

salvos

magazine

God is in the shield

A brand with a difference



Vol. 004 | No. 05
25 February 2023
AUD \$1.00
PRINT POST APPROVED
PP100001474

salvosmagazine.org.au

FEATURE

A church
and a charity

FAITH TALK

The rhythms
of the
created world

MY STORY

Finding my
way 'home'

“No matter how few possessions you own or how little money you have, loving wildlife and nature will make you rich beyond measure.”

– Paul Oxton





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.

Salvos Magazine

Founders William and Catherine Booth

General Brian Peddle

Territorial Leader Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief

Colonel Rodney Walters

Publications Manager Cheryl Tinker

Editor Simone Worthing

Graphic Designer Ryan Harrison

Cover image: The Salvation Army Hobart

Publications phone (03) 8878 4500

Enquiry email salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

Press date 13 February 2023

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by Commissioner Miriam Gluyas at Focus Print Group, South Granville, NSW

 salvosmagazine.org.au



Feature [4]
God is in the shield

Faith Talk [10]
The rhythms of the created world



My Story [12]
Finding my way 'home'

Church and charity

For many people across Australia, the Salvos are known for their work with those experiencing homelessness, poverty and substance abuse; thrift shops; emergency relief and brass bands. Others know them for their outreach in pubs, as the 'Sallyman' distributing hot drinks to frontline soldiers, or as agents of change in local communities.

A far lesser number of people know that The Salvation Army is a worldwide Christian church, with more than 300 congregations (called 'corps') around the country and close to 720,000 attending worship services each Sunday.

Globally, the Salvos are active in 133 countries, with more being added every year.

In this edition, we look at the Salvos as a church, their focus on living and sharing the love and values of Jesus, and their dedication to reflecting those values locally through caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities and working for justice.

The Salvos know God's love is for all, and they want to see each of us experience that love in all areas of our lives. To learn more, go to salvos.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

God is in the shield

A brand with a difference

WORDS PETER MCGUIGAN



Lieut-Colonel Andrew Morgan meets Pope Francis following the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

On 5 January 2023, thousands of people from the Catholic branch of Christianity attended the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in Rome. Non-Catholics also attended, including Canadian Lieut-Colonel Andrew Morgan from The Salvation Army.

“The pomp and ceremony combined with the grandiose and historic location of St Peter’s Basilica were overwhelming,” said Lieut-Colonel Morgan. “Being close enough to the altar, and the rich smell of ceremonial incense, added to the sensory experience.”

But what was The Salvation Army doing at the funeral of a Pope? That’s a good question for Australians whose primary knowledge of The Salvation Army is as ‘the Salvos’, a leading charity seen daily

working at the coalface of human need in our country, its Red Shield brand unmistakable.

Lieut-Colonel Morgan attended the funeral representing The Salvation Army’s international leadership. The Salvation Army is an independent, self-governing branch of Christianity – an autonomous Christian church. It is an ecumenical partner with the Catholic Church, as it is with other churches.

Worldwide, The Salvation Army operates as a church and a charity in more than 130 countries. In Australia, there are 17,835 fully-fledged Salvos whose vision statement contains a compelling link to the founder of Christianity, Jesus Christ, and, therefore, to the deeper motivation behind the work of the

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

DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN LOVE

More than 8000 employees and thousands of volunteers join the Salvos in their quest to see transformation in people’s lives. Whether it’s creating space for social and spiritual growth in the Salvos’ faith communities around the nation (called corps); championing freedom from addiction and substance abuse; battling the tragic impacts of homelessness, domestic violence, human trafficking and poverty; or bringing hope to victims of natural disaster, love is what motivates the Salvos.

“

Jesus met people where they were ...

”

Someone once said the Salvos are “Christianity with its sleeves rolled up”. That’s an accurate badge for them. You can see it and feel it in the cities and towns and in the Outback as they show up working under the Red Shield, a symbol of caring service for those in need. There’s a sparkle in their eye and a touch in their hand and a tone in their voice that tells you their purpose goes much deeper than a philosophical, ideological or even moral cause. It is embedded in the love of Jesus.

