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*June Devotional*



## WELCOME TO DAY ONE OF 100 DAYS OF CEASELESS PRAYER!

One particular verse has shaped the '100 Days' of Prayer - Romans 12:1-12. The Message version reads:

***“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you”***

The Salvation Army is a movement, raised by God, called to bring the Kingdom. As Romans 12 demonstrates, we are supposed to look different from the world around us, but this doesn't mean we hide away from the world. I believe this means that we are called to engage in world-changing, kingdom-bringing, life-altering work. We are called to make earth look more like the Kingdom of God. I also believe that we all have a part to play in this. We do this by seeking God, listening to his voice, and responding in obedience.

My hope is that as we, The Salvation Army, unite to seek God over the next 100 days, He will reveal to us not only his plans for our beloved Army, but his will for Australia. My prayer is that we use our daily activities, our “walking-around life” to bring the Kingdom in our schools, our workplaces, our families, our communities and our churches. My prayer is that our every-day, ordinary lives would be used to usher in The Kingdom of God.

During 100 Days I believe it is of upmost importance that we fix our attention on God, listen to what he asks of us and respond in obedience. Two questions make up the heartbeat of '100 Days' - “What is God doing?” And “How can I be receptive to it?”

So let's do this! Let's seek God and position ourselves to hear his voice. Let's act in obedience to what he asks of us.

- How do you seek God?
- How do you hear the voice of God?
- Can you find time this week to imagine what your community would look like if The Kingdom of God was flourishing?

### Prayer Points

- Pray for your individual experience during 100 Days; pray that God will reveal himself to you.
- Pray for your areas of influence, pray that God would reveal to you the ways He is at work in your different communities.

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**Amanda** is a Salvationist from Melbourne. She works in the Australia Southern Territory's mission resources department, serving as the '100 Days' coordinator. Amanda is passionate about seeing young people and their communities reach their potential. She is an advocate of justice and believes that all people in The Salvation Army can be agents of change in their local communities.

# The Australian Context

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

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Australians experience a range of harm as a result of the misuse of 'Alcohol and Other Drugs' (AOD). It might be a tragic car accident after a rare 'big night', chronic family violence fuelled by drug use, brain or liver damage, or even an increased risk of cancer from years of seemingly low level alcohol consumption. Around 5 million Australians said they experienced an alcohol related incident in 2013 (according to the 2013 National Household Drug Survey), and one in 12 people (8%) have experienced alcohol related physical violence.

While the overall trend of illicit drug use in Australia is headed in slowly downward direction, the misuse of pharmaceuticals is on the rise. This largely impacts people in their middle years and raises an array of policy questions.

The most serious of all AOD related problems is addiction. It permeates every area of individual life, devastates families, and plagues society as a whole. In 2010 the economic cost to Australia from the misuse of alcohol alone was calculated at \$36 billion per annum. Imagine what we as a society could do with that money!

The Salvation Army delivers in the vicinity of \$25 million of AOD services annually in Australia. We work hard to keep people alive until they are ready for change, and we provide a huge variety of treatment options when they are ready. We support families and encourage the pursuit of a full life beyond the initial stages of recovery, and our aim is to see our people engaged in community and thriving in life. We also advocate at a policy level, including through our membership with the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol and our relationships with Federal, State and Local Governments.

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***He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,***

***God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!"***

***He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."***

*Luke 4:16-21*

***In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting me free.***

*Psalms 118:5*

- There has probably been someone that you have met or known well who struggles with substance misuse or addiction. If you were to pray one thing for that person, what would it be?
- What can we do to encourage and include those experiencing addiction and their families? How can we ensure all are welcome in our Corps?
- How can we as individuals, and as an organisation, advocate for policies which assist in reducing the impact of substance misuse?

## Prayer Points

- Give thanks to God for our funding partners and wonderful program staff who enable us to meet people at their point of need.
- Pray for all those seeking our help in relation to substance misuse. Pray for peace, healing and abundant life.
- Pray for wisdom in relation to our policy direction and advocacy efforts.

[www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/ndshs](http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/ndshs)

[www.adf.org.au](http://www.adf.org.au)

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**Kathryn** has worked in AOD and related fields since the late 1990s. She is currently the Territorial AOD Unit Director for the Australia Southern Territory. She soldiers at Preston Corps. Kathryn is blessed beyond measure with a 3 year old son who is both delightful and extremely cheeky!

# Bright Spots - Social

## MONEYCARE

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Moneycare seeks to prevent and alleviate financial hardship. We see people in financial hardship and crisis who are suffering—and have consequently limited life opportunities—being freed from hardship and gaining increased capability to act independently and self-sufficiently.

Moneycare provides financial counselling (holistic in-depth casework), financial literacy education and training, financial capability services and no-interest loans. We operate out more than 50 locations across Australia (cities and rural areas), have a very high demand and work closely with other Salvation Army services through the 'Doorways' model. We are one of the largest such services in Australia.

Examples of some client feedback have been:

*"Some people come into our lives and quickly go, when others stay and leave footprints in our hearts and we are never the same. Sometimes in life you find a special person, someone who changes your life. Someone who makes you laugh until you can't stop. Someone who makes you believe that there really is good in the world and someone who convinces you that there is an unlocked door waiting to be opened. We will never forget you."*

*"I do not know how your caring, compassionate and efficient service can be improved upon! Your financial counseling services are of extremely high standards. God bless the Moneycare team!"*

*"I thank The Salvation Army, especially [my financial counsellor] for helping me through a very traumatic and stressful time in my life. I have nothing but praise for the professional way with which my case was handled. Please continue your good work in helping those in need! God bless the Salvation Army!"*

We seek to empower and uplift people, rid them of the things holding them back and help them become independent and resilient.

We work to be the presence of Christ in the world. We aim to be the Good Samaritan, helping people who fall by the wayside, no matter what their background or the circumstances they find themselves in. We want to go the extra mile for our clients and our conviction is to uphold the essential dignity and worth of every person we come into contact with.

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***I tell you, whenever you did this with the least important of my brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.***

*Matthew 25:40*

- How can you empower and uplift people in your immediate community this week?
- How can you be a Good Samaritan to someone who is experiencing hardship?

## Prayer Points

- We are very grateful for the relationships and the resources that we have to operate the service. May we care for them and be good stewards of them.
- We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all involved in the service and particularly for our caseworkers, and ask that they be strengthened and protected in their work.
- May we glorify God through the work of Salvos NILS and may we be the presence of Christ in this world as we work to help the clients of our service.

