

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

Want to know what's happening within The Salvation Army as it happens? Go to salvosonline.org.au for all the latest news, leadership updates, missional stories, features, viewpoints, reviews, history articles and more.

news



The combined band on stage at the Sunday afternoon Harvest Festival concert at Maitland Corps.

A good harvest at Maitland during festival weekend

By Lauren Martin

Whilst some may consider traditions such as a 'Harvest Festival' old-fashioned, Maitland Corps in the NSW Hunter region has proven that just because something has been done for a long time, it can still be relevant.

"So much food!" is one of the comments by Maitland Corps Officer Captain Lloyd Stanimirovic when speaking of the recent Harvest Festival, which was attended by more than 800 people. Apart from the COVID-19 lockdowns, Maitland Corps has always held a Harvest Festival.

"Just because something was done in years past, doesn't make it 'old fashioned'," said Lloyd. "An event that relays a 'Christ' message in a way that is relevant to the local community, creates opportunity to connect with non-Christians, utilises the gifts of believers, and is conducted in a safe, fun space so that all people can hear and enjoy, will always be relevant."

And that's exactly how the weekend went. Guests, Parramatta Citadel Band, led by bandmaster Major David Collinson, presented a Saturday evening concert with more than 200 guests.

"Many people in attendance were community members who were not otherwise connected to the local corps," said Lloyd.

The band led the worship service the next morning, and

then after an "amazing and abundant fellowship lunch" at which some of the men from Maitland and Parramatta sang grace, there was an afternoon combined celebration concert featuring Parramatta Citadel Band, Maitland City Band and a combined youth band.

Parramatta Citadel Band Sergeant Ian Roberts said it was a special time to celebrate God's goodness: "As people from a large city, the idea of celebrating the goodness of God at the end of a good harvest is a concept increasingly lost to history or for some of us, lost to earlier generations.

"It was Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Hamilton who reminded us on the weekend that while many of us no longer work the land, we all have so much for which to thank God, and we would do well not to forget our blessings. His challenge was to be aware of what we are sowing – and what will be reaped as a result."

On the Saturday afternoon, the corps held a market to celebrate local produce with stalls of crafts, fresh produce and freshly baked treats. A stall selling handmade jewellery, bags and clothing from the Mbuyu Foundation in Uganda, which the corps supports, was also popular.

"We also had a sausage sizzle, mushy peas with a dash of vinegar (a Maitland tradition), Devonshire tea, ice cream and many other delicious treats," said Lloyd. He said Maitland Corps is already looking forward to next year's Harvest Festival.

"Amazing music, food, and fellowship, with the Lord praised and worshipped throughout, and the Spirit moving powerfully. Hallelujah!"

leadership news

New Divisional Commander installed for South Australia/Northern Territory

By Anthony Castle

Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas officially installed Major Paul Hateley as the new South Australia/Northern Territory Divisional Commander at Adelaide City Salvos on Sunday 19 March.

Miriam also led an Affirmation ceremony for Major Wendy Hateley, who has been appointed Faith Communities Development Secretary for the division.



Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas leads the Installation Service for Majors Paul and Wendy Hateley at Adelaide City Salvos.

"Paul, we are here today to welcome you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to join with you as you confirm publicly your willingness to undertake these leadership responsibilities," Miriam said.

"May the everlasting arms of God the Father hold and protect you. May the love of Christ compel and inspire you to this sacred service, and may the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide you daily."



Then, directing her attention to Wendy, said: "In the name of God, I now recognise and affirm you [Wendy] as the Faith Communities Development Secretary for South Australia and the Northern Territory."

"Together, they [the Hateleys] are the spiritual leaders of this division, which is such an important task as we want to be led by the Spirit."

- Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

Before bringing the message, the new Divisional Commander acknowledged those who had invested in him from a young age and the broader support of The Salvation Army community.

"It is my privilege that I've been appointed into this role to lead, but also to serve, and both of those should hold hands together always," said Paul, who has served in officership for over 30 years.



"Never stop investing. Never stop encouraging. Never stop pouring yourself into people."

The Installation and Affirmation service can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt5b5pB44UM.

feature



The Salvation Army's Panania Mission Leader Natalie Sheehan (left) with Panania Salvos Store assistant, Sabrina.