Many people perceive Jesus as a historical figure, and connect him with the

institution of the Church, with rules and regulations, and strict Sabbath observance. But back in the 1860s, troubled that the churches of the day were too inward-focused, Salvation Army founders William and Catherine Booth had a profound vision of Christianity and Jesus not being about buildings, traditions and historical religion, but being about people. And not only people inside the Church but people everywhere. Access to God, in other words, and the life-transforming love and power of God, was for all.

It was a massive lightbulb moment when they understood the counter-cultural or revolutionary nature of Jesus’ life, ministry, death and resurrection in a new way. Jesus did not wait for people to come to him, although they did – he went to them. Jesus met people where they were – in the marketplaces, on riverbanks and mountainsides, and in their homes. Not only was he God in the flesh, pouring out the love and grace and healing of God upon the world, he was in every way creating a new way of life for humanity, the power of which was in him, his love and the Spirit he left with us.

The Salvos today, along with a growing number of churches experiencing this same kind of renewal of purpose, all see that they can be the hands of Jesus embracing humanity everywhere, the voice of Jesus speaking into the world’s present and future challenges, and the face of Jesus reflecting the love of God for all people. It’s not that the Church, including The Salvation Army, is without its challenges in the 2020s, but there is no question that a new day is dawning, especially about being true to its origins and living out Christian values. ▶



Salvo Julie Harrison chats with a community member in inner-city Sydney as part of her outreach in the local area.

GOD IN THE SHIELD

In December last year, The Salvation Army in Sydney turned 140. Its city corps, Sydney Congress Hall, began with a celebration that included the enrolment and acceptance of new Salvation Army soldiers and adherents. These people were passionate about signing up because of the difference the love of Jesus and the power of his Spirit had made in their lives.

“

Access to God ... (is) for all.

”

One of them, Julie Harrison, spoke of her journey out of the paralyzing impact of addiction. She reached out to The Salvation Army for help and it was the

love of Jesus in their addiction recovery program that made all the difference.

“I grew up with spiritual and religious values,” says Julie. “But later on, addiction took hold of my life and almost destroyed me. It was only while in recovery at William Booth House that I came back to loving God. I love The Salvation Army. I love Sydney Congress Hall, and I love standing behind the Red Shield. God is in the shield.”

Major Peter McGuigan is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) serving in Sydney. From 1 March 2023, he will be The Salvation Army's Head of Government Relations for Australia, based in Canberra.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Alcohol and Other Drugs Services

Loving God and loving others

Church and a charity

WORDS GRANT SANDERCOCK-BROWN

Salvos have a generous view of God and the way he works in the world. We believe in a God who loves – and is at work in – the whole world, not just among Christians or in the church. That’s because we believe that all good things, all goodness, has God as its source, so wherever we see goodness, love and kindness, we believe God has made that possible.

This is one of the reasons we are more than happy to have good people who don’t share our Christian faith working with and for us. We believe that the goodness in every human being is God’s creation and so the good each of us creates has its source in God.

But this is also why those of us who share a faith in God gather to worship him. After all, if you believe in a loving God who is your creator, who knows you and loves you and wants you to know

and love him, you’re probably going to need to talk about it with others who feel the same way.

“

We believe that all good things, all goodness, has God as its source.

”

It seems that gathering together is just part of the deal for Christians. Yes, some hermits in the desert did this Christian thing alone, but for two millennia most Christians have felt that it was important to meet with others who shared their faith. And through a shared belief and ▶





The Salvos in Australia officially began with a meeting in Adelaide's Botanic Park in 1880.

life, they formed what we might call communities of practice that not only believed the same things but did the same things – met on Sunday, listened to the Christian scriptures, prayed together, spent time and ate together.