[salvos.org.au/moneycare](https://salvos.org.au/moneycare)

[salvos.org.au/nils](https://salvos.org.au/nils)

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**Tony Devlin** coordinates The Salvation Army's Moneycare program in Australia and is passionate about developing and running effective programs, focused on marginalised and vulnerable people and families, that help prevent and alleviate financial hardship, and that build capability and resilience. Tony has degree in business studies, a diploma in criminology, graduate diploma in counselling and a diploma in community services. He is an accredited financial counsellor and a certified practising accountant.

# Bright Spots - Program

## MASIC

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Dealing with complex moral and social issues is an integral part of being people living in community. Depending on how people respond, the inherent dignity of each individual can be affirmed and enhanced. However, there is also potential for these issues to harm people's lives, remove their freedom to become all that they could be.

The Salvation Army is well known for the practical and spiritual ways it helps people work through such issues and overcome them. It also seeks to provide a Christian viewpoint on these issues, offering socially responsible ethical guidance for the community at large and its own people. The Salvation Army's Moral and Social Issues Council (MASIC) seeks to help Salvationists form a biblical understanding of some of the social issues that are present in Australia.

Many moral and social issues that beset us in life become challenging when none of the feasible options seems ideal or perfect. The path that one follows needs to be based on Biblical principles, on God's leading, on conscience, on fact and evidence, and on the individual's personal circumstances. So, the answer for one individual might be different from that of another. MASIC seeks to provide guidance for Salvationists in their own lives and in the ministry they provide through our church organisation, and to ensure that the broader community understands how the Christian perspective can be applied. We are created for our relationships—with God, with each other and with all of Creation. MASIC seeks to provide a framework on which we build relationships, rather than break them down.

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***'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."***

*Matthew 22:36-39*

***With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!***

*Psalms 119:10 ESV*

- Are there any social issues you think Australia is wrestling with at the moment? What is your biblical understanding of this issue?
- Given the sensitivity around many social issues, in what ways can we discuss these issues in a way that affirms and enhances the dignity of all people?

## Prayer Points

- MASIC grapples with complex issues facing both church and world. These include sexuality, euthanasia, human rights, social media and environment issues; and the incidence of abortion, suicide and people seeking asylum in countries other than their own. Please pray for wisdom and creativity as we seek to form Positional Statements, Guidelines for Salvationists, and Discussion Papers that reflect both the principles AND the love of God. Also as we pursue new forms of engagement with Salvationists and friends across Australia.

[my.salvos.org.au/about-us/moral-and-social-issues](http://my.salvos.org.au/about-us/moral-and-social-issues)

[www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Who-We-Are/vision-and-mission/Positional-Statements](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Who-We-Are/vision-and-mission/Positional-Statements)

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## **Major Peter McGuigan**

Since his ordination and commissioning as a Salvation Army officer in 1987, Peter has served in corps officer, editorial, communications and public relations appointments. Peter has also served ecumenically as president of the Australasian Religious Press Association, the peak body for Christian journalism and publishing in Australia and New Zealand. Writer of hundreds of opinion, feature and column articles, published in Australia and internationally, Peter is also the author of two books and contributing writer and/or editor in several others. Peter is chair of the Eastern Territory Moral and Social Issues Council.

## **Prof Graeme P Young AM**

MB BS MD FRACP FTSE AGAF

Graeme Young is a medical graduate of the University of Melbourne and consultant physician and gastroenterologist. He is currently the Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and Professor of Global Gastrointestinal Health at Flinders University, South Australia. He is a life-long Salvationist, having held posts including CSM of Box Hill Corps in Melbourne, a member of the Public Questions Board for the Australian Southern Territory in the mid 1980s (a fore-runner of the current Moral and Social Issues Council) and a senior corps cadet counsellor. He is currently a soldier at Box Hill Corps.



# The Kingdom of God

## WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

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What is the Kingdom of God? A common English notion of a kingdom today gives rise to monarchs, their geographical boundaries, perhaps even reflecting the authority exerted over its citizens. In the New Testament, however, the Kingdom of God does not refer to a particular location. When Jesus speaks of the Kingdom he uses all manner of metaphors to describe it—it is near you, in your midst; similarly it can be received, or it can be entered; it belongs to little ones; its secrets are given to disciples and parables about it confuse; it cannot be entered by force, nor can wealth provide you with access.

Often the kingdom is connected with, or as the object of, the Good News of God. Jesus is both its chief proclaimer and chief agent. Likewise, the phrase Kingdom of Heaven (found only in Matthew's Gospel) reflects the same idea. This particularly Jewish phrasing illustrates reverence for God and sees Heaven as the source of God's authority.

An equally helpful translation of this term might be 'the kingdom belonging to Heaven' or 'the kingdom from Heaven'. Rather than a place we can go, or even trying to name the place where we go when we die, it is more helpful to see the Kingdom of God as referring to the activity (or the action) of God who, in Jesus (and his followers), is setting the world to rights. You might say the Kingdom of God represents the intentional transforming, saving, healing, life giving initiative of God who through Jesus Christ is restoring all creation.

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***For the Kingdom of God is not food and drink but justice/righteousness  
and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***

*Romans 14:17*

- What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God?
- Where do you see the activity of God breaking in to your community and corps?
- Are there particular areas of justice where you believe God wants your corps to be involved?
- What NT references to the kingdom currently resonate with you or your corps?

## Prayer Points

- The Lord's Prayer, an important prayer of the Church Universal, evokes the coming of God's Kingdom. As we consider what God is doing in our midst during the 100 days of prayer we can be guided in the prayer as our Heavenly Father taught us:

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in Heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever. Amen.*

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**David Janssen** is the assistant director of the School for Christian Studies. He teaches New Testament and is interested in the intersection of faith, the Bible, life and ministry in a contemporary context. He also likes Lego, Marvel movies, and spending time with his family.

# Dreams and Visions

**BROOKE PRENTIS**

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My heartbeat for this land we now call Australia is a dream of a different Australia—an Australia that is built on truth, justice, love and hope. It's the vision of the kingdom of heaven here on earth in this land we now call Australia.

As Aboriginal peoples, the dream is blurred by over 200 years of disappointment, destruction and death.

We've been waiting a long time for truth—truth of slavery, genocide, massacres.

We've been waiting a long time for justice—justice for stolen land, stolen wages, stolen generations.

We've been waiting a long time for love—praying that people would simply love us first, would love us enough to learn from the world's oldest living culture.

We've been waiting a long time for hope.

Our time for hope is now. Our time—you and I together in love and in friendship. This is my heartbeat for Australia. It's a heartbeat where we must hear our individual heartbeat, the heartbeat of our brother, our sister, our neighbour, and the heartbeat of this land.

I want you to hear the heartbeat of this land.

