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Major Darrell Wilson installed as WA Divisional Commander

By Anthony Castle

Major Darrell Wilson was installed as the new Divisional Commander for Western Australia at Perth Fortress Corps on Sunday 27 April.

Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas conducted the installation ceremony in front of a packed hall.

Darrell will officially take up his role on Thursday 1 May. His wife, Major Chelsea Wilson, will remain the Corps Officer at Rockingham Corps, where she and Darrell have served as corps leaders since 2011.

About 25 members of the Rockingham Corps were at the installation ceremony to 'cheer on' Darrell.

The installation service, under the direction of Perth Fortress Corps Officers Captains Aaron and Lauren Stobie, hosted prayer, worship and musical messages.

Commissioner Miriam Gluyas invited Darrell to join her on the platform before thanking Commissioner Peter and Jenny Walker for their interim leadership of the division.

"I'd love to be the DC in Western Australia," Miriam quipped, "because you're so far away, and you can try new things. Imagine what God will do!"

"In welcoming you (Darrell), this congregation acknowledges your many years of dedicated service, given freely and willingly to God. The new appointment with which you are entrusted, a further expression of your lifelong covenant with God."

Miriam affirmed Darrell in his new role, sharing from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all

LEADERSHIP NEWS



Commissioner Miriam Gluyas (right) with Majors Darrell and Chelsea Wilson and their family (along the front row) and supporters from their Rockingham Corps family.

joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

"I am deeply humbled and deeply honoured to be able to serve God in this way," Darrell said. "The Church is consistently looking for better methods, looking to tweak our programs, but God is seeking people who are humbly devoted to being Christ-centred, Spirit-led, who will reveal the hope of God to the world. And I believe the methods will take care of themselves."

"I'm a big fan of frontline mission, and I think Local Mission Delivery is going to be what we're seeking as we move forward in WA."

Originally from Ballarat, Darrell grew up in Western Australia and served the majority of his roles in the division. These included working as a youth worker at Morley Corps and in the youth and mission departments at DHQ before taking on the corps officer role at Rockingham.

DIVISIONAL NEWS

Cooma Community of Hope offers different Kingdom space

By Lauren Martin

When Auxiliary-Lieutenants Bryan and Debbie Bartlett were appointed to the NSW Snowy Mountains town of Cooma in January 2024, they arrived at a location without a building. Since then, God has been directing their hearts towards an unmet need.

When the Bartletts moved to town, The Salvation Army was celebrating its 70th anniversary since Major and Mrs. Gordon Fletcher arrived in Cooma to begin operations in the district with the Snowy Mountains Field Unit.

Over the past five years, it has been identified that the physical distance between the Cooma Corps building and the main areas of Salvation Army mission and ministry was creating a barrier to effective ministry.

The former corps leaders, Auxiliary-Lieutenants Anthony Barford and Sandra Mortimer, took on the project of relocating The Salvation Army's presence from an outer suburban property into the heart of Cooma township – in a building right next door to the newly relocated Salvos Store.

COVID-19 lockdowns and building delays meant that the new Cooma Community of Hope wasn't yet complete when they received farewell orders to Katherine in the Northern Territory.

Enter the Bartletts.

“The fact that the building wasn't yet open gave us time to build some really good foundational contacts within the community,” said Bryan. “Which I don't think we would have had if we were running programs straight up.”

It also gave them space to pray, dream and ask God to give them a vision for what he was planning for Cooma Salvation Army.

“Debbie and I believe that we are called to the marginalised,” said Bryan. “If it's good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for us.” But what did that calling look like in Cooma?

During a strategy day, the Bartletts' then-Area Officer, Major Dean Clarke, mentioned 'Empowered Faith Communities' – an organisation passionate about assisting churches in developing faith communities with people on the margins.

“We want Cooma Salvos to be a safe space, no matter your background, beliefs or life journey – if you are in crisis, then this is a safe place for you and a listening ear.”

Fast-forward a few months, and Bryan and Debbie are in full swing with their Empowered Faith Community Training, and the new Cooma Salvos Community of Hope building has opened its doors!



The opening, in December 2024, was attended by community members, people from other local services, staff and volunteers from Salvos Stores and Employment Plus. The Cooma Community of Hope is now open four days per week, offering financial assistance through SAL Connect, referrals, and a welcoming place where people can chat, relax, play games and have a cuppa.

At this stage, Bryan and Debbie believe the Empowered Faith Community, to be launched next year, will be held on a weeknight and centre around a meal and what Bryan calls “couch church”.

(From left): Aux-Lieut Bryan Bartlett, then Area Officer, Major Dean Clarke, Snowy Monaro Regional Council mayor, Councillor Chris Hanna and Aux-Lieut Debbie Bartlett in front of the new Cooma Community of Hope.

