COLOURS

So, I come back to 'Shine!'. Sometime during the year, I forgot my word. I was busier than I like to be, there were complicated situations in my world, and a lot of disturbing things happening in the larger world around me. Then I remembered, "That's right, this year I was called to 'Shine!'"

I love how Jesus put it, long ago, to a large group of people living in turbulent and violent times:

"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world ... shine!" (Matthew chapter 5, verse 14-16 The Message Bible translation).

When you recognise your values and seek to nurture those values in your

life, you're making a choice about how you want to be in this new year. When we know what's important to us, that becomes a guiding principle for all the choices we make during the year.

“

BECOMING MORE OF WHO WE TRULY ARE ... MEANS WE WILL INDEED BRING OUT THE GOD-COLOURS IN THIS WORLD.

”

Becoming more of who we truly are, our authentic self, means we will indeed bring out the God-colours in this world.



Scan here for more Stories of Hope.

Youth on the frontline of social change

Salvos Schools is the dedicated Schools Engagement Team for The Salvation Army Australia. Its aim is to educate, empower and equip school communities to engage with social justice and the mission of the Salvos.

"We want entire school communities to really know what that red shield represents," said Grace Davidson, National Schools Engagement Manager.

"It's about students engaging with an activity that will help spread joy and bring hope to people in the community," adds Jacqui Coffey, Schools Engagement Program Leader for Victoria. "And we are here to educate and to make engagement with social justice issues authentic and long lasting. So, it could look like a sleepout, or baking or a donation drive.

"We also run walking tours in some cities. This involves a classroom session where we deliver education around social justice issues like homelessness and poverty. Then we go outside, we engage with the environment, and we share lived experience stories with students."

Asked to tell "something that you liked today, something that you wish might change", the students were quick to respond.

"I like that you can always feel supported by the community, and I wish that more people can get involved [with] helping people in need," said one student.

"I wish other people can feel safety," said another.



Chloe, a schools engagement coordinator, shares her experience with the students.

"I think it's important," said a third student, "[for] us in privileged places ... that we understand experiences better that are outside our box. Having this first-hand experience ... essentially it is just an act of empathy."

"It's really important," said Jacqui, "for young people to understand that society in the future is going to be built by them. If we can have young people who understand the need for support, understand the need for us to act with compassion as a community ... society ultimately looks better in the future."



Scan here for more information on the national Schools Engagement Program.

"We see you; you are welcome here"

Sharing Jesus and meeting human need without discrimination

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

Jesus led the way in this. He engaged with people from all walks of life. He met their needs and showed them who God was. Everyone was and is welcome. It's the same call on all who represent the Salvos today. We serve, we share God's love, we welcome ... everyone!

OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

"The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and inter-sex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children."

In July 2021, The Salvation Army Australia released its National Inclusion Statement (see above) – a commitment to welcome all people in every engagement they have with the Salvos and to ensure they feel respected and safe.

"Alongside this statement, five icons visually represent key community groups that often experience isolation, exclusion or discrimination, or who face barriers in accessing programs and services," explains Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, leader of The Salvation Army Australia. "Icons are helpful symbols of welcome and say immediately, 'We see you; you are welcome here.' The icons have been adapted to meet our unique needs and express our commitment to diversity and inclusion."



The five icons represent key groups with the goal of ensuring everyone feels welcome in the Salvos and knows that The Salvation Army is for all people.

Scan here to read more about the Salvos commitment to inclusion.



WHAT DO THE ICONS REPRESENT?

Aboriginal inclusion icon



This icon was inspired by the colours of the Aboriginal flag. Black represents people, red represents the land and yellow represents the sun. A concentric circle design reflects the 'meeting place' symbol traditionally used in Aboriginal art. This symbol represents 'community' and therefore The Salvation Army's commitment to an inclusive community.

Torres Strait Islander inclusion icon

This icon reflects traditional patterns used in artwork and wood carving. It features the colours from the Torres Strait Islander flag: green represents land, black represents people and blue represents the sea. The traditional headdress – the dhari – is the centrepiece of the icon as a recognisable symbol of Torres Strait Islander culture.



Capacities inclusion icon



The well-known wheelchair symbol of disability is slowly being replaced with symbols such as this one to recognise the varying types of disabilities and capacities – many of which are unseen.

LGBTQIA+ inclusion icon



This is a world-recognisable flag of pride for the LGBTQIA+ community to represent diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and intersex status.