As Aboriginal people we feel it under our feet as we walk this sacred and ancient land just as over 3,000 generations of our ancestors did.

We hear it in the whisper of the breeze, in the crash of the wave on the beach, in the rustling of the gum leaves. We hear it in Old Mapoon out of the rising of the ashes, in Walpiri country where we stand in the hot desert sun, in Wurundjeri country from the winds on mountains.

It's the voice of Almighty God, Great Creator Spirit, Papa Jesus. A voice we've heard for over 60,000 years.

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***They will be called "Trees of justice", planted by the Lord to honour His name. Then they will rebuild cities that have been in ruins for many generations.***

*Isaiah 61 : 3-4 (CEV)*

***If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.***

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

- What is your heartbeat for Australia?
- What are your passions and how can they contribute to the Kingdom of God?
- How can you contribute personally to bringing about Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples?

## Prayer Points

- Pray for friendship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples—a friendship based on truth, justice, love and hope.
- Pray for a 'closing of the gap', remembering that behind every statistic of disadvantage facing Aboriginal peoples is an Aunty, an Uncle, a brother, a sister, a friend, a child of God, with a name and heartbeat.
- Pray for an end to racism.

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**Brooke Prentis** is a descendant of the Waka Waka peoples. Brooke is an Aboriginal Christian Leader and Salvationist who lives in Brisbane. Brooke works ecumenically and speaks publically on a local and national level on issues of justice and poverty in this land we now call Australia. Brooke is the Aboriginal spokesperson for Common Grace and the Coordinator of the Grasstree Gathering—a national gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders.

# Australian Leaders

## PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

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You and I may have authority, but you should also know we are under authority. 'You're gonna have to serve somebody', sang Bob Dylan—with sharp insight. So, it does us good to bless those who shoulder the burden of leadership, and pray these blessings bring them grace. IT is not simply for our own sake we do this—the gospel injunction is to pray for our leaders.

Throughout 100 Days, each Friday will be spent praying for our leaders within Australia. They may be our local leaders, our spiritual leaders, our political leaders, our work place leaders, or our church leaders.

Who are the leaders in your life? Naming our leaders in prayer is a gift of respect and support. It keeps us humble, is a reminder that our leaders are human, and is a balm during times of testing and disagreement.

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***And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;  
with skilful hands he led them.***

*Psalm 78:72*

- Who are the leaders in your life?
- Have you considered the ways in which you can build up those who lead you? Can you send an encouraging email, or shout them a coffee?
- Who are the leaders in your faith community? How can you support them in prayer today?

### Prayer points

- Pray for the leaders of our country.
  - Pray for the leaders of your community.
  - Pray for the leaders of your church.
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This entry was written by a member of the 100 Days team and has been adapted from page 64 of *Army on its knees*.

# Bright Spots - Corps

## THE SALVATION ARMY TOWNSVILLE RIVERWAY

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Townsville Riverway Recovery Mission (originally Townsville City Corps) is located in the city of Townsville—the second largest city in Queensland (pop. 200,000). It is one of the 20 Salvation Army expressions of the Northern Hub (QLD). As the name suggests there is a strong emphasis on recovery, through the Townsville Recovery Services centre. A corps for the generations, we intentionally seek to celebrate the influence that comes when “...one generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4).

Our community has a high proportion of indigenous people and, through all our ministries, we are seeking to connect with them in different ways. Our strengthening work with children, youth and young adults has mentoring and discipleship as its key factors, and up to 250 people see the corps as their faith community.

Much of our week involves investing in the life of our community, and our Community Café provides a safe, enjoyable place for people to come for complimentary refreshments, free bread and other products, cheap clothing, a craft table, and connections with Centrelink personnel. We also run Kids Club, a Free Community BBQ, and Thursday Night Church— featuring live music and relevant teaching

Other key community connections are through local primary schools and the high school next door— where we provide sandwiches for children’s lunch, engage with children during lunchtime in the playground, and partner with Scripture Union in the high school with their life development program.

After great success running Christianity Explained this year, we are endeavouring to move those who have completed it into being disciplined and mentored through discipleship classes, bible studies, Men of Honour and other life groups.

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***The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

- Where is God at work in your community?
- How can you partner with God in mission?
- Where is there injustice, and what can you do about that?
- How are you revealing God’s amazing love in your community?

## Prayer Points

- We pray for transformation across our community—lower crime, restoration of relationships, safety of children, impact on people in addiction, and decrease in domestic violence and suicide. Individual transformation = community transformation.
- Our corps can be quite a ‘messy’ place as we all come with our brokenness. Please pray for guidance for key leaders to be strengthened in their ability to lead and their love for others in their brokenness.
- Please seek God on our behalf that we will be wise in the stewardship of the resources that we have and those we seek and—most of all—that our wisdom will stem from a daily reliance on Holy Spirit.
- Please pray that we will see increasing empowering and developing of leaders to keep stepping in faithfully to what God is calling them to.

*Townsville Riverway Recovery Mission is part of the Northern Hub (QLD).*

**[salvos.org.au/northqld](https://salvos.org.au/northqld)**

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**Beth Twivey** is an officer of 29 years, and is married to David with three adult children.

# The Australian Context

## COMMUNITIES OF POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE

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The Salvation Army's 2016 ESIS research shows us that individuals and families continue to experience high rental costs and extreme housing stress, and clients renting privately are at risk of homelessness. Family violence is the leading factor for housing transiency, and children raised in generational poverty and unemployment lack a stable base to grow and flourish.

One in five of the Salvation Army clients surveyed could not afford medical treatment or medicine prescribed by a doctor, and two in five could not afford a yearly dental check-up for their children. High rents and low income set the scene for a life of hardship and disadvantage, against a system that keeps them down.

However, our Doorways attempts to alleviate some of the pressures experienced by communities of poverty and disadvantage by providing emergency relief measures, financial counselling, and advocacy on debts and bills.

If Australian communities were not facing disadvantage, we would be a land of genuine equity, where children are fed, clothed, housed and educated, and all people share resources and opportunities.

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***Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God... Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done... The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.***

*Proverbs 14:31, 19:17, 22:9*

- Where in your community do you see people experiencing poverty and disadvantage?
- Have you considered the ways in which you can assist families experiencing poverty and disadvantage?

### Prayer points

- Ask that God would reveal those who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage in your communities.
- Pray that our churches and services would be a place of comfort and welcome for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.
- Pray for our staff and volunteers who work in communities experiencing poverty and disadvantage.

