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# salvos

online *e-news*

## CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

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### Britta the next young voice to join the Board

By Kirralee Nicolle

The newest Under-35 Board Participant has been chosen to help shape the future governance of The Salvation Army Australia Territory.



Salvationist Dr Britta Lacey works as a General Practitioner.

The news was announced by Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Chair of the Board, on 15 July.

Dr Britta Lacey, a senior soldier at North Brisbane Corps, has been chosen to participate in the program for an initial period of 12 months, commencing August 2024.

## NEWS

TSA Secretary to the Property Trusts Liz Cruickshank wrote in her announcement on behalf of Commissioner Miriam Gluyas that Britta, a General Practitioner now working in Brisbane, had met Jesus through The Salvation Army when living in Sweden.

Upon returning to Australia, she continued her involvement in Townsville Riverway Salvation Army and Mount Isa Corps. Liz said Britta felt it was a privilege to get alongside community members through her work as a GP and support them in times of vulnerability, joy and sadness.

"Britta loves seeing people live in the reality of the love Jesus has for them, and desires to see The Salvation Army continue to meet people's needs and share the love of Jesus," Liz said.

"Britta hopes to be able to use her GP work to engage with community members and see them live healthy lives in body, mind and spirit."

The Under-35 Board Participant initiative was first announced in 2021 to encourage the input of younger voices in the organisation's trajectory.

Then-Territorial Commander and Chair of the Board Commissioner Robert Donaldson said at the time that the initiative was a tremendous opportunity and that it could not be underestimated how valuable the experience would be from a personal, professional and Christian leadership perspective.

"If we want to have an under 35-year-old Salvationist really speaking into [the Army's] direction, they need to be at the top table – not the top management table but the top governance table," Robert said.

# NEWS

## Canberra community blankets the ACT with love this winter

By Simone Worthing

“There’s a whole lot of love out there,” said Dee Fraser, Doorways Regional Manager South NSW/ACT, as she and her team counted 773 new blankets, more than \$900 in donations and piles of good-quality warm winter coats, sleeping bags, beanies, gloves and more.

The generous Canberra community donated these items to The Salvation Army at Epic Handmade Market at Exhibition Park on 29-30 June.

“These items are vital in keeping vulnerable, struggling and homeless people warm during Canberra’s cold winter,” said Dee.

“They make a huge difference to people’s lives and help keep them safe and warm. Without Epic Handmade Markets and our generous community, we couldn’t do it. This is one of our major winter drives in Canberra.

“We’re just part of that conduit of grace. We just get it delivered to where those good folk are, who are desperate for that warm clothing.”

All the blankets are generously donated and in good condition, and they are all given away and not sold.

“We only want what you’d give your best friend,” Dee said. “They go to anyone in need across the ACT through Connect sites and homelessness expressions (with sleeping bags and tents). The Oasis Youth Service put some aside for our youth, and corps keep a few on hand for emergencies.”

The Salvos are well received at the Handmade Market.

“We have a huge reputation of doing it right and doing it quick through all the relationships we have built across the ACT,” explained Dee. “For example, we don’t actively collect at the market, but we had our bucket out and a tap ‘n go just in case, and people freely gave. One stallholder gave us \$500.

“And quite a few people came just to chat. Some wanted to talk to us about what’s going on in their life, and we had conversations with people who are lonely. They trust the ethos of The Salvation Army and feel comfortable to disclose.”

One of the small businesses at the markets that weaves alpaca and merino wool donated some high-quality warm gloves and other items. Polly’s Farm makes soaps and candles, and when they heard that the Salvos needed small soaps for hygiene bags, they stayed up overnight to make little soap cakes, each one in its own carry bag.

“These are beautiful souls,” said Dee.

The team also received an additional large donation of travel-size toiletry items, which will be distributed to both those experiencing homelessness and victim-survivors of family and domestic violence.

None of the donated items remain unused.

