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“Dads are most ordinary
men turned into heroes,
adventurers, storytellers
and singers of song.”

- Pam Brown



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 wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.



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Ongoing love

Socks, crazy ties, barbecues and family football –

Father's Day can be a fun day to celebrate the dads and father figures in our lives and the support and encouragement they have given us – past and present.

For many, though, the day is a difficult one full of painful memories, unmet longing, deep sadness or ongoing grief. Some dads are indifferent; others are determined to break the cycle of absence or abuse.

In this edition, our authors explore the impacts dads can make across the generations, and the role fathers, grandfathers and mentors can play in raising healthy, secure kids and supporting adult children.

Bill Hunter writes about the legacy of his dad and what he strives to pass on to his children and their families. Andy Steele shares how finding friends and faith has reshaped his life and priorities, and Barney Zwartz addresses the pain that Father's Day can bring but celebrates God as the 'ultimate father'.

God our Father offers love and acceptance to all. His is the way of peace, gentleness, kindness and unconditional love.

Simone Worthing
Editor

A father's legacy

Love and support across the generations

by Bill Hunter

My first memory of my father is of his love of playing games with us, his children. That could be running races on the beach, playing cricket, or lawn bowl-like competitions. Everything was so darn competitive – and I loved it.

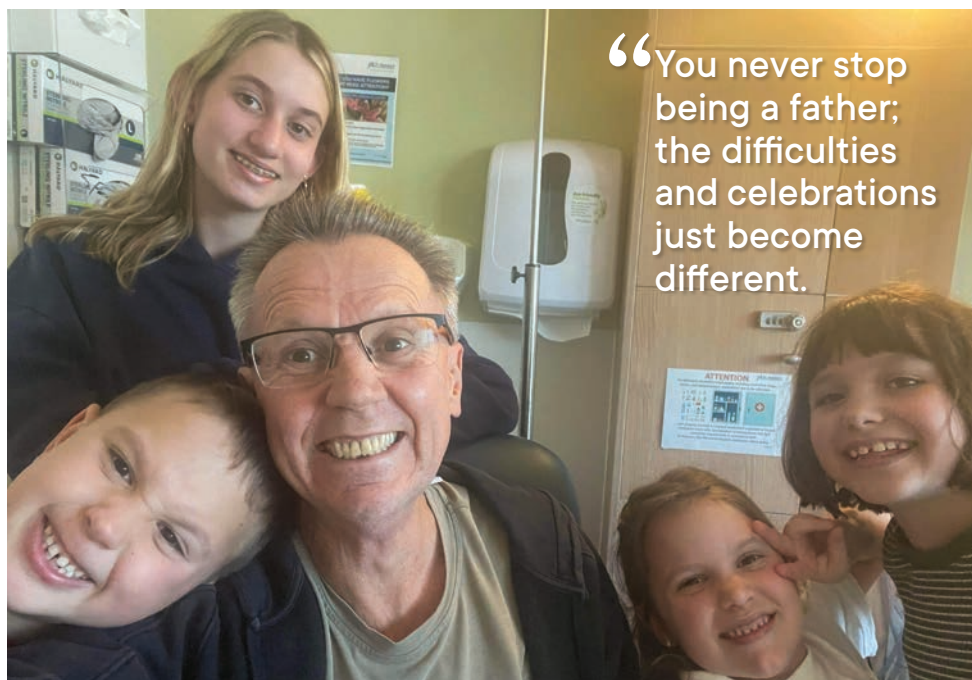
As a result, I became a mad crazy sports/fitness fanatic, which shaped my life and

made my choices for career and the like very easy.

My other fondest memory of my father is his inspiration and love for people and God. As a Salvos pastor, he led the way in helping, encouraging, supporting, being a listening ear, caring, and providing physical, emotional and spiritual help to the most

needy and vulnerable of people, and to very influential successful individuals, all without judgment.