[www.antipovertyweek.org.au/resources/promotional-materials](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/resources/promotional-materials)

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**Barry Gittins** is a writer, a researcher and a member of the 100 Days team. He works for The Salvation Army, in the social programme department. Barry is married to Trudy; they have a daughter, Emily (12), a son, Benjamin (nine), and various chooks and guinea pigs.



## Bright Spots - Social

### **ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE SERVICE.**

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The Salvation Army Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service is located in the inner northern suburb of Brunswick, Melbourne. Our service provides practical, social, emotional and spiritual support to people seeking asylum and some from refugee backgrounds who live in the Northern and Western suburbs of Melbourne.

#### **Story:**

*Sayed and Maryam\* visited the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service for emergency relief shortly after being released from immigration detention.*

*Sayed met with Major Colin Elkington and expressed that he wanted to know more about Jesus and how to become a Christian. Because Sayed and Maryam spoke very little English they came to the centre every week for Christianity Explained lessons, where one of our multilingual Christian volunteers interpreted and translated the lesson material into Farsi. At the conclusion of the course both Sayed and Maryam decided to become Christians.*

*Colin attempted to link Sayed and Maryam into two different corps, however because of their limited English Sayed and Maryam stopped attending church.*

*As the weeks and months went by, Colin was being invited by more Iranian people to come to their homes and to teach them about Jesus. Seven more people came to faith and once again Colin attempted, unsuccessfully, to link them into an English speaking corps.*

*One day, Colin was visiting an Iranian couple who had been Christians for some years. They were attending a Baptist church and told Colin that whilst it was a very nice church, they wished they could worship in their own language as they did not understand what was happening. It was then that Colin felt the Lord was leading him to commence a congregation for Farsi speakers.*

*In July 2015, Farsi Church commenced at Brunswick Corps. Since then Sayed and Maryam have become adherents and, in recent weeks, soldiers of The Salvation Army. Their son was also recently enrolled as a junior soldier.*

*\*Names have been changed.*

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***“Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a***

***stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."***

*Matthew 25: 34-36 NIV*

- Reflect on the international refugee crisis. To help understand why people leave their country and try to reach somewhere safe by boat go to You Tube and watch "Missy Higgins – Oh Canada (Official Video)" This song was inspired by the images in the media of a young Kurdish Syrian boy whose body was found on a beach in Turkey in September 2015. His family were escaping the conflict in Syria and were hoping to join extended family in Canada.
- Read Matthew 2: 13-18. Jesus, Mary and Joseph sought asylum in Egypt. Pray that all people escaping death and persecution will find a safe country to live.
- Reflect on an anxious time of waiting for you once experienced, e.g. waiting for the Army to tell you or your parents where your next appointment would be or a result of an exam, job interview or medical test. Tap into those feelings of anxiety and uncertainty.

Now, imagine you are waiting to apply or have applied to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection for a protection visa. You cannot return to your country because you know you will be tortured or killed if you return. You have been waiting for anywhere between 3 to 5 years to find out what will happen to you.

### **Prayer Points**

- Pray for all people seeking asylum who live in limbo in the community. Ask the Lord to sustain them as they wait for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to invite them to apply for a protection visa, or are waiting for a decision regarding the outcome of their application. Especially pray for people seeking asylum who languish in the Regional Offshore Processing Centres of Nauru and Manus Island.
- Pray for all our politicians as we head into a Federal election. Ask the Lord to change hearts and minds, and for the miracle that both major parties in Australia will develop policies that honour the United Nations Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory. Pray that Australia will become a welcoming and compassionate country to all who seek protection from persecution.
- Pray for all agencies that work with people seeking asylum. There are never enough resources for the vast needs of the people who come for help!
- Pray for the many people who have come to our country and who want to know about Jesus. May they find someone to lead them to faith! Pray that Salvationists and corps open up their hearts to people seeking asylum so they can be welcomed into loving communities of faith and come to know Jesus.

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**Major Karen Elkington** is the program manager of The Salvation Army's Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service in Melbourne. When Karen isn't trying to stretch her Service's meagre budget, leading her enthusiastic team or attending refugee protest rallies you can find her at the Preston Corps supporting their Intercultural Fellowship. Karen is married to the best Salvation Army chaplain in the world and is mother to two intelligent and handsome sons.

# Bright Spots - Program

## FLYING PADRE

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The mission and purpose of the Flying Padre is to carry the Christian message to remote communities and isolated people who live on stations across the top end of Western and Northern Australia.

The Flying Padre operates out of Katherine and covers approximately 1.25 million square miles of the Northern Territory and Western Australia and encompasses over 120 remote cattle stations, communities and small towns.

We offer pastoral care, Christian Education to schools, ceremonies (weddings, funerals, dedications), and practical assistance. You go out never knowing exactly what to expect—you might just be a listening ear; someone might request prayer support; I have flown someone back to Katherine for a dental emergency, saving them a six-hour trip by car. You can find yourself helping with cattle in the yards, or talking to someone in the workshop—the list goes on and on. It is a very relational, practical ministry.

Even with modern forms of communication, people can feel distant and disconnected. In a small community people may often find it hard to talk to their fellow workers about concerns and problems they are facing, so having the Padre visit and sit across the table to talk to is much appreciated and highly valued. It is a privilege to be able to get to know and journey with people in their faith walk.

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***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.***

*Proverbs 3:5–6*

- How can you engage in relational, practical ministry to those in your community?
- How can you help bridge the distance for people feeling distant and disconnected?

### Prayer Points

- For safe travel
- That the connection with the outback community will be meaningful and focused toward bringing people to know Jesus
- Pray for funds to cover the ongoing costs for the Flying Padre Service
- Pray for purposeful ways to reach out and expand the Flying Padre ministry

[www.salvationarmy.org.au/flyingpadre](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/flyingpadre)

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**Greg** is an officer in the Northern Territory, where he serves as the Flying Padre. This appointment sees him flying out to stations and communities in the top end of Australia. He is married with 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

# The Kingdom of God

## WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

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'The Kingdom of God' is God's ideal plan for the world – it's the world as He intended it to be. We know that this Kingdom is not fully manifest today, yet we see glimpses of it in our daily lives each time we experience joy, or bring hope or love or peace to those around us. Scripture tell us that the Kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21), and as a result, we can bring the Kingdom to earth through our actions and our lives. Each time we pray "thy Kingdom come... on earth as it is in Heaven", we know that God will honour that request, and we have a part to play in seeing that happen.

