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news

Sausages to soldiership – a Dalby couple's faith story

By Cliff Worthing

It's amazing how a sausage and message from God combined to bring transformation into the life of Graham Culbertson and his wife Debbie.

In Graham's words, he was a "strictly funeral and wedding" churchgoer with "no interest in someone who didn't exist". Debbie had family connections with The Salvation Army but wasn't involved in any church.

Graham and Debbie live in Dalby, a rural town in the Western Downs Region of Queensland.

One Friday night, a chance encounter with the Dalby Salvos' 'Sausages on the Street' ministry encouraged Graham to say he might visit the corps sometime. A short time later, he became seriously ill and was admitted to hospital.

While resting in his hospital bed, Graham heard a voice say to him distinctly, "Go to church!" There was no one else in the room. He was shocked and amazed but knew God had spoken to him. So, once he was released from hospital, he turned up at church.



Debbie and Graham oversee the community garden at Dalby Corps.



Graham and Debbie are active members of the Dalby Corps in Queensland.

Graham and Debbie immediately gave their lives to the Lord. They both engaged in the Soldiership Course and recently enrolled as Senior Soldiers of Dalby Corps.

"Since Graham and Debbie started attending our corps in 2021, we have seen a remarkable transformation in them both," said Christine Brooks, Dalby Corps Leader. "Graham still has some serious health issues, but through his trust and faith in Jesus, he grows stronger daily. They are both growing in the Lord and serving together."

The Culbertsons tend the corps gardens and have created a flourishing community vegetable garden that enables the corps to give out fresh veggies for others to enjoy. Debbie regularly cleans the church building and keeps things tidy.

"Graham and Debbie have a great understanding of what it means to have boots on the ground," Christine said. "They are so grateful to have the Lord in their lives, and we are blessed to have them as part of our corps family."

Coming full circle in the story, Graham and Debbie now cook sausages on Friday nights, looking to facilitate transformation with a sausage and message from God.

news



Major Bryce Davies conducts the wedding of Enza (left) and Pete on Brisbane's Toohey's Trail as part of their running group's weekly run.

Wedding on the run in Brisbane

By Simone Worthing

Trail running can lead to some unexpected destinations. As part of his weekly Wednesday trail-running group last month, Major Bryce Davies conducted the wedding of Enza and Pete – two fellow runners who had met in the group and fallen in love.



The happy couple – Enza and Pete.

"It was absolutely delightful," said Bryce. "So much love, fun and genuine community, just wonderful!"

Peter and Enza have been in running groups with Bryce for the past two years, including the Toohey's Trot Trail on which the wedding took place. This run is one of the tracks popular with some from the Brisbane Trail Runners Facebook group.

"They are friends, and I know them well," shared Bryce. "We share a love of running and have done several events together, such as half-marathons. We have dozens of mutual friends in these groups."

Enza and Pete also regularly support Bryce and Major Sue Davies (retired), when they lead and speak at the Salvos God's Sports Arena in Brisbane and Caloundra, and at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission. Pete is a drummer and Enza has shared her story at Streetlevel.

Bryce has now conducted three weddings with running friends over the past 12 months.

"Enza shared with me well over a year ago that she and Peter were thinking of getting married," shared Bryce. "She saw the weddings I did with Nicky and Cara, so she knew I could officiate."

"She said wanted me to do the wedding because 'You know me, and we understand each other's worlds. I trust you and just know you would be a perfect fit for the sort of wedding we were wanting'.

"To me, it's a wonderful blessing that comes from being deeply engaged in local community."

feature

Marketplace the place where relationship starts

By Lauren Martin

When Michelle Wheatley heads out for her Thursday morning Salvation Army collection shift at Menai Marketplace in southern Sydney, she always asks God for opportunities. And God always answers her prayers.

The Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader splits her work time between Sutherland Salvos Store and engaging with the Menai community, connecting people with local community services and faith expressions. She began collecting at her local shopping centre earlier this year and has found that it's the perfect place to meet people.

"I have people that come in to see me every week," she says. "People just want to talk, and what is happening is that God is softening the hearts of people."

Michelle believes that The Salvation Army's style of collection, where nothing is asked of people, opens the doors to great conversations. Whereas other organisations might wish to speak to local shoppers about their cause or ask them to donate, Michelle says she just offers a smile, a sticker or *Kidzone* magazine for kids, and a listening ear.