“When we don’t have a Salvation Army service that can use a particular donation, we give them to St Vincent de Paul or other organisations like Cahma – AOD services and drop-in centre, that we have great contacts with,” shared Dee.

“We had Liz Dowd (Government Relations Coordinator), Damian Kelly (Salvos Home Care), Jennifer Kirkaldy (General Manager Policy and Advocacy), Captain Sally Stevens (Canberra City Corps Officer) and Maggie Qian (Doorways) all working together beautifully.”

On Sunday 30 June, volunteer teams from Canberra City Corps, Gungahlin Corps and Queanbeyan Corps looked after the stall. “Corps expressions and Mission working together – it’s the only way,” said Dee.

“Doorways and other teams will always step in when needed – it’s what we do,” said Dee.



Handmade Market Canberra founder Julie Nichols (left) with Dee Fraser, Doorways Regional Manager South NSW/ACT. Picture by Karleen Minney © The Canberra Times/ACM.



## Prices rise to Hong Kong challenge

Australian officers Majors Glenn and Julia Price left Australia in December 2023 with their sons Matvei, 13, and Nikita, 18, to take up new appointments in the Hong Kong and Macau Territory as of 1 January 2024 – Julia as Protection Coordinator for Children and Vulnerable Adults and Spiritual Life Development Secretary, and Glenn as Secretary for Business Administration. Glenn and Julia (who is originally from Russia) previously spent over 10 years serving in Eastern Europe.

**Interview by Kirralee Nicolle**

### How have you found living in Hong Kong, particularly after so much experience in Eastern Europe?

It's a very different culture! With our history of living in Russia and Australia for such long periods of time, we had never imagined ourselves living in Asia. We speak fluent Russian and English, so we have always felt very comfortable using those languages, but now we are trying to learn Cantonese and it is a very challenging language to learn. On the street, English is not spoken very frequently here, so we are finding ways to adapt. I (Glenn) have been learning to use a translation app to carry out tasks like buying groceries – I used it to find garlic the other day! We've also been adapting to working alongside others who don't share our languages. Our church services and church songs are also entirely in Cantonese, and often a kind person will translate to English for us.



Majors Julia and Glenn Price are finding God in both the noise and the quiet of Hong Kong.



Majors Julia and Glenn with sons Matvei and Nikita.

### Can you tell me a little bit about your roles and what your work days look like?

Glenn: I'm Secretary for Business Administration, which might sound like a boring job, but I enjoy it! We will typically start our day with the Territorial Morning Prayers/Chapel for 15 minutes, then I will go to my office and start going through my emails, which are always full. I oversee nine departments including our Finance Department, Recycling Program (like Salvo Stores/Family Stores), Booth Lodge (a TSA hotel), Communication and Fundraising, Design Media Department and trade initiatives. The list goes on! Something interesting is that we use signed bank cheques here often, so a part of my job is signing a big stack of cheques. It's a very administrative role, and I think one for which God has been preparing me for many years. That is something I have become very confident in – that God uses everything in our lives to prepare us for what is next, and that he is currently preparing me through this role as well.

Julia: I am working as a Protection Coordinator for Children and Vulnerable Adults as well as a Spiritual Life Development Secretary. The main way to sum up my work is that it is all about people. We have 35 schools including childcare centres, nurseries and kindergartens. We also have centres for the elderly, and work with those with disabilities as well, so there are many in a vulnerable category. My other role as Spiritual Life Development Secretary provides the opportunity to engage with the officers on regular basis and teach our cadets. It is a beautiful reminder that we are not just an International NGO here, we ▶

# FEATURE



are 'salvation' people who want to maintain focus on Jesus and bring hope, love and joy to the community.