As we wait for God's Kingdom to come fully, we are faced with the reality that is this world. This is our context. As we wait for the Kingdom to come in all its fullness, we see around us hurt, pain, suffering and injustice – we see things that do not fit within God's ideal plan for the world. Yet we are told that we are "not of the world". This is because we were built for another Kingdom – for the Kingdom of God. Each morning, when we wake up, we need to re-focus our hearts and minds on God's ideal plan for the world – on the Kingdom of God. "We have caught the vision splendid" of that plan, and it's our role, our mission, to see that vision become reality in the areas over which we have influence – in our homes, in our workplaces, in our communities, in our families. Geoff Ryan said "the reality keeps me up at night but the vision gets me up in the morning". Let's fix our eyes on the vision of God's Kingdom that we are told about in scripture, and do all that we can, in whatever situation we find ourselves, to see a glimpse of that Kingdom come today.

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***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

*Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

- What are some glimpses of the Kingdom that you have seen over the past week?
- Geoff Ryan said "the reality keeps me up at night but the vision gets me up in the morning". What is the reality that is "keeping you up at night" and how are you working to see that situation align with God's ideal plan?
- What can you do over the next week to increase the number of glimpses you see of God's Kingdom?

### Prayer Points

- Pray that Salvationists would see God's vision for the communities in which they serve
- Pray that God would give us opportunities to bring glimpses of His Kingdom to earth
- Pray that we would have eyes that recognise when God is showing us a glimpse of His Kingdom

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**Casey** is from Sydney Congress Hall Corps, and is the Territorial Social Justice Coordinator for the Australia Eastern Territory. Casey is passionate about seeing local expressions of the Army bringing the Kingdom of God where they are, and loves seeing those local expressions work together to form the Army's global impact.

# Dreams and Visions

**CATHERINE PHILPOT**

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If there was a poll taken of what people like most about Australia I wonder how many of us would talk about its natural beauty—the Blue Mountains, Uluru, the Great Ocean Road. All of these are reasons why I love Australia and am proud to belong to this part of planet Earth. For me, the natural landscape shouts out the glory of God.

My heart cry for Australia is that we would be able to see this glory of God more fully, in each other and in our own lives. You see, I think we see God's glory in a newborn baby, the perfection of tiny fingers and toes. But do we remember the glory of God's creation when we see a person struggling with alcoholism or a person who has a different faith to us?

I think that from the very beginning God shared his glory with us and invited creation to participate with him in bringing greater glory to life. God made sea and land but then he also invited sea and land to produce life. God made humankind, but he also shared his glory with us by blessing us and giving us dominion. In the beginning God saw that all he had made was very good (Genesis 1). In the end, all creatures will give him glory (Philippians 2:10–11). In the meantime, it seems to me that our purpose is to join the heavens in declaring the glory of God and to make every moment about bringing his glory to Earth.

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***...so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.***

*Philippians 2:15*

- What is it that brings God glory?
- How can we raise each other up to reflect God's glory?
- How can we participate with God in making our lives glorious?
- How can we bring the glory of God's love and grace to our relationships?

## Prayer Points

- That we as a Salvation Army will raise people up for the glory of God in all that we do
  - That we as individuals and as an Army will reflect the glory of God, particularly in his love and grace
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**Catherine Philpot** is a soldier at Brisbane Streetlevel Mission and Brisbane City Temple Corps. She is also a psychologist for The Salvation Army, wife to David and mother of Harrison, Samuel and Jacob.

# Australian Leaders

## PRAY FOR OUR POLITICIANS

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As a constitutional democracy, Australia has a history of relatively stable governments, where leaders can sometimes gain agreement—the principle of bipartisanship—with their opponents for the greater good. The ideal role and goal of politicians remains the same: to provide social, ethical and economic leadership to the country, and protect and serve its citizens.

This role can be lost in the effort to gain or maintain power; those goals can become foggy as self-preservation, party discipline and polls combine to stretch the individual's capacities, ethics and loyalties.

Federal, state or local, Australia's politicians are overwhelmingly a dedicated and hardworking group who often sacrifice time they could be spending with their families, loved ones and friends. They, like all people, deserve the respect of being treated with dignity.

Voters choose individuals and governments on how they are seen to perform. We assess politicians by their actions and words; their beliefs, policies, principles or passions. Even when we don't share their views, perhaps we, like our representatives, can make Australia a better place by pursuing Christ's golden rule and treating others the way we'd like to be treated (Luke 6:31).

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***First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

*1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV*

- How do you decide how to vote – what drives your decision?
- Have you met the candidates who stand for election in your local area?
- What values do you expect of your elected leaders?

### Prayer Points

- Pray for ethical decisions to be made by politicians; and for the wisdom and courage to discern your response to the issues being decided.
  - Pray that our politicians would be aware of the support, expectations, and requirements of their constituents.
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**Barry Gittins** is a writer, a researcher and a member of the 100 Days team. He works for The Salvation Army, in the social programme department. Barry is married to Trudy; they have a daughter, Emily (12), a son, Benjamin (9), and various chooks and guinea pigs.

# Bright Spots - Corps

## THE SALVATION ARMY KINGSTON GARDENS

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At Kingston Gardens we journey alongside people and help them integrate into the life of the corps and reach their full potential in Christ. We have a multifaceted ministry encouraging multi-generational acceptance, inclusion and integration as one body working towards transformation in Christ.

Samah and Michael came to us through Doorways Community Support Services and were invited to Messy Church. We have journeyed with them for a few years now and they have participated in a parenting course, Journeys and mainly music. This year they have connected with our Sunday worship gathering and a small group, and have also taken up opportunities of service. Both from Egypt, Samah has a background in social work and Michael has experience in accounting. Samah is currently being trained as assistant leader in our Tuesday Special Needs Ministry and Michael is one of two who are being trained in the finance team. During this period we have journeyed alongside them and supported them in prayer about personal health concerns and major surgery.

Our Sunday morning congregation focuses on equipping the 'saints', as well as being sensitive to seekers and also embraces our growing children's work. This service also is attracting migrant families, seniors and a number of special needs people who attend every Sunday, thus allowing a more diverse, multicultural congregation.

Our corps program also involves Messy Church, a special needs congregation on Tuesdays, work experience and volunteer programs and student placement.

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***If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, have the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.***

*Philippians 2:1-2*

- Who has God brought across your path and into your relational world to journey alongside to show them the love of God too?
- Where is God at work and calling you to partner with Him in His work?

### Prayer Points

- For opportunities to arise for intentional conversations
- That those who connect with Kingston Gardens Salvos come to faith and are anchored in their relationship with Jesus
- Broadening of the leadership base necessary to carry the load
- Creative arts renaissance—the development and introduction of creative arts into worship services and as missional expression

## Day 15

June 15th

[www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Find-Us/Victoria/KingstonGardens](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Find-Us/Victoria/KingstonGardens)

[www.facebook.com/K.G.Salvos](https://www.facebook.com/K.G.Salvos)

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**Majors Charlie and Narelle Jacobsen** have been corps officers at Kingston Gardens for past 11 years, and they have three amazing children. They are passionate about mission and seeing people reach their full potential in Christ.



