

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

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leadership news



General Lyndon and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham have thanked Salvationists around the world for their warm welcome as the Army's new world leaders.

Thankful Buckingham's point to the God of 'immeasurably more'

By General Lyndon Buckingham

Bronwyn and I are taking a moment today to say thank you to Salvationists and friends from all around the world for all the cards, emails and messages of congratulations and support that we've received, along with the promise of prayers. We are so incredibly grateful.

There's no doubt that we've been overwhelmed by so many people – some people we know, and so many more we don't know, who have reached out to us with words of affirmation and, particularly, those who've offered Scripture verses to us.

And there's one particular Scripture verse that's come over and over in the last few weeks – Ephesians 3:20-21, from the *New Living Translation*.

And we are claiming it for ourselves these days, but we're also claiming it in believing it for The Salvation Army in this next season.

And it says this: "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."

So, Bronwyn and I are placing our confidence and our trust in the God of the immeasurably more.

We would encourage you today that, in your own personal circumstances, you too look in faith to the God of the immeasurably more. And let's claim it by faith for The Salvation Army world.

God bless you.

news



Coffs Harbour Salvos' new food truck is open and ready to service the local community.

Food truck gives Coffs Salvos mission outlet

By Lauren Martin

After months of praying for God to provide an opportunity to meaningfully engage with people experiencing homelessness, Coffs Harbour Salvos were delighted with a donation of a food truck.

The donation of a large retro-style food van, fully equipped with fridges and cookware, was made by the PAYCE Foundation, a national philanthropic organisation that works closely with The Salvation Army in Coffs Harbour.

"It was a surprise when I heard that they wanted to donate a food van to us," said Coffs Harbour Corps Officer Major Andrew van Gaalen. "As a result of the prayers, we believe that God moved the PAYCE Foundation to supply us with this incredible gift."

The van, donated last month, is already being put to good use. Once a week, Andrew and a team of volunteers park it at the Farmer's Market, where they connect with the local community and are able to share the good news about how the Salvos are connecting and serving people in need.

Also, at the markets, many people experiencing hardship and homelessness are starting to connect with the team.

"We love to give them a good cappuccino," said Andrew. "We often ask them, 'When was the last time you had a drink like that?' And for some of them, it has been years and years and years, and we want to make them feel like they are a valuable part of the community."

"We carry frozen meals that we can heat up so we can give them a nice hot meal right there and then. We also carry non-perishable food items they can take away."

But for Andrew and the team, the most powerful parts of the mission are the conversations and prayers that result from the initial cup of coffee or hot meal.

"The guys who are doing it have a heart for God and a heart for people," he said. "We are getting to know them, they're getting to know us, and hearing their stories and letting them know that someone does actually care about them."

On Friday nights, Andrew and the team take the food truck to an encampment in local bushland where many people experiencing homelessness live. They park the truck, and the smell of chef-cooked meals like beef stew and butter chicken wafts out from the brightly lit serving area. Volunteers walk through the bushland inviting people to the van for a free hot meal.

"Two nights ago, when we arrived down there, there was a bit of turmoil," Andrew explained, saying that a resident had passed away. "There was trauma going on, so we were able to minister into that space. We took some food up to the family, and we are keeping in contact. They are very appreciative."

After the community meal, the team packages up leftover meals and walks into places across Coffs Harbour city and surrounding areas the food truck doesn't have access to.

The vision for the food truck is to have it operational seven days a week, not just in and around Coffs Harbour but in the neighbouring townships of Woolgoolga, Emerald Beach and Toormina.

news



A group of men from the conference enjoy a bushwalk over the weekend.

Faith, fun and fellowship on men's ministry retreat

By Cliff Worthing

Magnetic Island off the coast of Townsville supplied the context for this year's North Queensland Men's Conference over the first weekend in August.

"What better place to encounter the majesty and creative genius of our awesome creator than Magnetic Island, one of the most magnificent destinations that the Far North of Queensland has to offer," said Captain Ben Johnson, Cairns Corps Officer.

Lieut-Colonel Gregory Morgan, Territorial Secretary for Mission, spoke on the ministry and mission of Jesus through the book of Luke.

