

salvos

magazine



Pathway to hope

Innovation for a
gender equal world



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FEATURE

Gender
equity is for
everyone

FAITH TALK

God is not
male

MY STORY

New Salvos
leader for
Australia

“If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”

– Maya Angelou





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

Editorial phone (03) 8878 4500

Enquiry email salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

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Australia

A gender-equal future

'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender-equal future' is the theme for International Women's Day on 8 March.

This theme highlights the role that transformative ideas, inclusive technologies and accessible education can play in combatting discrimination and marginalisation of women globally.

In this edition, we look at a Salvos initiative that is helping to give women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds access to computers. The goal is to help open doors to opportunities, equality and hope.

We also kick off our occasional series 'Christian Myths and Misunderstandings' to discuss the commonly held view that God is male. And we introduce the new leader of The Salvation Army Australia, Commissioner Miriam Gluyas.

When Jesus walked the Earth, he challenged the cultural and religious norms of the day by including, enabling and empowering women. Everyone is equal in the eyes of God.

For these stories and more, go to our new website, salvosonline.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Pathway to hope

Innovation for a gender-equal world

WORDS DAWN VOLZ

The theme for International Women’s Day this year is ‘Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender-equal future’, highlighting “the role that bold, transformative ideas, inclusive technologies and accessible education can play in combatting discrimination and the marginalisation of women globally”.

This is a theme that resonates strongly with Captain Tara McGuigan, The Salvation Army’s Relationship Manager for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities in NSW, herself originally from Sri Lanka.

“

Digital poverty is such a disadvantage, especially for children’s education ...

”

Recognising the hard road ahead for many refugees and migrants, Tara says the problems can be far more complex for women who are not used to speaking out, suddenly finding themselves in a new country and culture. “I have faced that and I know how hard it is,” she says.

“Last year, I was contacted by an Afghan refugee, Ruqia, who told me in stilted English that her three children were in high school and had no computer to do their studies. The three of them were



Captain Tara McGuigan, right, with Naikbakht at the Salvos Red Shield Appeal Multicultural Media Launch in 2022.

managing between one mobile phone. I could hear the desperation in her voice and knew I had to help her.

“Digital poverty is such a disadvantage, especially for children’s education, which provides the most important pathway to freedom, emancipation and hope.” Tara adds that lack of access to digital technology is “like sending a child to school in the past without a book and a pen”.

There’s added poignancy in her observation that, “In Afghanistan, girls can’t go to school but here they can, and we need to help support that.”

NAIKBAKHT’S STORY

Tara instigated the Digital Poverty Project, reaching out to The Salvation Army’s IT Department who put her



Naikbakht was supported by Parastoo Khosronejad, left, and Captain Tara McGuigan at the Salvos Red Shield Appeal Multicultural Media Launch where she spoke last year.

in touch with Dell Technologies. The company readily offered to lend a hand and generously agreed to provide \$55,000 worth of computers, software and equipment to be distributed to 20 migrant and refugee families identified by the Parramatta-based Community Migrant Resource Centre.

One of the delighted recipients, Naikbakht, came to Australia in 2017 with her parents and four siblings as refugees after horrific experiences in war-torn Afghanistan.

"I came to Australia for a better future," she says, "and to be the voice of the women and girls of my country through the great opportunity that I received in Australia. Honestly, where I came from, we didn't really have the knowledge of how to use technology.

"I really appreciate the help that The Salvation Army gave to me and my family. Receiving a laptop helped me to

cooperate with technology, and learn new skills from it. I hope to make good benefit from what I have received.

"Since I got the laptop, it was a very easy access for me to work on my writing," Naikbakht adds. "I am a young poet and I've been writing poetry for the last three years. Through this poetry, it gives me an opportunity to explore the hardship of the girls and women who were experiencing war."

Naikbakht personifies the extraordinary benefits of cracking the code and innovating for a gender-equal future in digital technology. "I have a dream to write my first novel with my laptop," she says. "That's something which I look forward to."



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Gender equity is for everyone

Amanda Lennestaal is peacefully challenging issues of power and control

WORDS DAWN VOLZ AND SIMONE WORTHING

As a woman with her own complex life caring for her children with multiple disabilities, Amanda Lennestaal, Gender Equity Coordinator for The Salvation Army Australia, is excited about helping make positive changes for women within the Salvos and beyond.

“One of my daughters lives with disabilities,” Amanda says, “and I constantly see the barriers she, and I, face. Sometimes it’s easy to get stuck in the headspace that it’s all too difficult but then what sort of world would I be leaving to my kids?