# The Australian Context

## ISOLATION AND EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE

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Without adequate resources, adults and children cannot fully participate in their communities, depleting our social capital as a nation. The 2016 ESIS shows that Salvation Army clients live day to day with financial hardship, persistent unemployment, continual disadvantage, and multiple deprivations.

The parents' low access to resources for to gain employment and higher income means their children are living in poverty and are excluded: they are almost nine times less likely to have access to internet—impacting their education—and 14 times less likely to have access to a motor vehicle compared to average Australian children—crippling their socialisation and mobility.

For households with children aged 17 or younger, almost three out of five respondents could not afford an internet connection for their children, and approximately half could not afford up-to-date school items or provide money to participate in school activities.

The Salvation Army provides financial support to families as possible, and advocates against further attrition to already limited government support to vulnerable Australians. If Australia were free from this issue, children and adults would not be shunned and excluded; everyone would have the chance to participate and shine.

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***'...often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...'***

*– Jesus Christ, from Luke 13:34*

- Are you aware of any children in your community who experience isolation and exclusion?
- Have you considered the ways in which your family can support families who experience deprivation due to isolation and exclusion?

### Prayer points

- Pray for families who experience isolation and exclusion. Pray that they would be supported by compassionate and loving communities.
- Pray specifically by children who experience isolation and exclusion. Pray that encouraging and supportive adults would be able to speak into their lives.
- Pray that policy makers would be filled with compassion regarding people experiencing isolation and exclusion.

[ppcg.org.au/dev/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/HAIF\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://ppcg.org.au/dev/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/HAIF_report_final.pdf)

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**Barry Gittins** is a writer, a researcher and a member of the 100 Days team. He works for The Salvation Army, in the social programme department. Barry is married to Trudy; they have a daughter, Emily (12), a son, Benjamin (9), and various chooks and guinea pigs.

# Bright Spots - Social

## SAFE FROM THE START

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Safe from the Start is an award winning, evidence based program consisting of a one day training program and resource tool kit that was informed by research work undertaken by UTAS /Swinburne Universities: States of Mind, (Dr Erica Bell, UTAS), Safe from the Start: and action research: Education and therapy to assist workers to engage with young children (Dr Angela Spinney) who have witnessed domestic or family violence.

The researchers worked with professionals in the family-violence and child and family sector to identify the impact of trauma on children, how all workers can use activity based play to engage children who have witnessed family violence and through creatively using the kit's resources, assist in listening to the voices of children. *One encounter with a child can change their lives forever.*

This Australian project was initially designed for children who have experienced family violence. The resources include special topic books, puppets, DVD's, language-ball and activity cards which assist in engaging the child to participate in relating to a story that encourages them to share their feelings about their situation. The Salvation Army has published four special books as part of the project: When Daddy Hits the Table, When Mummy Shouts, Little Jack the Wallaby (Aboriginal) and My Brother Sam (bullying).

A new research project; Increasing Men's Awareness of the Effects on Children Exposed to Family and Domestic Violence was launched in April 2016. The quote, '*A child who lives with violence is forever changed, but not forever 'damaged', - and there is a lot that we can do to improve their future prospects*' Cunningham/Baker, inspired the project.

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***Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.***

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

- In what ways can you demonstrate healthy relationships to people in your immediate sphere of influence?

### Prayer Points

- Thank God for blessing this project that has grown into a national program so that children affected by domestic violence are nurtured and healed from the effects of violence.

## Day 17

June 17th

- Pray for direction as we seek to engage fathers who are violent to change their behaviour, increase awareness of violent behaviour influencing their child's development and how to be good caring fathers for their children.
- Pray for children around Australia who experience violence.

**[www.salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart)**

# Bright Spots - Program

## SUMMER CARNIVAL

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Summer Carnival is the The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory's Youth Councils, and sees hundreds of young people from all over the territory gather for a five-days of music, dancing, guest speakers, carnival rides and group activities. The event is facilitated by The Department of Youth and aimed at the territory's young Salvationists, starting at high school age through to 21. Summer Carnival isn't just a camp, however, it's an evangelical campaign.

The aim of the event is to create constructive momentum for The Salvation Army's Divisional youth ministries and to host decisions for faith, commitments for ongoing discipleship in the Corps Cadets program and recruits for soldiership and officership. The methods used to achieve this aim are to engage the delegates with positive community, team-based games, Corps Cadets groups, and effective worship and preaching.

Overall, Summer Carnival is a big camp that attracts young people with fun, prayer and music. The purpose is to make more Christians and more Salvos—it's that simple. Over the last five years Summer Carnival has been host to hundreds of decisions for faith, and commitments to soldiership and officership. This was no exception with 176 total ministry responses—including 27 new Christians!

The key scripture verse for Summer Carnival has always been Mark 1:15, the simplest gospel that Jesus preached at the start of his ministry. Summer Carnival always puts the good news of God's love at the heart of all it does, calling all to experience salvation through faith and repentance.

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***"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"***

*Mark 1:15*

- How can you encourage young people in your faith community this week?
- Have you considered asking a young person how you can support them in prayer?

### Prayer Points

- Pray that Summer Carnival would be good news for those that need it most.
- Pray for strong leadership to help with running the event and support its future.
- Pray that the will of God would be done and the Kingdom realised in the lives of young people.

[www.facebook.com/CorpsCadets](https://www.facebook.com/CorpsCadets)

# The Kingdom of God

## MY ROLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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Recently I had the opportunity to attend a church in San Francisco known for its ministry to the marginalised. As I lined up to enter the sanctuary, around 100 homeless men and women were entering another part of the building, lining up for their Sunday breakfast and shower. As the church service began, I was struck by the diversity of those praising God—men, women, children, obviously rich and obviously poor—people of all nationalities and races, those who could sing and those who couldn't! And as we continued to sing, hug and worship God, many of those homeless who had lined up for a meal joined the chorus of praise lifted up to God. As I observed this disparate bunch of people, I had an undeniable sense that I was experiencing the Kingdom of God right there and then.

Often we unconsciously pick who is in or out of God's Kingdom, but that Sunday reminded me that my role is not to choose who is worthy. Rather, I am called to simply be Christ's ambassador in God's ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11–21). We pray that God's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven and that his Kingdom come. God's will—his Kingdom—not my own. My role is to be an ambassador of the Good News to all, regardless of my own preferences or comforts, and sometimes that means hugging a homeless person or allowing the poor into my personal space.