THE EARLY YEARS

In a way, we Salvos are accidental church starters. In the early years of The Salvation Army, when it was called the Christian Mission, the then Reverend William Booth (co-founder of The Salvation Army) and his team were not looking to create more churches. The goal was getting people to hear the good news of the Gospel and they weren't particularly focused on either becoming a church or doing charity work. But so many people came to faith in Christ that it became necessary to help people meet together to encourage each other in their new lives and newfound faith. And so, for a long time Salvos met in all sorts of rented venues, from old ice-skating rinks to town halls

and theatres. Permanent church buildings weren't on the agenda, although eventually that too changed.

“

The first Salvos met together, but they also felt an obligation to help those in need.

”

All this means that for a long time Salvos didn't think of themselves as a church, and for many decades we still described our gatherings as meetings rather than worship services. This also means that in many ways our churches are less 'churchy' than some others, less formal and more organic. We even call them 'corps', rather than churches. And the histories of our churches are short, so while we have traditions in our worship,



Rural chaplains Majors Di and Rusty Lawson regularly visit and support remote farming communities, especially in tough times.

they are at most 150 years old. That's not to say we don't have lots of things in common with other churches. We do. We too sing Christian songs, pray Christian prayers, preach and listen to Christian sermons. But let's be honest, Salvos are in some respects unique.

HELPING THE NEEDY

Underneath our military jargon and trappings, we still are that Christian mission of 1865 that wants to make the world a better place in every way. But we also have lots of churches where people who share a faith in God gather to talk about their faith, seek solace in their faith, and honour the God they worship.

This means that our churches are only part of who we are. The first Salvos met together, but they also felt compelled to help those in need. People who had their lives dramatically changed could never forget those who were still trapped in destructive practices and ways of being, and our social work was initially organic and part of the fabric of our churches. Eventually, this led to the start of the Salvos' formal social work with a prison ministry in Melbourne.

This twofold ministry of church and charity

has been a part of who we are for a long time. William Booth addressed Salvos on this topic not long before his death in 1912 and said, "I'm glad you are enjoying yourselves. The Salvationist is a friend of happiness. Making heaven on earth is our business ... but amidst all your joys don't forget the sons and daughters of misery."

And we do our best not to forget, because loving God and loving our neighbour are deeply ingrained in Salvation Army practices. Salvos are not all equally involved in these two practices, but both flow from the same source – our belief that a loving God is at work in our world in and through us.

Major Grant Sandercock-Brown is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Melbourne.

For more information, or to find a Salvos church near you, go to salvos.org.au



Scan here for more on the need for community.

The rhythms of the created world

Biodiversity reflects the presence of God

WORDS MELANIE-ANNE HOLLAND

I'm a birdwatcher, from a family of avid birdwatchers. For as long as I can remember, my family has travelled with a copy of the *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*. Our eyes have been trained to observe the distant flutters of birds, noting their colour and form, in the perpetual hunt for new species. Parents, siblings, children, cousins, aunts and uncles have all been co-opted into our enthusiastic (perhaps competitive) quest. I love birds, and their diversity is a source of joy for me.

The World Wildlife Fund describes biodiversity as "all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area – the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even micro-organisms like bacteria, that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together

in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life."

INTENTIONAL DIVERSITY

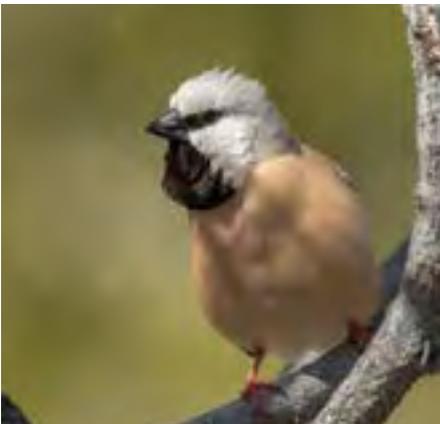
The diversity of life all around us is spectacular and awe-inspiring, not just in terms of the variety of plants and animals, but also the variety within each species. And from a faith perspective, this biodiversity is intentional and purposeful. Not only is God the source, or Creator, of all the diversity we observe, he is constantly engaged with the world around us.

“

Each extinction is like pulling at a thread in a jumper and waiting for the whole garment to unravel.