ENROLMENTS

Ten adherents enrolled at Kwinana in WA

By Dean Simpson

Kwinana Salvos have welcomed 10 new adherents into membership of the thriving corps in southern Perth (WA).

Corps Officer Major Scott Ellery conducted the enrolment ceremony while Chief Secretary Colonel Winsome Merrett presented the certificates and congratulated the corps' newest members.

Adherents are Christians who pledge to support their local Salvation Army corps, declare their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to follow him. They participate in worship, fellowship, and service at a local Salvation Army corps, identifying with the mission of the Salvation Army.

The new adherents at Kwinana are Rosie Teasdale, Angela Jackson, Suzie Stan-Bishop, Joan Barrett, Debbie Whale, Kathy Crombie, Julian Crombie, Marlene Humphreys, Vern Owen and Carol Russell.

"Colonel Winsome Merrett was across from Victoria and requested to special at a corps here in WA," Scott said. "Kwinana was blessed to be chosen, and we took the opportunity to enrol the adherents.

"During a Sunday meeting a few weeks previously, I had opened the opportunity for anyone interested in exploring membership within The Salvation Army Kwinana to attend a Membership Afternoon.

"At the afternoon, we discussed the two avenues of membership – Adherency and Soldiership – and explored the wonderful missional organisation that they were considering officially joining.

"Several of the people who became adherents are considering exploring soldiership and will take part in a five-week discovery series in the coming weeks. Another two people are intending on becoming adherents but were unable to attend on the day."

Among those who shared their stories with the congregation were Rosie and Julian.

Rosie spoke about how proud her father would have been of her joining the Salvation Army. Although he wasn't a Christian, Rosie said, he highly respected The Salvation Army's support and engagement with soldiers during the war.

Julian spoke about the powerful leading of the Holy Spirit, which guided him and his family to move from Tasmania to WA and engage with The Salvation Army "just up the street from his new home". He never thought that he'd be a Salvo, he said, but loves the Christ-centred, Spirit-led, missional heart of the Army.

Area Officer Major Andrew Jarvey and Faith Communities Development Secretary Major Dianne Jarvey also attended the service.

During the enrolment ceremony, Andrew prayed a prayer of blessing, echoing the reassuring words of Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

"It was incredibly moving to hear from new members about the divine guidance that brought them to the church," Dianne said. "They shared their excitement about how they believe God has a unique plan for them through the Salvos. Great days ahead here at Kwinana."



The 10 adherents enrolled at Kwinana on Sunday 6 April alongside Colonel Winsome Merrett (far left), Captain Dean Hill (holding flag), Major Andrew Jarvey (Southern WA Area Officer) and Major Scott Ellery (Kwinana Corps Officer).

GLOBAL FOCUS



Australian officer Captain Star Conliffe with most of her 'awesome' pre-school ministry team.

My family's new faith journey in South Korea

By Captain Star Conliffe

Three months ago, my husband (Captain Charlie Jung) and I arrived in South Korea with our family for a three-year international appointment.

We are the Assistant Corps Officers at Daejeon Central Corps, a church of about 300 people in a large city in the centre of Korea. At the corps, I have primary responsibility for children's ministry (ages 0-13), and my husband Charlie (Jung) looks after youth and young adults ministry.

Charlie was born in South Korea, and I lived there 20 years ago as an exchange student, so we both speak the language, and the location makes perfect sense. But while this move to Korea is, in some sense, a homecoming.

In many ways, Charlie and I have swapped places because I am now a foreigner in an unfamiliar culture. And I have learned that life as a migrant is tenuous.

Thankfully, the corps has been understanding towards us both as we settle into a very different way of doing ministry. Most local corps do not have any welfare services on site – no food relief, case management or programs for local families in need. The Salvation Army in Korea, therefore, has a smaller social work footprint than in Australia, but it does run women's shelters, aged care services and orphanages in most cities.

As a whole, The Salvation Army is not well-known in Korea, despite their important work with vulnerable people. For us, this means that instead of juggling welfare and corps activities, our weekly routine centres around preparing for all the church services we have each week (usually about five) and doing administration and pastoral care.

Our focus is on programs for young people in the church and it's a special joy to work with the volunteer ministry leaders who are so dedicated to caring for the corps' children. Many of these leaders are young adults who give a few hours of their time each week.

That's one of the biggest cultural differences I've seen so far – in Korea, all congregation members happily volunteer to run church programs, and most young adults continue to attend church, sometimes even staying at church all day Sunday. In Australia, we lose so many of our teens and young adults from the congregation. And it's easier to get people to volunteer for welfare programs (like the soup van, for example), which don't even exist here.