**Can you tell me about some of the day-to-day things that have changed for you since moving such as your living arrangements, transport and school. What do those look like for you?**

We no longer live in the western suburbs of Sydney in a house with a green lawn outside, with fresh air blowing and cockatoos screeching in the morning. We live right in the heart of a city on the 13th floor of the same building we work in and take a lift down a few floors to our offices each day – the Territorial Headquarters for Hong Kong and Macau. Apartments here are typically quite small, and we have adjusted to new living conditions. Glenn's day starts at 5.30am each weekday and he takes our younger son Matvei to school on the Metro to commence school at 7.40am. Nikita keeps busy studying the Cantonese language on the Hong Kong Island. His lessons are on weekdays, and he studies in a small group. Glenn will also often play darts at home with our sons as a way to continue the tradition of something we did before we lived in Hong Kong. Julia has been baking bread

for 18 years, and it's a tradition she continues here as well, partly for that continuity and also because bread here is very different and the cost is so high. Hong Kong is one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in. For instance, one litre of fresh local milk here costs the equivalent of \$5 AUD.

**Are there other things about Hong Kong that Australian readers may not realise?**

The history here is phenomenal. It is so vast and deep, and fascinating to see it so well-preserved, such as the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre just near The Salvation Army Headquarters. One thing that is interesting is there is very little grass here. Apart from maybe some small bushes, there is little greenery and lots of buildings. The incredibly large population and concrete setting means there is also very little quiet time. There appears to be no silence or solace from the passing taxis, buses and millions of people. Julia wrote in her devotional journal soon after we arrived, "Lord, there is no quiet time. How can people stop and hear your voice?" But it is beautiful, and God is everywhere, in both the noise and the quietness.



# Desperate couple 'stumble across' the Salvos

By Lauren Martin

Sabina and Scott will tell you that "stumbling across The Salvation Army" was the best thing that ever happened to them.

The couple and their two children were experiencing financial hardship and had gone to their local Service NSW office in southern Sydney to ask for assistance.

It just so happened that the woman they spoke to had recently connected with the local Salvation Army and knew immediately that they would be able to help.

"She recommended that we get into contact with the Salvos," said Scott. "When we came, everyone was so lovely," added Sabina.

The couple recently shared their story at the Shire Salvos Red Shield Appeal breakfast launch.

They related how they had been struggling since the death of Sabina's mother the year before, which added financial stress as well as grief to the family.

"We had to sign into a payment plan just to receive my mother's ashes," said Sabina. On top of that stress, the family car broke down and could not be repaired on the final day that they were moving Sabina's mother's belongings out of her home.

That left the family of four with no vehicle. However, they were still paying off a loan they had taken out to buy the car about 10 years prior.

"We had gotten a loan when Scott was working," said Sabina. "But with COVID ... he ended up not in work any longer, and the bank kept saying that we need to keep paying it. We had the loan deferred, and we were paying it off minimally, but there were so many fees and charges."

By the time Sabina, Scott and their two primary school-aged children walked into The Salvation Army for the first time, they were struggling to make ends meet on two government payments (both cannot work due to health issues).

Without a car, Scott spent more than an hour each way on two different buses to get their kids to school and then back home. They were behind on school payments, and their boys would sometimes miss out on events. Not to mention other things that many Australian children take for granted, like after-school activities or going out occasionally for a meal.

## STORY OF HOPE



Sabina and Scott share their story at the Shire Salvos Red Shield Appeal Business Breakfast in southern Sydney.

The family was welcomed at Shire Salvos Miranda in southern Sydney and were grateful to receive food relief and assistance to pay for their necessary prescription medication. They became regulars at the Tuesday night OneMeal food service.

"Our boys loved coming down; they made friends, and so did we. It's a lovely atmosphere," said Scott.

When he mentioned one evening to Shire Salvos Miranda Mission Leader, Lieutenant-Colonel David Godkin, about the burden of their loan, David suggested making an appointment with an on-site Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counsellor.

A few weeks later, Sabina and Scott got the shock of their lives. Their bank had agreed to waive their loan. "I was in tears," remembers Scott. "I was speechless," said Sabina.