““

**Sometimes the mundane
and messy is where the
sacred is found.**

””

“My husband is from Sweden, and we recently spent a few years living there. That was good for my egalitarian soul and the work and study I did there has helped me to form values more deeply around inclusion and equity.”

A COMPLEX ISSUE

Amanda says that, given the unique spaces the Salvos work and worship in, women can’t be looked at as ‘binary’ human beings and there is a need to make sure that, as a church, employer

and social services provider, the Salvos are offering the flexibility and care such a diversity of women are worthy of.

“I understand that women’s lives are complex, and one size definitely doesn’t fit all. We are looking at a variety of voices and experiences as we tackle a range of issues through communities of practice and smaller focus groups. Equity is about everybody – it needs to be geographically diverse too and include regional areas and people living remotely.”

Ensuring career progression for women employed by the Salvos is also one of Amanda’s focus areas. “Everyone needs to be treated with respect, without discrimination, and to work according to fair work practices,” she says.





A UNIFYING APPROACH

In the area of gender and inclusion, Amanda has chosen a gentle, long-term approach that is unifying, peaceful and finds a way forward. "Our organisation is relational, and diversity and inclusion is often about vulnerability," she says. "I believe we have what it takes to move to that next phase in these spaces.

“

I understand that women's lives are complex, and one size definitely doesn't fit all.

”

"The Salvation Army is committed to hearing strong female voices. We want people to talk about what matters to them and share their lived experience.

A BIBLICAL MODEL

"Gender equity challenges narratives of power and control. I am a firm believer in the voices of women in story, helping them bring out their stories in different ways. We value their voice and there is

a space for it. This is the biblical model present in the everyday – sometimes the mundane and messy is where the sacred is found."

Amanda is also intentionally asking men to be involved, as she contends that gender equity is not just a women's event – it is a whole of society thing, and gender equity doesn't sit neatly into one space.

With experience in law and political science, Amanda says it was a world that she didn't enjoy and she was pleased to eventually have the strength to leave. In Sweden, she worked in a community chaplaincy role and social enterprise. "That is what I live and breathe," she says.

"Seeing the presence of the divine in every life and circumstance, that is present in the aspect of everything we do. I don't need to be preaching – others do that. At the end of the day, I want to do the kind of work Jesus would do."



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

New coffee cart a pick-me-up for Hobart Street Teams



The Salvation Army's Amelia Natoli (far right) celebrates the success of the Street Teams Project and their new coffee trailer built through a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Photo republished with permission from the *Hobart Observer*.

Thanks to a Community Action Grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund, weekend revellers on the Hobart waterfront have an upgraded place to turn to in time of need.

The Salvation Army's Street Teams project has supported people on weekends in the Hobart entertainment precinct since 2015, assisting those who may be lost, intoxicated, injured, disorientated or needing emotional support.

But the Street Teams coffee trailer, which provides hot drinks, a safe place and support for patrons during nights out, desperately needed replacement to ensure the program could continue.

Late last year, a Community Action Grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund made constructing a new purpose-built coffee trailer possible.

"The new trailer enables our volunteers to provide hot drinks, cover from inclement weather and a safe place for people to seek assistance," says Amelia Natoli, Public Relations Secretary for the Salvos Tasmania.

Street Teams volunteers work closely with authorities to help reduce violence and other anti-social behaviour in and around the Salamanca Place precinct between 10.30pm and 3am on Fridays and Saturdays.

Research has shown a 53 per cent decrease in late-night street violence and anti-social behaviour in the precinct when the Street Team is working.

This article was republished with the permission of the Hobart Observer. For the full version of the story, go to bit.ly/3lTyOB

Salvos global leader backs women's rights in Afghanistan

General Brian Peddle, world leader of The Salvation Army, has joined other faith and global leaders in signing a letter to the UN and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expressing significant disquiet about Afghan women's rights.

The letter highlights "deep concern" about the latest developments in Afghanistan, where the higher education ban for women was reaffirmed and announced on 20 December 2022. By 24 December, the ban on women working in non-governmental and international non-governmental organisations followed.

The letter asks António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, and other UN officials to note this "calamitous regression in human rights" and asks that a range of issues be addressed.

The letter asks what the OIC – with its 56 member states, all of whom are also



members of the UN – is doing about this situation.

General Peddle said, "Our International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) based in New York is represented at the UN. Our role is to advocate for human dignity and social justice for the world's poor and oppressed ... It is essential that international organisations use their positions to be a voice for the voiceless."

New website for *Salvos Magazine*

Salvos Magazine is on the move! From 1 March 2023, the new webpage for the magazine will be: **salvosonline.org.au/salvos-magazine**

Salvos Magazine will now be part of 'Salvos Online' – a multi-purpose site hosting Salvation Army publications, videos from Salvos Studios and resources from MySalvos.