"The group was particularly thankful and receptive to Jesus' mandate to proclaim the good news and live out the love of Jesus," Gregory said.

He explored four passages in the book of Luke, including Luke 4, the great commandment, and reframing Jesus' focus on finding people rather than the traditional focus on 'the lost'.

"We had a really good mix of focused time of hearing from God, discovering more about our faith, and informal periods for relationship-building," said Captain Perry Lithgow, Townsville Corps Officer. "It was a great opportunity for connection between long-term Christians and those new to the faith."

The 27 participants were a mixture of participants from Cairns, Atherton Tablelands, Townsville Riverway, Townsville Faithwork corps and Salvo recovery services.

"This is a really important event for the guys in the region to connect and encourage one another," Perry said.

"They don't have many opportunities to connect regularly because of the long distances between corps."

In addition to the formal worship and teaching time, the men enjoyed spending time together at the local beaches and coffee shops, going on morning hikes, fishing off the jetty, and "watching a bit of footy" together.

"There is a real energy and momentum stirring in the hearts of North Queensland men to better serve God, one another and the wider community," said Ben.



Enjoying a walk on the Magnetic Island jetty ... (from left) Bob Down (Townsville Faithworks Corps), Deon Oliver (DHQ) and Ken Hughes (Townsville Riverway Corps).

feature



Karen Lattouf loves sharing the latest thinking on leadership development during the many workshops and seminars she runs.

Karen inspiring leaders to be their best

By Cliff Worthing

With a background as a corps officer, chaplain and counsellor and with a Master of Business Administration, Karen Lattouf (right) has all the eclectic skills for her role as Territorial Leadership Development Specialist.

Karen has been in the role since 2015, providing leadership training, coaching, mentoring, consulting to leaders across The Salvation Army, and pastoral supervision to officers and corps leaders.

"My hope and desire is to inspire Salvo leaders to support their people to be their best, to give them the best opportunity to flourish and shine," Karen said. "So, I do what I can to create opportunities for leaders to be the best!"

Karen's approach centres around asking challenging questions rather than telling, helping leaders reflect, learn and apply concepts to their unique situation, creating space for participants to learn from each other and sharing the latest thinking on leadership development.

"I try to make each interaction fit for purpose," Karen said. "It's more work for me, but I love creating light bulb moments and helping people build their capabilities."

Karen and her team have created a new Leadership and Management Development Program, which recently launched as a pilot program to help The Salvation Army respond to current and future needs. It explores the capabilities Salvo leaders need, whether they are new to the role or in positions where they are making the biggest decisions impacting our whole movement.

"Servant leadership is a central philosophy to The Salvation Army empowering our people," Karen said. "We want to be effective now and sustainable into the future."