My dad was small in stature, gentle and kind in nature; but he was huge in his pursuit of fairness, equality, justice, respect and dignity. I loved him dearly. It was so sad when he passed away some



“You never stop being a father; the difficulties and celebrations just become different.”

↑ Bill counts it “a privilege and a blessing” to be a ‘poppy’.



↑ Bill, centre back in sun visor, is head coach of the Salvos Hope and a Future program, and trains young people from Papua New Guinea to run the Gold Coast Marathon.

14 years ago; however, I treasure the times we spent together and the qualities he passed on to me. If I can just be like you Dad – thanks for your outstanding and positive influence.

Dad life

I've now been a dad for 40 years and a poppy (not granddad – sounds way too old), for nearly 17 years. I don't take it for granted and count it a privilege and a blessing to have this opportunity.

Have I been good at it? On reflection, I feel a tad guilty that, as a young father, I was very focused on my own personal life and goals,

such as work, sporting career and church roles, sometimes at the expense of my family. I certainly try very hard to give back by helping and supporting my children and grandkids, wherever and whenever possible.

As a father, I trust and hope that I have set good examples of being loving, encouraging and present for my children in any situation – and there have been plenty of good and not-so-good situations.

Ongoing role

You never stop being a father; the difficulties and celebrations just become different. I also pray for my

children and grandchildren, individually, daily.

To be the perfect father, we should all try to be loving (including tough love at times), humble, trustworthy, honest, kind, forgiving, caring, encouraging, disciplined, respectful and always willing to spend quality time with our children.

Teaching our children to love each other, others and God is an integral part for me of being a dad.

Love you Dad, my children and grandies.

Bill Hunter is leader of the Salvos church 'God's Sports Arena' in Brisbane.



Thinking of you on Father's Day

- To anyone who has lost a beloved father or father figure
- To fathers who have lost a child or children
- To those who have complicated father relationships
- To fathers with strained child relationships
- To those who don't see their children
- To those who have unhealed pain or trauma from their fathers
- To those who had to be a father to themselves and siblings
- To those who stand in the gap as fathers for others
- To those who have chosen not to be dads
- To those whose father is far away today
- To those fathers who feel guilty for how difficult they find parenting
- To those fathers who feel pulled in multiple directions
- To fathers parenting through physical or mental illness
- To fathers navigating neurodivergence
- To single dads
- To fathers of children who are ill or hospitalised
- To new fathers struggling to adjust
- To fathers caring for family members across multiple generations
- To those who long to be a father
- To fathers who adopted children
- To stepfathers helping bring up stepchildren
- To foster dads caring for kids in need
- To non-traditional dads feeling pressured
- To all dads doing the best they can but not always feeling it!
- To anyone who needs a little extra love and kindness today!

From the margins to mateship

At Merri-bek Salvos in Victoria, a new pilot program called Made to Move has helped local men move from isolation to connection using group fitness as a bridge.

The five-week initiative was designed to support men facing mental health challenges, loneliness or language barriers. It quickly became about more than just exercise. “We wanted to create something that met them where they were at,” says Melody Lamb, Community Engagement ministry worker. “And because exercise is really good around mental health ... it just made sense.”

With committed volunteers and a professional trainer, sessions were kept simple, using just mats, a whiteboard and bodyweight exercises. While many attended casually, five men showed up every week – some pushing through deep personal challenges.

“One participant used to psych himself up just to walk through the door,” says Melody. “He’s now making eye contact with people. He’s shaking people’s hands and having conversations. It’s beautiful to see.”

Mutual support

The program fostered unexpected friendships and deep mutual support. When one man wanted to quit, another encouraged him to stay. Later, the roles reversed. “Seeing these men support one another and truly have each other’s backs has been incredibly rewarding,” says Melody.

At the end of the program, Melody organised a small ceremony to celebrate. Participant Luke said, “persevering and



↑↑ Mark Patman, left, from Coburg Salvos; Zac Nunns, personal trainer; and Luke from Salvos Community Connect.