Cultures and languages inclusion icon



Sometimes called the 'flag of Earth', this symbol depicts the many cultures and languages that make up our one world.

"Research shows that disadvantaged groups do not always feel welcome through our programs," says Colonel Winsome Merrett, Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army Australia.

This ... "is something we need to improve on ... We are getting it right in some places and have made significant progress, but there is still a way to go to achieve good outcomes consistently across the country ... We are on a journey, but we are so thankful we can walk this path together where open dialogue, respectful discussions and ongoing learning is encouraged and celebrated."

Commissioner Miriam says:

"Our prayer is that The Salvation Army Australia is a welcoming place where people of all walks of life feel safe and welcomed, whether that is through our social programs or our corps (churches) or when they come across us as they experience the transformative love of Jesus."

Throughout the year, *Salvos Magazine* will run stories to show how progress is being made towards ensuring all people feel safe, respected and welcome across The Salvation Army nationwide.

The impact of the unexpected

Looking back on interrupted plans

By James Burns

I hope that it's not too late to ask if your Christmas went as planned, or did real life crash in, in a good or bad way? Perhaps you said to yourself, "I wasn't expecting that!" If so, you are in good company with many of the characters leading up to the first Christmas.

In the Bible narrative, Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, would have been looking forward to the return of her elderly husband, Zechariah, after his week's stint of priest duties at the temple in Jerusalem. As usual, she would want to hear all about the sights and sounds that he had experienced there. But when he arrived home, she could tell that he was different. This time he was speechless, literally.

“

Perhaps you said to yourself,
“I wasn't expecting that!”

”

Somehow, he managed to get across to her how he had been so proud and privileged to be chosen to go into the Court of the Priests and burn the incense on the altar. But there the angel Gabriel had appeared to him to announce that Elizabeth would become pregnant and bear a son, who would be filled with the Holy Spirit and get the Jews ready for the Lord.

Now angel or not, this was too much for Zechariah to believe, given how old Elizabeth was. So, Gabriel said that Zechariah would be dumb until his son was born. Imagine nine months without being able to speak? You can be sure that he could rightly say, "I wasn't expecting that!"

PLANS DISRUPTED

As a young woman engaged to be married, I doubt that it was in Mary's five-year plan to get pregnant. Imagine her explaining to her fiancé Joseph that she had been visited by an angel (Oh really? Yes really!) who told her that she was going to have God's son. How difficult it must have been for her to tell her parents and then Joseph, especially the angel bit. Both could reasonably say, "I wasn't expecting that!"

Nor was it in either of their plans to have to travel around 130km from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of orders from the occupying Roman Emperor Augustus.

And then, shortly after Mary had delivered Jesus, this group of shepherds arrived with an equally unbelievable story. It had been a normal night at work for them out in the fields looking after their sheep when another angel (Oh really? Yes really!) told them good news about a baby, their Saviour, being born in Bethlehem.

If that wasn't enough of a shock, there was then this Sister Act-type choir of an army of angels belting out the first Christmas carol. We can be sure that the

shepherds weren't expecting anything like that when they clocked on for work that night, no more than Mary was expecting a crowd to appear so soon after she had given birth.

“

**So, as you go to work or
about your usual life this year,
you may not be visited by
an angel, but then again ...**

”

Bethlehem must have suited the new little family, for a couple of years or so later we find them settled there in a house. After the excitement of the birth, Mary could be forgiven for looking for a quiet life, and so it was until the Eastern astrologers turned up seeking “the baby born to be the king of the Jews”. How amazed and alarmed must Mary have been to hear that Herod had invited them to find out about this new king? Perhaps Mary and Joseph wondered when these unexpected events would stop happening.

So, as you go to work or about your usual life this year, you may not be visited by an angel, but then again.... But that's not to say that God won't break in with special instructions or good news for you too. Then you'll be able to say, “I wasn't expecting that!”



Scan here for more
Stories of Hope.



From childhood struggles to corporate success

Junie is thankful for it all

By Kirralee Nicolle

Imagine being a young child, anticipating your birthday the next day. The food, the presents, the excitement. With multiple siblings to share the attention with, it's your one day a year to feel extra special.

Then, you wake up. Instead of a cake and meal of your choice, there is nothing. No food and no money to buy any.

Heartbroken, you and your siblings go to bed that evening, stomachs rumbling.

That was the moment Junie Bartolome realised he wanted to work towards a different life.

Junie was also determined that his mother, a single parent, would have a better life.