The result was life-changing. The family is no longer behind on school payments; they have been able to finalise Sabina's mother's funeral costs and save money for things like a birthday party at Laser Tag for one of their sons. "It's been huge," said Sabina.

"We don't need to come to the Salvos as often for food support now," said Scott.

"But we still love coming along because the Salvos are like our family."

# BOOK LAUNCH

## *Who Am I to Change the World* by Peter Brookshaw

Major Peter Brookshaw recently launch his new book, *Who Am I to Change the World?* at Morley Salvos, Perth, where he is the Corps Officer. Peter gives a glimpse into the book with this excerpt below.

### By Peter Brookshaw

If you want to change the world, you have to get off the couch.

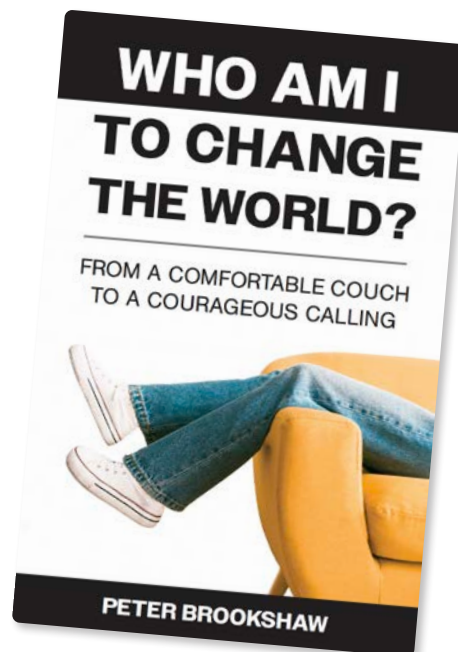
There, I've said it. I've laid it out right from the outset. You cannot change the world sitting on the couch. You may well read this book on the couch, but you cannot implement its ideas by staying on the couch. This book is about growth. It's about looking at core principles that will help identify ways to grow and develop into the person you are meant to be.

In essence, this book is about getting off the metaphorical couch of mediocrity and taking life by the horns and changing the world. I believe that God has placed within everyone the capability to do something significant and life on earth is so short, so let's start on it now. The days are too limited to be coasting through the years without identifying how we can take the opportunities before us so we can grow far beyond where we are now in our spirit, mind and body capacities to make a positive difference in our world.

But before I go any further, what has all this got to do with the couch? The couch is a metaphor. A picture



Major Peter Brookshaw signing copies of his new book at its launch on Saturday 27 July.



that helps us identify that we are not necessarily reaching our full potential in life ...

When we look at the global environment in which we live we can see that the world needs changing. I'm excited to think that this book might at least play some small part in empowering someone to grab hold of their potential and the opportunities to run like crazy to an amazing people impacting finish line.

Do you want to change the world – your immediate world, or even the wider world? If so, will you let me help you to get off the couch?

To read more, you can purchase the book from Salvationist Supplies ([www.salvationarmysupplies.com.au](http://www.salvationarmysupplies.com.au)) and bulk orders from Salvos Publishing [www.salvosonline.org.au/salvos-publishing](http://www.salvosonline.org.au/salvos-publishing)

**Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas has fully endorsed the book.**

**"If you are feeling like your life has got into a bit of a rut, that you are living a life of mediocrity, instead of significance, then this book is for you!" Miriam said.**

**"Peter Brookshaw presents a holistic approach to personal development, so that each of us can live life to the full. I love that it is so practical, with exercises, goals to set and achieve, with great illustrations and check-ins along the way.**

**"Peter lives out personally, what he writes and acknowledges that self-development is not always easy. However, I believe that we all need to pursue Jesus' directed growth.**

**"I encourage you to read his book and to also have a friend read it so that you stay accountable, helping to ensure you don't just get off the couch, but you have the courage to stay off it."**