"There's no strings attached," she says. "I'm not asking for anything in particular, although if people want to donate, they can. I just offer a smile, and people feel comfortable to have a chat. And, all of a sudden, lots of different conversations start flowing."

Michelle has been able to direct many people to food assistance and other services, both Salvation Army and other community organisations, and follows up with them on how things are going on their journey the



Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader Michelle Wheatley with Shire Salvos Mission Leader Mark Soper at the Menai Marketplace collection point.



Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader Michelle Wheatley with Jeremy, a shopper at Menai Marketplace.

next time she sees the person. Her role as Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader enables her to offer Salvation Army services to needy people. And then deliver on those promises.

"There is an older gentleman who comes to see me every week," she says, "and he needed some furniture taken away, so I made a few calls, and I was able to organise that for him."

"There is another woman who has shared a lot about the difficult circumstances that she is facing, and we are planning to meet up outside of my collection shift to have a deeper conversation."

Michelle is a trained facilitator for The Salvation Army Positive Lifestyle Program and looks forward to offering that to people she forms relationships with through her shopping centre collection shift. "So many people are sad and they're lonely, and they want to talk to someone and connect with someone. I do feel a strong sense of purpose that this community needs a non-threatening smile and a listening ear."

It seems God has put just the right person in place for that very thing.

viewpoint



It's not hard to see why people find it confusing to work out what version of the Bible is right for them.
Photo courtesy [faithhub.net](https://www.faithhub.net)

Bible or Bibles? What's the difference?

By Major Mal Davies

You wander into a bookshop and, as you browse, you see the section of religious books. You pause and think of your days in Sunday school, perhaps many years ago, and you look specifically at the Bibles.

Then you notice something odd: one Bible has the letters KJV on it, another has NIV, another has RSV, one says Good News and one says The Message. You know – from memory at least – that there's only one Bible, but here they seem to be selling five different versions. Which is the real one?

The Bible is the world's best-selling book. However, it's not the work of one writer, and it was written over a period of more than 1500 years.

The Bible is not so much a book as a library. It contains 66 books, divided into an Old Testament (37 books) and a New Testament (29 books) written by more than 40 authors and in ancient Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. Yes, that's right: the Bible was not written in English.

When the Christian Church began – around 2000 years ago, based on the teachings and life of Christ – it was recognised that some 'sacred' writings were circulating among believers. Some of these had been available for many years (like the Psalms and the earliest books in the Bible, such as Exodus and Deuteronomy), while some were brand new (such as the biographies of Jesus by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

So, over several centuries, Church councils would meet to discuss which books should be collected together to form one holy book for Christians. Some were rejected (often because they seemed inconsistent with the other books), while some were accepted as they seemed accurate, helpful, consistent and even divinely inspired.

In 405CE, Pope Damasus I released a Bible that became known as the *Vulgate* (from the same word that gives us

'vulgar', meaning popular or commonly used), a complete Bible of approved books for Christians to read.

The *Vulgate* was a direct translation from the original languages; that is, the translators had translated ancient Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic into Latin.

The first English Bible was released in 1384 by John Wycliffe, and it was a translation from the Latin *Vulgate*. In 1525, William Tyndale produced the first English New Testament translated directly from ancient Greek, and in 1535, Myles Coverdale produced the first whole Bible, in English, translated from the original languages.

Several other translations were then produced before King James I released the *King James Version* (KJV) in 1611. It also became known as the *Authorised Version* as the official, royally authorised translation of the Bible.

It dominated the Church for the next 270 years until it was revised and re-released in the 1880s as – surprise, surprise – the *Revised Version*. Many other translations have followed as the skill and understanding of translators have improved and to keep up to date with modern English.

Distinct from these are Bible versions known as 'paraphrases'. This is when the editors don't translate from the original text but, instead, say: 'Hmm, how would I say that?'. So, whereas a translator might put Psalm 23 verse one as, 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want' (KJV), a paraphrase such as the *Living Bible* says, 'Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.'

Is one of them wrong? No, they're saying the same thing, just in a slightly different way.