The QR codes linking readers to Salvation Army services will continue

to be part of the weekly, printed magazine. Online, readers can access this information via the 'NEED HELP?' button on the new webpage.



God is not male

God is bigger than our ideas of gender

WORDS STAR CONLIFFE

In the first of an occasional series, Christian Myths and Misunderstandings, Lieutenant Star Conliffe explores a commonly held view that God is male.

When you think about 'God', what image comes to mind? Maybe, like many of us, you imagine God to be an old man, sitting on a throne in the clouds. Maybe he's even got a beard. You've probably seen God depicted like this a lot in pop culture, such as in the film *Bruce Almighty* or *The Simpsons* (God has lots of cameos in that show!). But is God in fact male, or is this idea just a myth, one that even a lot of Christians believe?



THE 'FATHER' METAPHOR

There's no doubt that Jesus, who was both God and human, was a man, so he was male. And most people understand

that the Holy Spirit is neither female nor male. It's the person we call God the Father who we confuse as being male. There is good reason for this confusion, starting with the fact that we commonly use the metaphor of 'Father' for God. But when Jesus calls God our Father, it helps us understand God's character as a loving provider and protector. It had nothing to do with God being male. In fact, sometimes in the Bible, God even talks about Godself using motherly images. For example, in Isaiah (49:15) God says, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"

“

Most theologians would agree that God is spirit and therefore cannot have a biological sex ...

”

Some people argue that God must be male because of the masculine pronouns (he/him) used for God in their English Bibles. But what you may not know is that the original languages of the Bible don't always use male pronouns. Sometimes they use a gender-neutral word like 'they' or even the feminine pronoun 'she' for the Holy Spirit. Helpfully, not all modern languages are



as limited as English. For example, since 1930, Chinese language Bibles have used a gender-neutral pronoun instead of 'he' for God, which is neither female nor masculine, but divine. It's a special character that looks like this 祂.

GOD IS NOT LIMITED

Most theologians would agree that God is spirit and therefore cannot have a biological sex (male or female) and that God has both masculine and feminine characteristics. However, many people still talk about God in ways that support the myth that God is male. Sadly, this myth has led to some other very narrow ideas about God, which have caused real harm to people. Like, if God is a man, then men are more like God. Or that God has put men in charge. I've even heard people say that because God is our 'Father' then in a family the

father should make all the decisions. This myth has therefore created gender inequality and excluded women in many churches and families, which God never intended.

Our language and our imagination are limited by gender, but God is not. While I don't think everyone needs to change the pronouns they use to talk about God, it's good to remind ourselves often that God isn't a man, and that God is bigger than our ideas of gender. Maybe then we can start to understand God better.

Lieutenant Star Conliffe is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

New Salvos leader for Australia

A visionary strategist with a heart for God and others

WORDS Peter McGuigan

Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, recently appointed Territorial Commander (national leader) for The Salvation Army Australia and Chair of its Board of Governance, believes that accessibility of leaders is vital to the success of any organisation in any sector of society.

“It would kill me if I wasn’t able to be an accessible leader,” she says with a firmness that tells you she is serious. “Times have changed. It’s no longer about position and title. We have to be highly relational in these days. We’re in a postmodern, post-Christian, post-COVID world.”

VALUING DIVERSITY

Taking that a step further, the new Salvos leader seeks to hear and welcome all points of view. “The important thing is to come into a room and value the diversity and the contribution of everyone in that room.

“

I can’t tell you how important that is for me – that the voice of all is heard.

”

“Together we will pray, and we will wrestle with the issues and everyone’s opinion will count. I can’t tell you how important that is for me – that the voice of all is heard.”



Commissioner Miriam Gluyas is the new leader of The Salvation Army Australia.

That might come as a breath of fresh air to Australians for whom many executive leaders seem almost unknowable or remote at best. And certainly, it’s a good sign for the more than 17,000 signed-up Salvos and 8000 employees working under her leadership. It says a lot about exactly who Miriam Gluyas is and the kind of leader she has become.

Born in 1959 into a Salvation Army family and raised in the Victorian city of Ballarat, on her own admission her childhood and teenage years were “fortunate”. They delivered both an outlook on life that sees anything being possible and a foundation steeped in the faith, hope and love practice of her family and of the Salvos.

“What makes me who I am today is really my family of origin,” she says with a glint in her eye and a disarming smile. “Very strong values, we loved well, we wrestled well, you knew that you could be anything, do anything. Our roots go way back into The Salvation Army. It was a solid foundation of love and acceptance. I loved life, loved a challenge, never thought anything was too hard.