↑ Xiangyu, left, and Pradeep, right, from Coburg Salvos Community Connect.

completing the challenge felt like a small win ... we got a bit of control back both mentally and physically ... hope for the future and positive experiences while gaining friendships.”

Some participants have since stepped into spiritual spaces, built friendships despite language barriers, and even become Salvos volunteers.

Melody hopes to run the program again and potentially expand the group to include women. Because, as she puts it simply, “At its heart, it’s all about community.”

Local men blessed by BLOB

Townsville Salvos hosts a monthly men's breakfast that is open to all men and encourages 'mateship' in a relaxed environment.

The event is affectionately known as BLOB – Blokes Loving Our Breakfast! – and has been running for 18 years.

With the rise of mental health issues and people living alone, the group's leaders intentionally offer a safe and caring place to enjoy a great breakfast and listen to guest speakers from all walks of life. Speakers have included a psychologist, lawyer, domestic violence counsellor, a group from V8 supercars, and a mum sharing on the joys of motherhood (in recognition of Mother's Day).

"We have a wonderful team who cook up bacon, eggs and toast for the regular



25-30 attendees," said group coordinator Bob Down. "The breakfast group continues to be a healthy meeting space, and we hope it continues to bless the men in our community for many years to come."

Salvo awarded OAM for charity work

In places as diverse as Ethiopia's Afar Region and his Melbourne pharmacy, Ian Shanks is focused on enhancing and saving lives.

And his selfless work and dedication to the women and children of Ethiopia have led to the Ringwood Salvos member being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to the community through charitable organisations.

"It was just a shock," Ian reflected. "It is not something I would have sought. But I am humbled and feel honoured to be given this."



To read the full story, go to **salvosonline.org.au**

God is real to me because ...

The tangible presence of God

by Brad McIver



God is real to me because I have experienced his presence in a very tangible way.

Having grown up in the church (The Salvation Army), I always had an awareness of God from my family and church family. At times, through my childhood and adolescent years, I also made very meaningful commitments to accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, and my friend.

But it was not until my mid-30s, having become very confused about who I was and what the gods in my life were – career, alcohol, personal ego – that I came to a spiritual, emotional and physical crossroads.

Two very critical things happened at that time:

1. I hit rock-bottom and cried out in surrender to God.
2. For the very first time, I experienced the Spirit of God fall on me in the most powerful way through the gentlest of prayers from a mighty 'prayer warrior' who was visiting our church (Baptist fellowship) at the time.

From then on, there has been no doubt that God is real and that Jesus is the way to a life of freedom for me. The presence of the Spirit of God has never left me and I often experience this in times of quiet, times in nature and times in worship with others.

Captain Brad McIver is Head of Social Mission for The Salvation Army Australia.

Celebrating the ‘ultimate father’

Finding hope on an often painful day

by Barney Zwartz

We will soon celebrate Father’s Day, so it is fitting to celebrate the ultimate Father, the lord of the universe: God. It has taken me decades as a Christian to develop a deeper appreciation of what it means that God calls himself our Father, to understand that it is not just a glib locution.

Christians speak of God as father in several ways, the most important being that he is their creator and redeemer, their protector and guide. The Bible teaches that because of what Jesus Christ accomplished in saving his people, they are adopted as sons and daughters of God.

Thus, the Apostle Paul says in his second letter to the people in Corinth: “For us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist” (1 Corinthians chapter 8, verse 6).

He tells the Galatian Christians: “Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying ‘Abba, Father!’” The first letter of John says: “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are,” (1 John chapter 3, verse 1).

This is hard to comprehend for believers, let alone those who reject the Christian understanding of God.

Complex connections

For many people, once including me, there are a couple of significant impediments to the trusting and loving relationship that Jesus commends.