So, when you see different Bibles, feel free to look at the language they're using – maybe one is easier to read for you than another, but don't then conclude that one is wrong. They all tell the same truth – God loves you!

army archives

History records 'hard yakka' of officership

By Lauren Martin

Salvation Army history books are overflowing with tales of hardship and heroic acts by its officers. A century ago, being a Salvation Army officer was often 'hard yakka', and despite today's officers facing different challenges, their missional heart has stood the test of time.

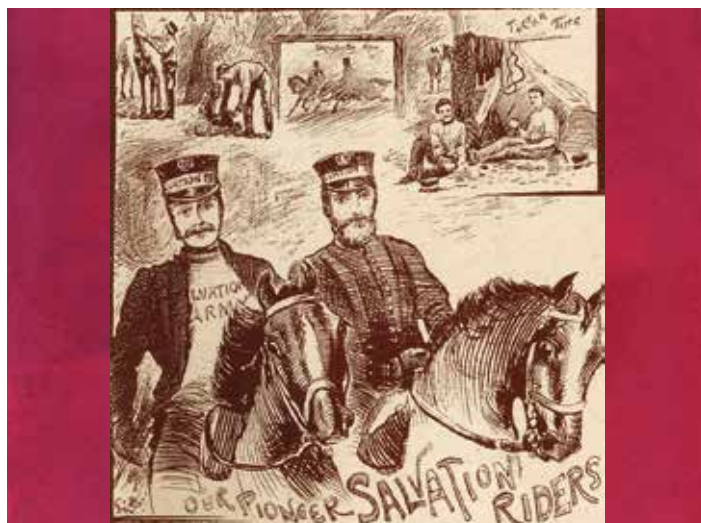
An excerpt from an 1893 *War Cry* report by two young Salvation Army officers – Captain E. A. Sincock and Lieutenant George Haycraft – seems to read right out of an old-fashioned adventure book. This duo were the hallowed 'Salvation Riders', their commission to go forth on horseback and carry salvation to the back-block settlers and farmers throughout Queensland:

We passed through Landsborough on Thursday evening and camped about three miles out of town until the moon rose and then, saddling up again, pushed towards Caboolture, travelling from 10 o'clock on Thursday night until seven on Friday morning and having to wade through water in several places. I can assure you it was pretty cold. We passed close by Crooked Neck mountain and the Glasshouse. Crooked Neck looked as though it would come over top of us and grind us to powder, but it didn't ... We had to walk up some of the ridges; it was like creeping up the steeple of a church ...

*Not all officers forged new territory, however. There were those who didn't travel further than their own district, such as the officers of Taree, on the mid-north NSW coast, who filed this report to *War Cry* in 1891: ... despite the rain and the mud we are still marching on, and have had some good meetings, both at Taree and the outposts. We have also had some lively experiences while out on visits, bareback riding especially gave us cause to remember it, and on another occasion while we were crossing a creek on a log, the captain had the misfortune*



Captain David Southwell, who is linked to Katooma's 'Golden Staircase'.



An artist's depiction of the Army's first 'Salvation Riders' – Captain Edward A. Sincock and Lieutenant George Haycraft – who brought the gospel to people living in remote regions of NSW and Queensland.

to make a slip and fall in, and then had to do the meeting at night in his wet clothes!