“Ballarat was a great place to grow up. I learnt to barrack for the Geelong Cats even though my dad was a strong Magpies supporter. That was a good wrestle I remember well. I went to Mount Clear Primary School and then Ballarat and Clarendon College, a Presbyterian school. At Clarendon, while you were expected to succeed, it was a great environment to grow and develop.”

“

We must be close to God.

”

There is a confidence about Commissioner Gluyas and an evenness in her temperament that tells you she has carried the best fruit of her formative years into adulthood and into her leadership roles in The Salvation Army. In the late 1970s, she relocated with her family to Port Macquarie on the NSW mid-north coast. Despite wanting to teach sport and pursue professional golf, she trained as a Salvation Army officer (pastor) and was commissioned in January 1983, in Sydney.

VISION AND WISDOM

Her posts have included being at the frontline as a corps officer (pastor) for Salvation Army faith communities, one of



Miriam wanted to pursue professional golf but chose the Salvos instead.

which was highly multicultural; leader of The Salvation Army NSW/ACT Division; and, internationally, as Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army in Papua New Guinea.

Commissioner Gluyas describes herself as a visionary strategist but is quick to add that she values the lessons she has learnt along the way, including the importance of seeking individual and collective wisdom. She understands the challenges facing the church and charity sector in the 2020s and sees that the difference between the Salvos flourishing and stagnating will be personal and corporate renewal of the group’s spiritual heart.

“I would describe these days as scary/exciting. Getting it right is a big, big deal. We’re a mission movement born to be propelled by the Spirit of God into our communities, living out the transforming love of Jesus. That’s first and foremost who and what we must be. We must be close to God.”

Major Peter McGuigan is The Salvation Army’s Head of Government Relations, based in Canberra.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Easy fried rice



Ingredients

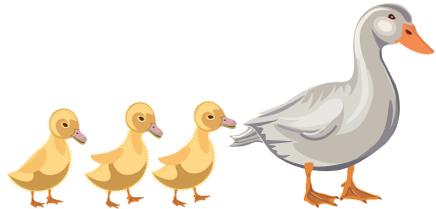
1 cup white long grain rice; 2 tsp vegetable oil; 2 eggs, whisked; 2 bacon rashers, chopped (optional); 1 grated carrot; 2 finely sliced shallots; ½ cup frozen peas, thawed, or ½ cup broccoli florets; 1 tbsp soy sauce; sesame seeds (optional); chopped parsley (optional).

Method

- Cook rice in saucepan boiling water. Drain and leave to cool.
- Heat oil in large frying pan. Add eggs. Cook for 2 minutes or until set. Transfer to chopping board to cool. Cut into thin strips.
- Add bacon to pan if desired. Cook approximately 4 minutes. Add carrot and stir-fry 1 minute. Add shallots, peas or broccoli, and cooled rice.
- Add egg and soy sauce. Stir until heated through.
- Sprinkle with sesame seeds or parsley if desired. Serve immediately.

FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY

"My favourite colours are red, blue, green, brown and pink. Not purple though ... I'm afraid of purple."



"Mum, Dad, come quicky! The ducks on the pond have had duck puppies!"

"When I'm an adult I'm going to drink coffee, Coke and get married."

"Mum, what would I do without you? I would be a wild goose!"

SIGNING IN



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

8			6		9		4	
			4			5		
			2				6	
					1		2	8
			3					
	8	5		3	4	6	7	9
9		4			7			
					6	4		



1. When is National Women’s History Month each year?
2. Which Indigenous rights activist was a leading campaigner in the 1967 referendum and Chair of the National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation during the 2000 National Apology?
3. Who was the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament?
4. What was the name of the ABC series, hosted by Annabel Crabb, that presented honest accounts of politics from a female perspective?
5. Which Australian sportswoman said, “You always learn a lot more when you lose”?

Tum-Tum



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

Bible byte

“When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.”

Psalm 56, verse 3
New International Version

Quiz answers: 1. March. 2. Dr Evelyn Scott. 3. Edith Cowan. 4. Ms Represented. 5. Ash Barty.
Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the blue box on page 9.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 20 million Aussies have participated in Clean Up Australia events over the past 33 years.

Up to 90% of single-use hot beverage cups end up in landfill - equating to around 60,000 kg of plastic per annum.

88% of the 4 million computers and 3 million TVs purchased in Australia every year will end up in landfill.

5	7	8	4	1	6	9	2	3
6	4	9	3	2	5	1	8	7
2	1	3	7	9	8	6	4	5
3	2	4	1	8	7	5	9	6
1	8	6	2	5	9	7	3	4
7	9	5	6	3	4	2	1	8
4	6	2	8	7	1	3	5	9
9	3	7	5	4	2	8	6	1
8	5	1	9	6	3	4	7	2



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