First is the failure of their biological fathers to provide an adequate model of fatherhood, which muddies the waters. Many have looked at their own fathers and said, “If God is like that, he’s not for me.” But human fathers are flawed and imperfect, while God is not – it can be hard to grasp how he redeems and sustains us in all circumstances.





In an excellent new small book, *The End of Men?*, colleague Simon Smart points out the oversized influence, for good or ill, that fathers have on their children. Even if your own father is absent, the presence of fathers in your neighbourhood can improve your chances of doing well in life.

The second impediment is that calling God father is clearly a metaphor, an anthropomorphism, because God is ungendered spirit and the Bible uses many maternal metaphors for God as well. But we learn best by putting new knowledge in the context of what we already know, and we know that the ideal father provides tender, loving care and guidance.

The Old Testament did not have quite the same understanding. It is Jesus who calls God Father and, remarkably, he tells his followers to do the same. For example, instructing them to pray “Our Father...” Contemporary religious leaders were furious at this familiarity, thinking it blasphemous.

And, if not true, it would be. But in fact, it is one of the central and most infinitely precious promises of the Christian message.

Barney Zwartz is a senior fellow of the Centre for Public Christianity (publicchristianity.org). This article first appeared in The Sunday Age.

Faith, friendship and father figures

The life-changing power of mentors and mates

by Naomi Singlehurst

In 2012, businessman Andy Steele, on paper, had it all. A loving wife, four beautiful children, a demanding but rewarding business. He was a keen road cyclist, independent, capable, and had even competed in ultramarathons around the world.

But a running partner, Graham (who remains a strong influence in Andy's life), sensed a restlessness in Andy – something missing – and encouraged Andy to search for faith and purpose.

Graham, who had served as a Baptist pastor for many years, suggested Andy check out a Salvation Army venture called Streetlevel in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. Streetlevel offers meals, counselling, referrals, showers, faith services and, most importantly, a sense of community to a diverse range of people.

Andy walked in and says he instantly found a sense of home.

Life purpose

Andy began visiting and helping at Streetlevel and soon formed strong friendships.

In many ways, Salvation Army officer Major Bryce Davies, who founded the service, and Paul Maunder, who still runs the service today, became not only friends but also mentors. Both men, Andy says, modelled faith in action. They didn't preach. They simply walked beside him, encouraged him and cared.

Not long after he started volunteering, Andy noticed a young Streetlevel regular had disappeared. After asking around, he discovered the man was back in prison. Andy felt he wanted to visit him – and a new chapter began.

His first prison visit in November 2013 was a "huge culture shock".

"What I saw beyond the bars, a lack of support, trust and opportunity, was even more confronting," he says. "People were almost set up to fail."

Andy quickly realised that many people leave prison with almost nothing. No clothes beyond what they wore inside. No phone. No ID. No safe place to go. Often a debt hangs over their heads.

A team of volunteers formed, including Andy and his wife, Christine. At one point, they were supporting people in up to eight prisons, offering post-prison transition support including clothing, housing and mental health referrals, emotional support and more, often working alongside the Salvos prison chaplains who visit 5400 people in prisons each year.

New challenges

After a team bike ride from Sydney to Brisbane to raise funds for the Salvos, Andy and two others launched



↑ Andy, left, with friends and mentors, Majors Sue and Bryce Davies.

a social and fundraising enterprise called Salvos Recycle Bikes. That enterprise recently celebrated five years with increased revenue, individuals and families assisted, and lives changed through mentoring, opportunities and care.

The past few years have brought personal hardship to Andy due to some serious health issues. On top of that, Andy lost his sister to cancer and recently, a dear friend of 50 years passed away.

"My faith has been tested on a lot of fronts," he says,

"but I just have faith that God is there through everything. He is a father to me. I've often asked, 'Oh God, what are you doing?' But not in a way like, 'I'm done with you.'"

A father's reflection

This Father's Day, Andy says his deepest life regret is being so caught up in work and other things during his children's earlier lives that he wasn't present as much as he should have been.