Reimagining The Salvation Army in Panania

By Lauren Martin

A commercial café being purpose-built on the former Panania Corps building site in Sydney is bringing the missional heart back to the area in a reimagined way.

Panania Corps ceased Sunday meetings several years ago when a new local mission plan for the area was developed that looked at different ways of being The Salvation Army and engaging with the community. The thriving Family Store became a Salvos Store and relocated to the corps site, which still housed other fruitful ministries like the weekly 'Music and Play'.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Panania became part of Shire Salvos and a Mission Leader, Salvationist Natalie Sheehan, was appointed to oversee the site and mission in the local area. She says whilst the pandemic slowed things down, she has spent the past few years developing relationships with the Salvos Store staff and management and working on the whole-of-site mission delivery plan for the future.

Café to merge store and mission

A key component of the plan is the building of a commercial café, which will be located at the front of the building and provide a second access to the store.

"From the street, you will be able to see into the store from across the café deck and in through the café," Natalie says. "When people access the store through the main entrance, they will pass the entrance to the café and a few small tables in the hallway. So, we will be co-located with the store but not directly in the store."

The café, 'Salvos: The Village', is expected to be constructed and operational later this year. "We're dreaming of a place inspired by verses like Romans 15:5-7, Philippians 2:1-11 and Ephesians 4:1-7, just to name a few," says Natalie.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Godkin has been appointed as

Café Manager and will work alongside Natalie. The pair want to ensure that Salvos: The Village is both professional and missional. "First things first, we want to have great coffee," says Natalie. "We will be barista trained, and we're looking at hiring a casual barista as well until we can establish a core group of volunteers.

"We want to establish a missional presence here so that people know they can come to our site and feel they are known and belong and valued and loved.

"The Village was created from a heart to be a presence for all in our community. We dreamed of a place that operates like a town hall. Where all people from the community could come, be heard, be seen and feel welcome. The Village is all about loving people and helping people to realise their full potential."

Panania part of bigger Shire Salvos vision

Natalie's role as a Mission Leader connected to a local community where The Salvation Army has a presence is part of a broader Shire Salvos vision to create a Jesus culture in every Salvation Army space in the local area and to employ a mission leader at every Salvation Army location, including stores.

Currently, Mission Leaders are employed at Panania, Helensburgh, Menai community and Salvos Store, Menai Corps, Miranda food relief and assistance centre, Engadine community and Salvos Store, and a Mission Leader is currently being sought for Sutherland community and Salvos Store.

"We want to make sure there is no wrong door for anyone to come to The Salvation Army and be able to find faith, community and love," says Shire Salvos Mission Leader Mark Soper.

And that's exactly the vision God gave Natalie for Panania. "We want to reach people, help people, love people and encourage people to live their best life through the hope found in Jesus!

story of hope



Ali feels grateful to serve through the Salvos and to God for bringing her to where she is today.

From chaos to calm – Ali labels herself ‘a miracle’

By Naomi Singlehurst

Just over five years ago, Ali had lost everything. As she bluntly puts it: “My life was filled with utter chaos and destruction, trying to fill a void with an addiction to ice.”

Today, however, Ali is free from drug use, deeply connected to her church and working for the Salvos as coordinator of a midweek gathering and meal for 120 people at City Salvos in Adelaide.

She is also a Salvation Army Doorways worker offering support, casework emergency relief, material aid, and referrals.

Ali’s passion for caring for others is deepened by the pain and struggle of her life and the faith she discovered on her journey.

“I married quite young, and that relationship dissolved after 15 years,” she says. “I then lost my career as an advanced care paramedic moving back to Adelaide, and it was from that I turned to drugs.

“I lost everything, including my children.”

A cry from rock bottom

In an unhealthy relationship during the height of her addiction, Ali also experienced extreme fear and violence. One day, literally running for her life, she jumped on a train – her clothes were torn, and she was beaten, bruised and bloody.

She called her parents, and that was the turning point. She reconnected with them, undertook residential recovery and joined a SMART Recovery group run by the Salvos. When she remarried, her husband encouraged her to try church at City Salvos in Adelaide.