My experience that Sunday has led me to some tough questions. Is my attitude to ministry championing God's Kingdom or my own kingdom? Am I an ambassador of the Gospel or am I choosing who is worthy of God's Kingdom because of my own agenda?

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***Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are “out of our mind”, as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.***

***So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

2 Corinthians 5:11–21, NIV

- What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God? Are there ways in which your own prejudices, preferences or worldview have influenced this?
- How can you be Christ's ambassador in God's ministry of reconciliation?
- In what ways can your faith community be ambassadors of God's ministry of reconciliation?

## Prayer Points

- Reflect on Psalm 139, asking God to reveal any 'hurtful ways' in you. Are there some attitudes that you need to repent from?
- Pray for people who experience social exclusion; pray that they may experience the inclusion and love of the Kingdom of God.

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**Matt Cairns** works for the Social Justice Department in AUE and also as Student Support for Booth College. He is married to Kristen and has three daughters. He is on the leadership team at Rockdale Salvation Army.

# Dreams and Visions

## MAJOR CHRISTINE WRIGHT

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After travelling to many different countries, I believe Australia is an amazing place to live. We have space beyond what most people can only dream of, and support services that offer some provision for the most disadvantaged in our communities. As a reflection of our recognition of this gift, I would love to see a deep gratefulness for our country, demonstrated by a graciousness in developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another, which I pray would overflow in a reduction of violence against others. Can violence co-exist with gratefulness within us? As we develop this gratefulness, I believe our hearts would naturally turn to the giver of this gift—God our Father.

A scripture that I have held onto throughout my ministry as an officer says, 'the one who calls you is faithful and he will do it' (1 Thes 5:24). This passage is a constant reminder that it is God and the work of Jesus through his holy spirit that enables his Kingdom to come on earth. Our role is to respond to his call in all of the moments of our days. As God's people it is my earnest desire that our lives would reflect the hope that Christ offers; to recognise that Christ died for all—even that person we find difficult to be in relationship with—and respond in a manner that holds the sacredness of that reality.

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***The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

- Does my life reflect the hope that Jesus offers?
- How do my attitudes, actions and words help 'The Kingdom of God' to come on earth as it is in heaven?

### Prayer Points

- That we would all desire to develop a grateful heart for our gift of life.
  - That we would learn to live with our differences without resorting to violence.
  - That Australia would indeed become 'the great southland of the Holy Spirit'.
- 

**Christine Wright** is an officer, responsible for the Central Victoria Division. Her passion is to see people connecting with the heart of God and discovering his gift of 'life in its fullness' through Jesus. Christine is married with adult children, and two grandsons.

# Australian Leaders

## SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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My name is Ian Michelson and I have been principal of Bayswater Primary School for more than 10 years. I have worked for the Department of Education (Victoria) in a range of roles including classroom teacher at all primary school levels, leading teacher, assistant principal and principal.

The role of a principal has many challenges and is multi-dimensional. One of the roles I find both challenging and rewarding is to help the whole school (including students, staff and parents) to become a successful learning community in which everyone is supported and feels a sense of belonging. Teamwork and a sense of belonging are essential if students are to fulfil their potential in all curriculum areas. It is very rewarding to see people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances learning to work together and support one another.

Staff members need to know each student individually, know each student's strengths and challenges, and facilitate programs that cater for a broad range of individual student needs. We need to have a sense of service to our students and their families. As Jesus said, "Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others..." (Matthew 20:28). I have found Jesus' example to be a firm foundation for successful leadership and for life in general.

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***Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.***

*Matthew 20:28 (MSG)*

- Who are the principals of your local primary and high schools?
- How can your community encourage the principals of your local school this week?

### Prayer Points

- Pray for the staff and leadership of your local schools as they perform roles that are important for the future of their students and Australian society. Schools thrive with help from volunteers and are encouraged when people ask how they can help.

[www.bayswaterps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bayswaterps.vic.edu.au)

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**Ian Michelson** enjoys family life with his wife Faye, three daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters.



# Bright Spots - Corps

## THE SALVATION ARMY DARWIN

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Darwin Corps has a campus located in Anula—a northern suburb of Darwin, Northern Territory—however, our community covers all of the Darwin area. The Northern Territory is one of Australia's most culturally diverse regions. Its population includes people of over 100 nationalities and supports some 50 social, cultural and religious organisations. As a cwe are beginning to explore what it means to be a truly diverse, inclusive, multicultural faith community in the midst of a phenomenally diverse and exhilarating community.

As we have begun to look outwards and see where God is active in our community, our congregation is becoming increasingly enlivened with what it means to partner with God in mission and to be The Salvation Army. We are seeing lives transformed within our congregation and within our community.

Doorways runs out of our corps and we also have new ministry, The Salvo Shuttle, which provides much needed transport from our campus for visitors out to the prison. On Sunday mornings, we hold a worship and celebration service which features music and sharing in multiple languages, Other ministries include Darwin Salvo Kids, Top End Salvo Youth (combined with Palmerston Corps), study groups, hotel ministry and numerous fundraising activities—the corps is a thriving hub which continues to serve our community

With an increase in positive publicity we are seeing significant numbers of people in our local community supporting our services, with many asking to get involved in the mission and ministry. We are seeing connections made, relationships formed and people growing deeper in their faith.

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***I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.***

*Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT)*

- Where is God at work in your community?
- How can you partner with God in mission?
- Where is there injustice? What can you do about that?
- How are you revealing God's amazing love in your community?

## Prayer Points

Our prayer is that, as we partner with God in mission and actively engage in the diverse community of Darwin, people will come to know God's amazing love for them and God's invitation to join him in life in all its fullness.

Please pray that:

- we would continue to discern God's leading as we serve our community.
- our congregation will continue to be empowered and equipped to engage in mission in Darwin.
- we will continue to see lives transformed and that we will be able to speak into the issues and begin to see our community reformed and justice for the marginalised.

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**Simone** is the assistant corps officer at Darwin Corps. She is married to Mark and they have 4 incredible children- Grace (16), Isaac (13), Esther (9) and Reuben (9), a delightful black Labrador named Dusty and fabulous fish named Lakee. She loves her appointment in Darwin where she gets to see God at work in the lives of people every single day.

# The Australian Context

## INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to experience ongoing discrimination and exclusion. This marginalisation has at times been caused by historical discrimination and oppression, as well as attitudes of racism entrenched within societal activities and policies that devalue the world's oldest living culture.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are significantly disadvantaged in comparison to non-Indigenous Australians in the following areas:

- Poverty
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Family and Domestic Violence
- Homelessness
- Employment
- Aged care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—especially women and children—experience a significantly higher rate of violence than non-Indigenous Australians, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women being 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence. On Census night 2011, 1 in 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were homeless; that is 14 times the rate for non-Indigenous people. Additionally, Indigenous Australians are overrepresented in the prison system including juvenile detention, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rates of imprisonment 13 times higher than that of non-Indigenous people.