”

Psalm 104 in the Bible is a song about God's ongoing relationship with the world. It tells of God as the one who forms ecosystems and provides the different species of animals with all they need. God lovingly and attentively gives rhythms of life, rest, boundaries, homes, water, food and breath to the creatures around us. Each animal, with its unique needs and contribution, is valuable to God.



The black-throated finch is an endangered species that needs our protection.



The gorgeous Gouldian finch is also endangered, one of many such species in this position.

Can we do without a species? Is any species 'disposable' or less valuable? Can we live in a world without wild koalas or platypuses or black-throated finches? How about the species we find less endearing, like mice or mosquitoes? Apart from the profound loss of species, each extinction is like pulling at a thread in a jumper and waiting for the whole garment to unravel. Each loss can cascade into another.

THE PART WE PLAY

In our Australian context, we are challenged by how much of our unique wildlife is under threat of extinction from habitat destruction, introduced species, pollution and climate change. Two hundred and seventy-seven species of birds, mammals, fish, frogs, reptiles and other animals have been identified as endangered or critically endangered. Any species lost would be a tragedy.

World Wildlife Day is held on 3 March and this year's theme is 'Partnerships for

Wildlife Conservation'. We are encouraged to work together in a concerted effort to create and sustain healthy ecosystems, wildlife populations and biodiversity. We each have a part to play.

Wherever you are as you read this reflection today, take a moment to see what animals you share the space with. From the tropics to the snowfields, from the mangroves and beaches to vast arid places, the diversity of wildlife around you is a precious testament to the caring, attentive presence of God. And the God who delights in them also cares for you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Only buy sustainably sourced products (seafood, timber products and the like).
- Stop using pesticides in the garden.
- Plant locally endemic plants (species that naturally belong in the area) to increase habitat for local wildlife, such as birds, insects, lizards, frogs and small mammals.
- Join a bush regeneration group or host a tree-planting event in your community.
- Keep plastic waste and other rubbish out of waterways and the ocean through local clean-up events.

Major Melanie-Anne Holland is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in NSW. She also holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons).



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Finding my way 'home'

Reconnecting with God brings new life to James

WORDS James Brennan

In 2019, I moved to Perth from Bathurst, NSW. When I arrived, I tried to connect with churches in my area, but no matter how hard I tried or how many times I went, I just didn't feel a connection.

But last year, things changed – I felt a call, a need to find a place where I could belong. That's when I was told about a Salvation Army shop no more than 800 metres from my home! About 20 years ago, I had been part of the Salvos in Geraldton (WA), so I was happy to hear of a shop near me, and I went searching.

When I arrived, the shop was closed, but I met an amazing woman – Major Naava Brooks. As we talked, she mentioned that she, with Major Jenny Armstrong, were the majors (pastors) of the Swan View Salvos church here. The moment there was mention of a church, I felt drawn to it and needed to go. When I walked through the doors on Sunday, I heard Naava say, "Here he is!" I felt welcome.

GROWING CONNECTION

At first, it was very different – a lot of elderly folk and the service was very different to what I was used to, but I said I would come back the following week. The message was fantastic, I felt more connected, the music was still different to me, but the message was clear. I started to feel like this could become my new home. As I kept coming, I got to meet and become friends with some amazing people.

“

**No matter who you are,
Jesus is ready and
waiting for you.**

”

As the months went by, I grew more invested and connected, and I could feel God bringing me home. I wanted to offer myself in service, to really be part of my new spiritual home. So I spoke with Naava to learn about how to become a member. I was given two options, adherent ('friend' of the Salvos) or soldier (member), and I knew immediately what and how I was to belong to this home – this family of God. I wanted to fully surrender to him, to be the man of God he wanted me to be, so I gave him all of me.



James, back row, celebrates becoming a member of the Salvos at Swan View, WA.



James has renewed hope and purpose in life after deciding to follow Jesus as part of the Salvos.