“I found that they were just so welcoming, so loving and non-judgmental, and they really embraced myself and my husband,” she says. “Our church is our family, and we are blessed to be loved unconditionally.”

Ali openly shares her story to encourage others, saying, “People here know my story, they know my background, and they see me as a tangible source of hope. I’m a miracle in a sense, given where I’ve come from to where I am now.”

Caring for others

As coordinator of the DUO (Do Unto Others) program at City Salvos, Ali and a team of caring volunteers provide a weekly community meal for around 120 people. DUO grew out of the street ministry of the Adelaide City Salvos church around 10 years ago to provide support and connection for those struggling with homelessness, mental health issues, isolation and disadvantage.

Community members share a meal and their talents – playing music, singing, gardening and serving others in different ways. Birthdays are celebrated, prayers are shared, small groups support each other, and there are craft activities. “There is a lot of love,” Ali says. “It’s beautiful.”

DUO also offers referrals to a range of Salvation Army services, including the Doorways program, which offers crisis intervention, early intervention and ongoing support via emergency relief, material aid and referrals.

Hope and transformation

“With all the support and all the love and light, we see transformations happen on a daily basis,” Ali shares. “They may come in steps, and we celebrate wins along the way – say, if someone has been accepted into casework, or if they’ve just been housed, or if their family is reconciled.”

As Easter approaches, Ali says, “Easter at DUO consists of a small devotion – a message of how Easter represents God’s great love for all of us in sacrificing his only son.

“My heart and our mission here is to love this city of Adelaide as Jesus does. I feel very privileged to serve and so thankful that God rarely calls the qualified but rather qualifies the called!”

viewpoint

Why the Salvos support the Voice to Parliament

By Captain Stuart Glover

The Salvation Army is one of Australia's biggest providers of social services. We are on the ground providing hope in more communities than McDonald's is serving burgers.

We are a pragmatic movement, not into empty gestures or performative virtue signalling. So it might come as a surprise, given some of the commentary around it, that The Salvation Army is a steadfast supporter of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

That is because, simply put, we don't think a Voice will be hollow symbolism.

It will be powerfully symbolic, of course, but it will also be deeply practical in a way that can lead to better outcomes and enrich the experience of both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians together.

Let me explain why.

For around 140 years, Salvos have rolled up their sleeves and helped where they can. We started social services with a modest program assisting discharged prisoners at the prison gates in Melbourne, and now we provide over 2000 services across every state and territory in Australia. We support people experiencing homelessness, family and domestic violence, financial hardship, unemployment, social isolation and loneliness and help them recover from natural disasters.

Throughout our history, we have learnt the hard way about delivering services without listening, thinking we knew best. This approach did not work then and does not work now. This has been our most important lesson over the past 140 years ... you can't help people if you're not listening to them.

You can't deliver a great service without actively listening to the people using it.

You can't draft a great policy if you're not listening to the people who have to follow it.

You can't make great law if you're not listening to the people who will be impacted by it.

When we engage with people impacted by disadvantage, we find areas of strength that provide a platform for change. When we make space for people to feel empowered and equipped, the level of innovation is astounding. When we acknowledge our country's vastness and diversity, we can find local solutions that work in ways that couldn't be imagined from an air-conditioned conference room in a capital city.

The Salvos live, love and fight for justice wherever they can. We have met with many MPs and Senators in the new Parliament and, without exception and wherever they sit in the chambers, we have heard their desire to make good laws. I believe they want to listen.

I think all governments try to consult, but there are some very practical constraints. This is a huge country, and with over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations, consulting with people from three or four nations is not



The Salvation Army's Secretary for Mission, Captain Stuart Glover.

going to get the best results. We have 151 seats in the House of Representatives for a reason. We all know that someone speaking for inner-city Sydney can't speak for people in rural Western Australia or remote areas of the Northern Territory (nor vice versa).

A constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament creates an opportunity to start to make real progress on addressing the terrible disadvantage our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians experience.

It will allow our lawmakers – not just the government but those in parliament we rely on to keep the government accountable – to hear directly from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They will get access to the diversity of views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders about matters that will affect them differently depending on their circumstances. They will get information not filtered by multiple levels of government, not varnished and polished by service providers, nor sanitised into talking points by public servants.