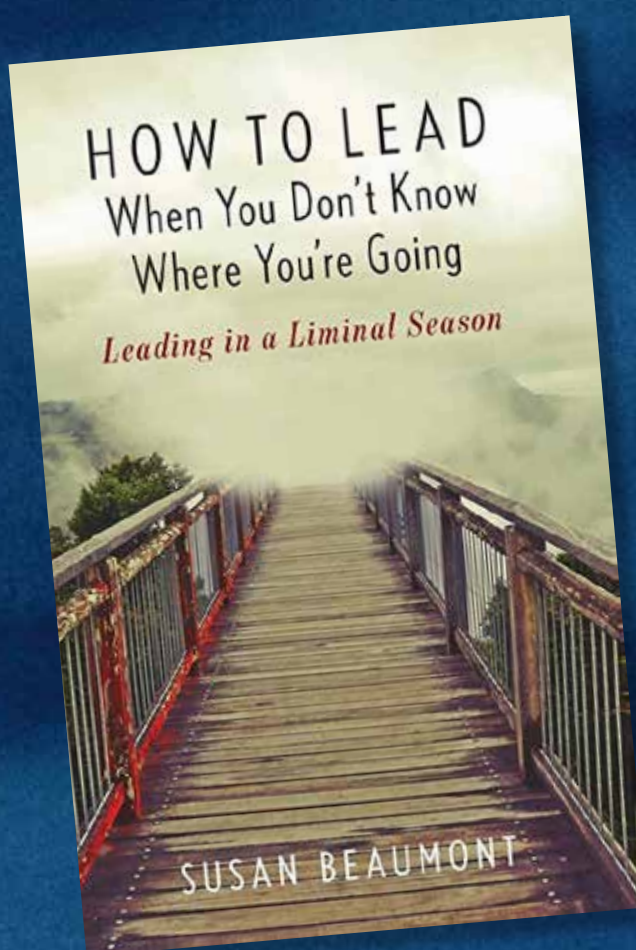
Then there was The Salvation Army officer in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, who inspired the naming of the arduous 'Golden Staircase' (which climbs steeply up from the valley floor). It is said that the stairway got its name by way of the officer who would walk down the stairway to hold services for the shale miners in the Jamieson Valley. On the way back, the officer would sing the song, written by Emma Booth, *O' I'm Climbing up the Golden Stairs to Glory*. Such was the mettle of those early Salvationists!

So, what of today's Salvation Army officers? Surely life is easier nowadays with modern transport and the 21st-century comforts. "Yes, life is easier with 21st comforts, etc," says Secretary for Personnel, Lieut-Colonel Chris Reid. "But today there are different expectations making officership just as hard. Everybody seems to want everything instantly and many of our officers are telling us that the email and administration responsibilities are drowning them, leaving little time for mission."

Chris says that part of the Australia Territory's structure is to free up officers from the burdens of administration, property management and red tape so that mission is where energies are focused. Officers today are dealing with many complex people issues, which require high levels of training and skills.

"The big difference is that Australia is no longer classed as a Christian country and we are now seeing third and fourth generations of the unchurched," she says, referring to the challenges officers face in determining what "church" actually looks like in their unique appointments. "Back in the early days, nearly everyone went to church. Now, the 'cookie-cutter' approach to church no longer works, especially in our ever-changing multicultural society."

book review



How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going, by Susan Beaumont

By Major Phil Inglis

In the middle of 2018, I had the privilege to be seconded to The Salvation Army Australia One Project team as a frontline liaison. For a very short time, I had a front-row seat to the largest not-for-profit merger in Australia, or so I was told.

In December, it was then announced that the wedding of The Salvation Army Southern Territory and Eastern Territory was now complete. But like every wedding, it just marks the beginning, the true challenge of the merger now began.

Thousands of staff using hundreds of different systems, guided by dozens of different policies within two very distinct cultures, began to come together. To say that it has been chaotic is an understatement. Then, into this already challenging environment, a virus broke out that turned the world on its head.

So, we have wrestled with this coming together through lockdown, illness, Zoom meetings, appointment changes, daily health briefings, dwindling attendance numbers, increased support requests and a lot of uncertainty.

Over the past few months, I have been reading *How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, by Susan Beaumont. Published in 2019, I don't think a better book could have been published at a better time to better address our current reality.

Beaumont labels a state such as ours as a 'liminal' space, an in-between space, it exists between the old and the new. We have left the old but, in many areas, yet to see what the 'new' might look like.

This liminal space is usually accompanied by worry, anxiety, confusion, and a certain 'directionlessness' (not sure this is a word, but I like it). As Beaumont fleshes out this concept in her book, she gives solid advice on specific practices and disciplines we can focus on as Salvationists at this time – practices of meditation, prayer and corporate discernment.

I have taken months (so far) to read this book because I have found myself re-reading it over and over again as I encounter new stories of people wrestling in this space. I encourage everyone to get a hold of it and read it – and find in it hope for your family, your church and your Salvation Army.

Leadership Podcast Series

Major Bryce Davies has recorded a special 7-part podcast series with Commissioner Miriam Gluyas and Colonel Winsome Merrett, with each episode delving into the topics covered in the book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*.

For more information on the podcast, go to: my.salvos.org.au/leadership-podcast-series/