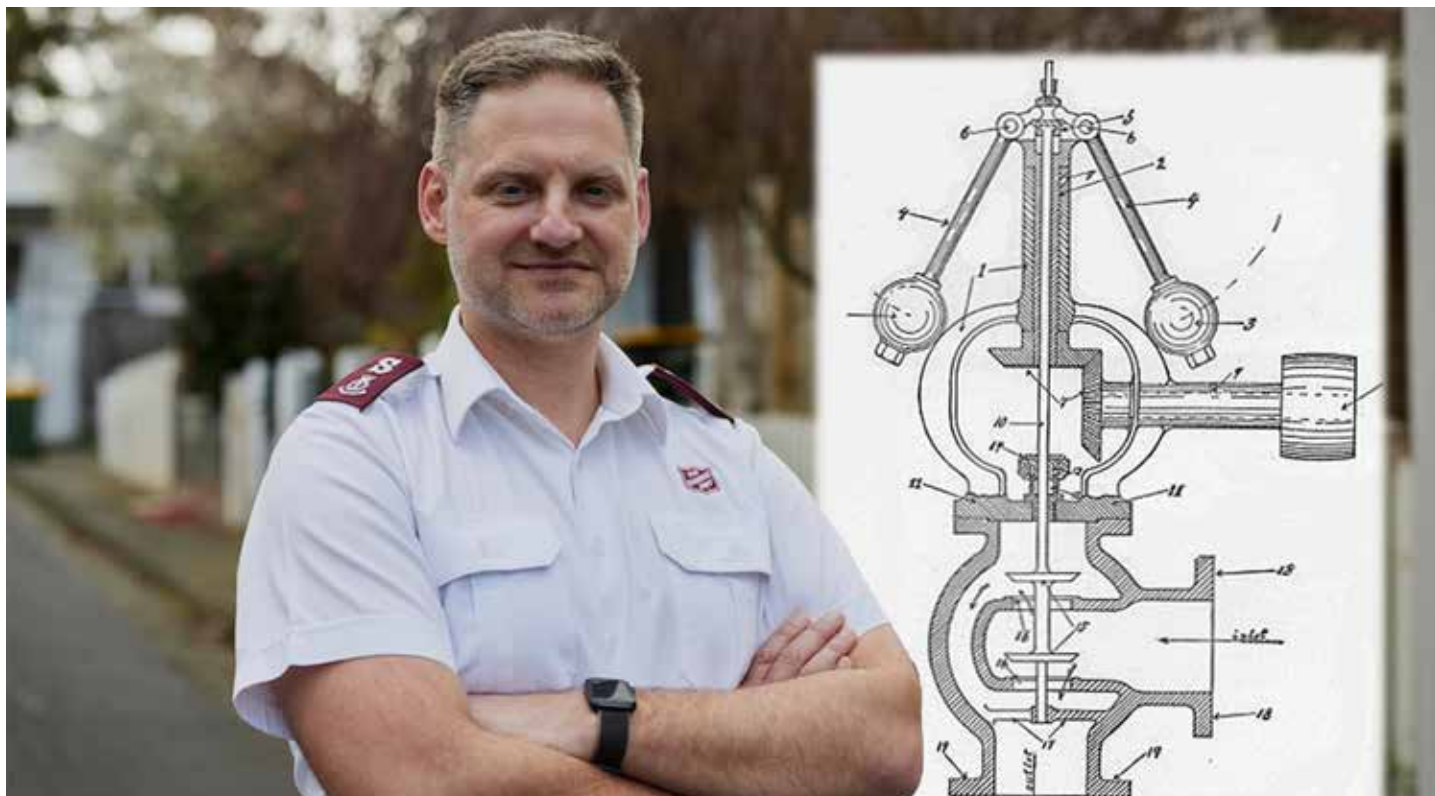
Karen believes leaders get the best from their people when they listen well, have empathy, are relational rather than authoritarian, and show an interest in each person.

Karen's role involves some travel since it is a national role, but it also has a strong online component. Karen has found the growth of online connections has made her more accessible.

"I would love people to know I am available because I am deeply passionate about inspiring people to be their best," Karen said. "This role is right up there with the best job I've ever had!"

Salvo leaders can contact Karen to discuss ways she can support their leadership development.

viewpoint



Major Phil Inglis explains his role with the governance department using a diagram of James Watt's steam engine concept.

Scottish inventor James Watt's role in our governance

By Major Phil Inglis

In the 1790s, James Watt invented (or adapted) a device for regulating the energy output of a steam engine.

It would increase power when required and reduce power when it wasn't needed. This ensured steady power was available even when situations changed (the train went uphill, for instance). It also ensured that no matter what happened, the engine wouldn't blow up because there was too much pressure.

The device was called a governor.

This governor, and the governance it provided for steam engines, was the key that unlocked the industrial revolution. This industrial revolution fundamentally changed humanity as it spread across industries, countries and the world, ultimately creating the conditions within which The Salvation Army was born.

In May, I was appointed to the governance portfolio of The Salvation Army Australia. Since then, I have been asked a number of times what exactly the governance department is for. My answer is to refer to James Watt's governor.

The Salvation Army is a giant machine. Far more complex and complicated than a steam engine, but like a steam engine, there are times when different departments need more energy and other times when some need less. There are times when The Salvation Army is under pressure, and energy needs to be conserved and released

correctly, and there are times when heat needs to be taken out of certain systems to ensure things don't explode.

Over the past few years, I have watched a number of great international church leaders and ministries crumble because of various failures in judgement. In many cases, too much power and energy was invested in a single person, and that kind of pressure is unsustainable. This is also true when we examine failures in politics.