Passionately proud of his now adult children and family, and still deeply in love with, and appreciative of, his wife

who has journeyed with him in the mentoring process, he is making up for lost time and relishing every opportunity to have quality time with them.

Andy still walks alongside a few special friends through the post-prison ministry. He knows the support he can give is a drop in the ocean. But also, that every drop matters.

"I can only give a hand-up, not a handout, to a few. But if that flows through to children, communities and future generations, it's worth it."



Yorkshire breakfast pudding

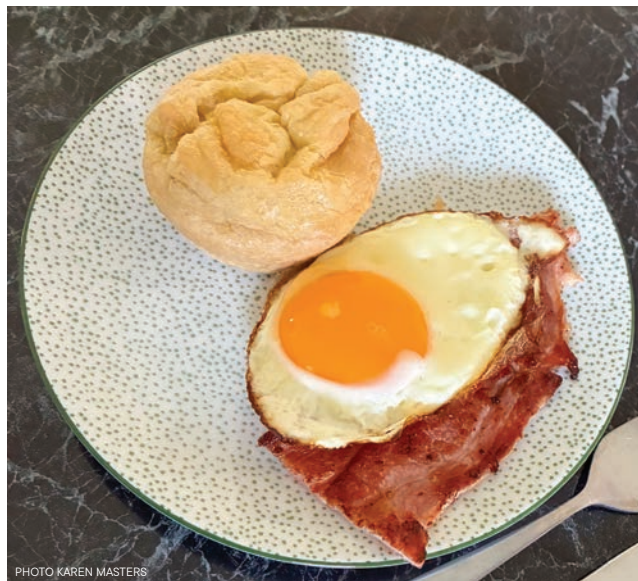


PHOTO KAREN MASTERS

Ingredients

½ cup plain flour, ½ cup milk, 2 eggs, 2 tbsp oil, bacon and eggs for serving.

Method

Preheat oven to 240°C.

Whisk flour, milk and eggs together in a jug. Rest for 15 minutes.

Pour oil into 4 x 250ml muffin tins. Heat in oven for 5 minutes.

Pour mixture into the hot pans. Bake for 15 mins until puffed and golden brown.

Serve pudding hot, topped with a fried egg and crispy bacon.



Quiz



1. What kind of fish are father and son duo Nemo and Marlon?
2. Who says the famous line, "No. I am your father!"?
3. Who wrote *Isn't She Lovely* for his newborn?
4. What song did John Lennon write for his son, Sean?
5. Which fish have pregnant fathers rather than mothers?



Tum-Tum



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



Believe in Good: Tips

"Listen, stay alert, stand tall in the faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let love prevail in your life, words, and actions."

1 Corinthians chapter 16, verses 13-14

The Voice Bible translation



Who Am I?



I am one of Australia's most popular dads.

I am from an animated series that premiered in 2018.

I am patient, charming,
creative, humorous and
slightly bonkers.

I love my wife and two girls.

I love playing with my girls.

I am an archaeologist
(digging up bones).

I am an Australian cattle dog.

I am voiced by David McCormack.



Answers

Turn-Turn: is hiding behind a rock on page 14.

am: Bandit

4. Beautiful Boy 5. Seahorses

Wars) 3. Stevie Wonder

Nemo) 2. Darth Vader (Star

Quiz: J. Glowntsh (Finding

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



Sudoku

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

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



Have a laugh

Why can't dad tell a joke while grilling?

Because the steaks are too high.

Why was dad staring at the orange juice?

Because it said 'concentrate'.

Why did the dad sit on the remote?

He wanted to control the situation.

What kind of test is just for dads?

A pop quiz.



Bible byte

“And I will be for you as a father, and you will be for Me as sons and daughters.”

2 Corinthians chapter 6, verse 18

The Voice translation

GIFTS THAT SAY

LOVE

you

DAD



salvos

stores