However, we've recently been having some exciting conversations with young people in our congregation who want to do more to help those in need in Daejeon (for example, for people experiencing homelessness), but they just don't know where to start.

I know ministry will be an ongoing challenge, given all the cultural differences that we need to navigate, but I'm optimistic about all the possibilities for loving and serving others that we're going to discover together over the next three years.

Sleepout smashes fundraising goal for WA youth services

By Anthony Castle

Western Australia Divisional Headquarters recently hosted the inaugural Oasis Ball Sleepout in its Perth carpark, raising more than \$60,000 to support The Salvation Army's Youth Services in WA.

About 50 participants from media and advertising businesses gathered for the sleepout event on Friday 28 March. The event provided an experience of homelessness and an understanding of its human impact.

The original goal was \$30,000, but nearly \$61,000 has now been raised.

"Nearly 40,000 children and young people have nowhere to live across Australia ... around 9500 are aged between 15-17," says Guy Rees, Social Mission State Manager from The Salvation Army.

Oasis Ball Sleepout participants were tasked with raising \$500 each to support The Salvation Army's services aimed at assisting homeless youth across Australia.

The Salvation Army Oasis Project, supported by the funds raised, provides crisis support, transitional housing, and pathways into community housing and private rental for young people.

"Over 30 per cent of the children and young people

(experiencing homelessness) identify as First Nations," Guy said. "These 40,000 children and young people have presented at homelessness services across the country with over 44 per cent accessing homelessness services are still homeless after initial support."

Participants at the sleepout heard from a person with lived experience of homelessness. They were then led on a tour of the hotspots within the CBD, concluding with a visit to The Beacon.

The Beacon is The Salvation Army's largest residential homelessness facility in Australia, a 116-bed accommodation facility for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Participants also got to experience the services provided by the Salvos Outreach Service Team.

"WA youth service provides invaluable holistic support to children and young people experiencing these challenges," Guy explained.

"We provide crisis support, transitional housing and pathways into community housing and private rental, education and training. Our model of care 'journey to independence' enables us to walk alongside young people, meeting them where they are and journeying together to a safe and brighter future."

The Salvos appreciated a visit from Hon John Carey MLA and Crown Resorts Foundation, which made a further donation for each participant.



Oasis Ball Sleepout participants before bunking down in the WA Divisional Headquarters carpark.

VIEWPOINT



Jesus' death on a cross has no rival, nor will it ever.

Who do you live for?

By Major Belinda Davis

Good Friday is a time for reflecting on the impact of Jesus' sacrificial death for each of us. This year, I was blessed to have the opportunity to lead chapel services on that day with some of the men who reside at the maximum-security prison where I serve as a chaplain.

On Easter Monday, we heard the news that Pope Francis had passed from this world to the next and received his eternal reward. I quite liked Pope Francis, as his theology and focus aligned with my beliefs – that there is power in ministering to and spending time with the people that society generally turns away from, like prisoners.

A few days after this news, we in Australia shared one of our significant days: Anzac Day. It is our national day of remembrance and reflection. This occasion not only allows us to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom in this country but also to honour all those who serve and have served in the defence forces over the years.

The following day, during the Requiem Mass for Pope Francis, I observed a crowd of people packed into St. Peter's Square, where the rites of the Roman Catholic Church were both on display and beamed across the world. It dawned on me that there had been a strong focus on death and sacrifice over the past eight days, with each day having a similar theme interwoven throughout.

Jesus laid down his life for the sake of all, our Anzac soldiers risked their lives for our safety and Pope

Francis gave all he had for the causes he believed in and in service to his church.

Please don't mishear me. I am not suggesting that all three examples hold equal importance. It goes without saying that Jesus' death has no rival, nor will it ever, but each sacrifice has an element of 'others' about it.

In this day and age, when we focus on the individual above all else, it struck me as significant that these events occurred in such quick succession. It was time to reflect on what this might mean for me. How do I live my life, or, more importantly, who do I live it for?

Some may say that choosing to be an ordained minister in The Salvation Army has come with costs for me. Some are financial, while others involve losing control over where I might live and how I might be asked to serve. Why do I do this? I believe it is what God has asked of me.

Does that mean that every minute of every day I am putting the needs of the people I serve above my own? Certainly not. I am ashamed to admit that there are times when my selfish needs and desires take precedence over the needs of others and the service I provide. I am a flawed work-in-progress, as are we all.

I guess what has struck me the most is the response of others to the lives given. Good Friday, Anzac Day and the death of a church patriarch demonstrate the depth of the sacrifice through the observances and reflections of those left behind. How people gather to honour and remember the life given is, I believe, the key I needed to find.

As for me and my life, my earnest prayer is that as people see me, they witness Jesus at work in and through me and give Him the glory – always. Be blessed.