All of these have been described as a failure of governance. That is, there was not enough of a mechanism within these churches and political parties that held a check on the amount of energy flowing through them. This is what it means to have sufficient governance. Ironically in the latest Robodebt tragedy, it was identified that the government did not have enough governance.

Finally, I want to point out that the main image above shows that a governor in a steam engine is perhaps the most intricate and complicated piece of equipment. There is a reason why James Watt is considered a genius. The same thing is true in a governance department – whether within a church or another organisation.

There are many moving parts and a lot of things happening that not many people outside the department fully understand.

If you have any questions about the department and how it does what it does, I would be more than happy to answer questions or to find someone who can answer them.

Contact me at phil.inglis@salvationarmy.org.au

review



Merv Collins, author of *Solid Rock – Live!*

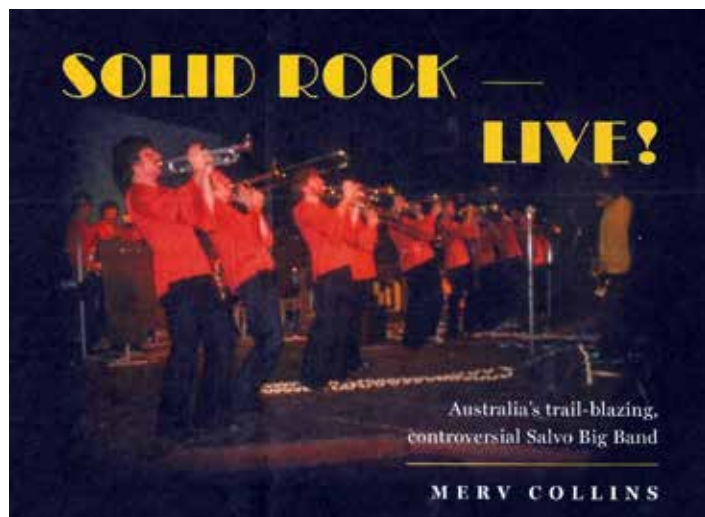
Book review: *Solid Rock – Live!*, by Merv Collins

By Barry Gittins

One of the more surreal aspects of recent Australian Salvation Army history is not that it spawned a culture-relating, musically gifted pop/rock band in the Solid Rock Big Band; it is that the group's existence and achievements are largely unknown to Australian Salvationists.

What was it again that Jesus said about prophets not being recognised and honoured in their own country by their own people? (Mark 6: 4).

While there were leading lights of the movement back then who encouraged the Solid Rockers, the group was generally persona non grata in terms of lacking any official acknowledgement or Salvation Army coverage.



Well, thanks to author Merv Collins, this state of affairs is being set to rights, albeit decades after Solid Rock spread some light and

hope among young people. From its humble beginnings, through its many line-ups and members, across gigs that were well-received and/or controversially loud, we read of lives impacted, cultural mores threatened, and musical gifts honed and used to the glory of God.

The international acclaim with which the group was met at legendary venues like the 1975 Sunbury rock festival (Australia's Woodstock) should give all Salvationists a sense of pride and wonder.

Music is the most sublime of gifts, and the trailblazing young men and women (and the likes of Merv, John Cleary, Dr Ralph Hultgren AM, Sharon Raymond, Graham McCoy, Neva Phillips, Mike Poore, Alan Collett, Brenton Broadstock AM, Ian Shanks, Stuie Lees etc. were indeed young back then) made their mark and set a path for others.

This tome is wide-ranging in scope. It's well-researched, well-written, and well and truly due.

For those unaware of Solid Rock's credentials, achievements and legacy, *Solid Rock – Live!* will inform, entertain, stir the heart and soul, amuse and occasionally provoke; outcomes that good musicians and the good Lord who gave us music would expect.

***Solid Rock – Live!* is available from Salvationist Supplies by emailing trade.sydney@salvationarmy.org.au or trade.melbourne@salvationarmy.org.au or by calling Sydney Salvationist Supplies (1800 634 209) and Melbourne Salvation Army Supplies (1800 100 018).**