Of course, we all want more detail about what the Voice will look like. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people absolutely need to do due diligence on something this important. I believe that once we have the Voice in the Constitution, Parliament can work together to ensure it delivers on its promise. That is how it has worked for every other public institution in Australia's history, and no other reform has been perfect from day one. But I understand why other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people don't have that kind of faith. Our history is littered with 'consultation' with mob that has been ignored.

That diversity of thought needs to be respected. Diversity will make a Voice to Parliament that much more powerful if, and when, it does become part of the Constitution. This is what The Salvation Army is praying will happen – because of the other thing we have learnt over 140 years of helping Australians ...

It is hard to listen to people if you don't let them have a voice.

Captain Stuart Glover is the Secretary for Mission, responsible for The Salvation Army's social services in Australia and a proud member of the Bundjalung Nation.

army archives

Disability no barrier for Marian Billups Booth

By Joseph Pinkard

Marian Billups Booth's life is shrouded in mystery compared to some of her much more high-profile siblings who took on significant leadership positions in The Salvation Army.

The sixth child of The Salvation Army founders William and Catherine Booth, Marian's life is often overlooked or made little mention in the history books. Yet there are important lessons we can learn about disability inclusion from her life as one of the earliest soldiers with a disability.

Marian was born in Leeds on 19 May 1864. Catherine describes Marian in this letter to her parents shortly after her birth, "The baby is the best we had yet; she sleeps nearly all her time ... she was the largest child born we have had."

Marian's life took a significant turn in infancy when she experienced an unforeseen medical episode that would shape the rest of her life. Catherine describes the life-changing event in her diary: "I shall never forget our anguish when one morning I was called to the nursery to see the child who was 10 months old. The nurse thought it had swallowed something and was choking, but it proved to be a fit. We sent for the nearest doctor, who pronounced it to be caused by irritation of the brain as a consequence of teething. The attacks were continued with increased rapidity and virulence and did not leave her until her body and mind had been permanently injured by them."

While a definitive medical diagnosis of Marian's disability is impossible from this Victorian-era description, Marian's cognitive disability did not exclude her from full membership in The Salvation Army.

Marian gave her heart and life to God at an early age. She was recognised with the stationary rank of staff-captain and served in children's homes. Catherine observed, "She can manage a baby, educate a child, or make the little ones generally comprehend and accept salvation. In this work she bids fair to be, if spared, very useful."

Marian lived out her faith primarily at Clapton Congress Hall Corps, where she was a soldier for 30 years. Marian enjoyed worshipping through song and prayer, and her favourite chorus was 'Come to Jesus'.

William and Catherine were often accompanied by Marian at significant Army gatherings. Interested comrades observed Marian sitting with her parents on the platform in meetings at the historic Clapton Congress Hall and Exeter Hall.

Marian's health was an ongoing challenge throughout her life, exacerbated by contracting smallpox in her childhood. Marian's fragile health meant she was unable to embark on the various international soul-saving missions and active public work like many of her family members.

Commissioner Lucy Booth-Hellberg described her sister Marian's life in these words at her funeral as reported in *The War Cry*, January 1937, "Her life has been a hidden



Marian Billups Booth was often found on her knees in dedicated service to God and The Salvation Army.

one, and yet how widely she was known and how widely she was loved!"

Marian Billups Booth died following a considerable period of declining health on 5 January 1937, aged 72. Commissioner Lucy Booth-Hellberg conducted her funeral service at Stoke Newington Corps. Marian was buried alongside her parents in Abney Park Cemetery.

So, what can we learn from this brief snapshot of Marian's life?

People with disability have been included in the life of The Salvation Army since its foundation, and this is exemplified in Marian's life. More than simply being present, people with disability have found ways to serve and worship God in The Salvation Army, despite the low expectations we might sometimes project onto them due to their impairments.

We are called to do the same as the Booth family by creating communities of welcome and belonging alongside people with disabilities in our local Salvos mission expression. As Paul reminds us in the letter to the church at Corinth, "On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable" (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Are you interested in discussing disability inclusion in your local mission expression? Contact The Salvation Army's Disability Inclusion Lead Joseph Pinkard at joseph.pinkard@salvationarmy.org.au.