Junie grew up in the Philippines as one of seven children who were still alive and living with their mother. One of the total of nine siblings had died in infancy, and another had been adopted. Junie's father had abandoned his family when Junie was very young.

“

He was seven or eight at the time, and he's [drawn] himself as a computer engineer.

”

JOYVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

Junie's mother, short on options, learned of The Salvation Army's Joyville Children's Home through a social worker.

Joyville is a centre that typically caters to children abandoned on the streets or those who have been neglected or abused. It provides a holistic program that includes food, housing and education for children between the ages of seven and 21.

Junie and two of his siblings left their home and four younger siblings to live at Joyville. At the time, Junie's mother felt there was no other way to give her children a chance at an education.



Young Junie with his dreams for the future. Image supplied.



Junie with the Serojales – his second family. Image supplied.

Junie began second grade at Joyville, sponsored by Garry and Linda Todd, Salvation Army soldiers (members) at Waverley Salvos in Victoria. The Todd family would go on to support Junie throughout his education journey.

This year, Junie visited Waverley Salvos and thanked the Todd family in person.

"I [was] so happy to [be able to] personally thank them, hug them and for them to see that I'm like this now," Junie says.

THE SEROJALES FAMILY

There was another very important family Junie wanted to see in Australia.

Major Debbie Serojales served at Joyville when Junie arrived. She remained at the centre for six years. In that time, she met her husband, Rod.

"The kids [at Joyville] became our kids," says Debbie.

Debbie tells how she instructed the children to draw their goals for the future on large sheets of paper.

"Every single one of them had a house because they all wanted stability," she

says. "[They also] had their families painted in stick figures.

"And then Junie did his. He was seven or eight at the time, and he's [drawn] himself as a computer engineer."

DREAMS COME TRUE

This childhood dream is now Junie's reality. Now 27, Junie works in cyber-security as a network security analyst.

Junie's siblings, who also attended Joyville, also work professional jobs. Together, they support their mother and fund their younger siblings' education.

"Everything [Junie] does is to help his family and help his mother," Debbie says.

Junie has a message for readers who are experiencing hardship. "It means God is preparing [you] for something bigger," he says. All [you] need to do is trust God and don't lose faith."



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

Banana oatmeal muffins (GF DF)



Ingredients

3 bananas, 2½ cups oats, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 large egg, ¼ cup honey, 1 cup sultanas (use gluten free oats and baking powder if required)

Method

- Pre-heat oven to 180°C.
- In a large bowl, mash bananas.
- Add oats, baking powder, egg and honey.
- Mix well then stir in sultanas.
- Spoon mixture into greased muffin pan and bake for 12-15 minutes.
- These muffins make great additions to school lunchboxes!



1. In which country are the world's 10 coldest cities located?
2. Supposedly home to a 'monster', Loch Ness is one of many deep lakes in which country?
3. Which country has three capital cities – Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein?
4. Which is the smallest country in the world?
5. Which continent is home to the most countries?
6. Which is the most linguistically diverse country in the world?

Bible byte

"Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new."

2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 17
Contemporary English Version

Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



C E M I H Q E X P L O R E T V K
 O R C R W D S P A T I E N C E I
 N Q S E E Z A D V E N T U R E N
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 E E X C I T E M E N T A Z L R E
 V A L U E S D L B R I G H T W I

Wordsearch

Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

Adventure	Explore
Become	Friendship
Begin	Kindness
Belonging	Light
Bloom	Patience
Bright	Purpose
Celebrate	Qualities
Colours	Reflect
Connected	Renew
Difference	Shine
Discover	Values
Excitement	Welcome

HAVE A LAUGH



What do you call a pig
that does karate?
A pork chop.

Why did the yogurt go to
the art exhibition?
Because it was cultured.

What do you call a pony
with a cough?
A little hoarse.

**I soar without
wings; I see
without eyes.**

**I've travelled the
universe to and fro.**

**I've conquered
the world,
yet I've never
been anywhere
but home.**

WHAT AM I?

Quiz answers: 1. Russia. 2. Scotland. 3. South Africa. 4. Vatican City. 5. Africa. 6. Papua New Guinea
I am: Your imagination
Turn-Turn: is peeking out from behind the door frame on page 13.



Have you taken care of your Will?

A gift in your Will can help The Salvation Army create a long-lasting impact in the lives of those experiencing hardship.

Find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity. Contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team and ask for a free Wills booklet.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.



CONTACT US TODAY

1800 337 082 or visit
salvationarmy.org.au/wills