Being a soldier of The Salvation Army means a complete surrender to God in every way, in every part of my life. I now live for him, and have never been so happy. I feel fulfilled in God, stronger in him, and so grateful he accepts me. For all he has done for me, I could do nothing less in return.

It is in my heart to share the Gospel – the Good News that Jesus saves. No matter

who you are, Jesus is ready and waiting for you. His love, grace and mercy endure forever and ever. He loves you right where you're at, and to share his love and word with those around me is just fantastic.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Pear and raspberry bread



Ingredients

825g can pear halves, 1½ cups self-raising flour, ⅓ cup brown sugar, ½ tsp bicarb soda, ½ tsp baking powder, 1 egg lightly beaten, ½ cup vegetable oil, ½ cup frozen raspberries

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan-forced. Grease a 15cm x 25cm loaf pan and line with non-stick baking paper.
- Drain pears and put juice aside. Puree half the pears and chop remaining half. Put pear puree in measuring cup and add enough reserved juice to make up to one cup.
- Place dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add egg, oil, raspberries, pear puree mixture and chopped pears. Gently fold together until just combined. Fill prepared loaf pan.
- Bake for 1 hour until cooked when tested. Cool bread in pan.
- Eat immediately or store in an airtight container.



Quick quiz

1. Which Australian spider is the world's deadliest?
2. The teeth of which Australian animal are replaced if they fall out?
3. Which Australian mammal blows snot bubbles and does belly flops to keep itself cool?
4. Which species of wattle is Australia's floral emblem?
5. Who is the Australian banksia wildflower species named after?

Bible byte

"Out of the ground the Lord God made every animal of the field and every bird of the sky."

Genesis chapter 2, verse 19a
New Life Bible translation

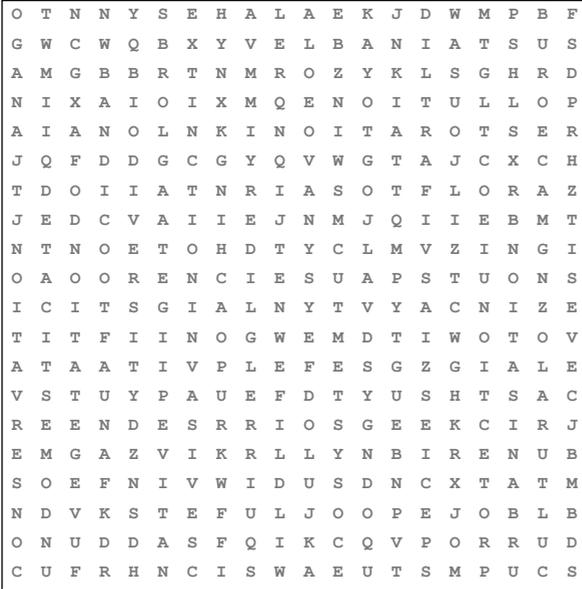
Tum-Tum

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



Wordsearch

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



- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Bandicoot | Native |
| Biodiversity | Poaching |
| Brolga | Pollution |
| Climate | Protection |
| Conservation | Restoration |
| Cultural | Species |
| Ecosystem | Squirrel glider |
| Extinction | Sustainable |
| Fauna | Undomesticated |
| Flora | Urbanisation |
| Habitats | Vegetation |
| Invasive | Wildlife |

HAVE A LAUGH

What steps do you take if a tiger is running towards you?
Big ones!

What do you get when you cross a hammock and a dog?
A rocker spaniel!

What time does a duck wake up?
At the quack of dawn.



DID YOU KNOW?

World Wildlife Day is observed on 3 March every year.

According to the UN, the biggest threat to wildlife is habitat loss.

Elephants, pangolins, rhinoceros, sharks and tigers are among the most critically poached and trafficked species in the world.

Scientists have predicted that close to half of Earth's species could become extinct by 2050.

Quiz answers: 1. Funnel web spider. 2. Kangaroo. 3. Echidna. 4. The golden wattle. 5. Sir Joseph Banks.
Turn-Turn: is in the tiger's mouth on page 15.



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