So, what should be our response to this?

Christians are called to be agents of reconciliation and restoration. We are to be the proclaimers of God's love for every human being, not in spite of our differences but in acknowledgment that in our differences we more fully represent and reflect our creator. Our goal then must surely be to arrive at a place where Indigenous Australians, their culture, customs and spirituality, are valued, not in a 'we must tolerate them' sense but as an integral and essential element within the spirituality and soul of Australia. It is only as this occurs that we can honestly claim to be recognising and embracing Indigenous Australians.

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***Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.***

*Psalms 139:23-24*

- Where in your life can you create space to hear the voices of Indigenous Australians?
- What preconceived notions or prejudices may be impacting the way you engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

## Prayer Points

- Pray that Indigenous voices are truly incorporated into the policies impacting the livelihoods of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Pray for indigenous Australians who continue to experience discrimination and oppression; pray that the gap of disadvantage would close.
- Pray that the hearts of all Australians would be convicted to love our indigenous brothers and sisters.

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This entry was written by a member of the 100 Days team. It has drawn on information from The Salvation Army's Policy Statement 2016-2017 and resources from The Social Justice Department.

# Bright Spots - Social

## FREEDOM PARTNERSHIPS

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What is the Freedom Partnership? A Salvation Army initiative to educate the community, business and government sectors regarding modern slavery, and support people who have survived slavery.

At least 3,000 people are enslaved in Australia, in agriculture, construction, hospitality, domestic work, slave-like marriage, early and forced marriage, sex work, maritime work, retail and other industries.

It operates Australia's only refuge for people who have experienced human trafficking and slavery. This 10-bed Sydney service, for adult women, also supports up to 20 men, women and young people through outreach case management. Referrals can be made from anywhere in Australia. Freedom Partnership staff provide technical assistance to other organisations in Australia and/or overseas on a case-by-case basis.

Its national advocacy program engages key government, community and industry stakeholders in policy reform to address the systemic and underlying causes of slavery and barriers to victim access to justice. It also represents TSA on the Australian Government's National Roundtable on People Trafficking and Slavery.

The 'Freedom Advocates' project trains and supports survivors, who act as spokespeople. Freedom Advocates have met with prime ministers, MPs and cabinet members, spoken to media and at community events, on issues such as reform to the trafficking visa framework.

The Australian Freedom Fund is The Salvation Army's national support fund that provides emergency support, independent living support and family reunification funds to people who have experienced human trafficking and slavery.

***For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent.***

***They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.***

***They trample on the head of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl, and so profane my holy name.***

*Amos 2: 6-7*

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- What can I do to end slavery as an individual, at my workplace, faith or community group?
  - Consider the ways in which slavery touches your life. Who are the unseen, invisible people behind the products and services I consume? Have I taken the Freedom Pledge at [www.endslavery.salvos.org.au](http://www.endslavery.salvos.org.au)? If not, why not?

## Prayer Points

- Pray that people who are supported by the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House and other Salvation Army and community services find true healing, a community and opportunities to thrive in all areas of life.
- Pray for courageous leadership on the part of the Australian Government to recognise the full scale and scope of slavery in Australia and for resources to address the alarming gap between the numbers of known victims and the many thousands that remain undiscovered.
- Pray that The Freedom Partnership's advocacy will lead to a national movement of people whose influence is a powerful force for change with government, business and in local communities.

[www.endslavery.salvos.org.au](http://www.endslavery.salvos.org.au)

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**Jenny** has been a case worker, policy advocate, trainer, community organiser and media spokesperson on the issues of human trafficking and slavery for nearly 18 years in both the United States and Australia. She has also consulted for the US State Department, Anti-Slavery International and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Jenny was nominated for a Pride of Australia Fair Go Medal in 2014. Jenny really really really loves to play soccer.

# Bright Spots - Program

## INTER TERRITORIAL BASKETBALL AND NETBALL CARNIVAL

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The basketball and netball carnival runs from a Sunday to Saturday, beginning with a church parade held at a corps. Welcoming all the people involved in the week—players and non-players—this parade usually has a message that introduces people to the gospel. During the week, teams play about 10-12 games. A devotional word is given each day at lunch time and prayer happens with the teams at numerous times during the day. Carnival finishes with the finals and a presentation dinner. Every year the basketball and netball carnival goes somewhere new in Australia, and this year the three Victorian Divisions are hosting it in Geelong.

The basketball and netball carnival is the largest evangelical intergenerational event we run, and uses sport to introduce people to the gospel. Salvationists bring their friends along for a week of good sport, relationship building, and the opportunity to hear about God. Carnival provides a chance for people to play in teams and develop/share their sporting ability, and opens doors for meaningful conversations that happen through the relationships that build over the week.

Carnival happens all over Australia and brings people together from all over our country and Papua New Guinea. The impact of this event continues to influence people as they go home and get involved in their own communities—whether that be sporting, work, church or families.

Sport is the most dominant language Australian people speak. Meeting people and building relationships on the playing field creates so many opportunities for people to witness the greatness of God—through the character of his players, the abilities shown, and the glory being given to God through the way we play our sport and interact.

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***I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.***

*1 Corinthians 1:10*

- Are you involved in any sporting clubs or groups? How can you share the love of God to this community?
- Have you considered asking God to give you an opportunity to share the gospel to people this week?

## Prayer Points

- That there will be many opportunities to share Jesus with people who don't know him yet.
- People will be bold in their faith, praying for one another and sharing their testimony
- That teams will bind together in unity and that God will be seen in the way people interact with one another, on and off the court.
- That people will realise that God is in everything and is a part of our everyday.

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**Captain Karyn Wishart** is the divisional youth and candidates secretary in Western Victoria, and she has attended and played a part in the Netball Basketball Carnival ministry for 20 years. Karyn is passionate about her sport and seeing people reach their full potential in Christ.



# The Kingdom of God

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND YOUR COMMUNITY

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Sometimes I think bringing God's Kingdom to Earth is less complex than we realise. One of the most practical ways I see God's Kingdom being brought to my community at Wollongong Salvos is through our 'pay it forward' coffee program. People from our church community can purchase coffee cards that are given out to struggling community members who visit our church seeking food, financial assistance, counselling or just someone to chat with.

Every day I watch our volunteers give out these cards, invite people into our café for (a real) coffee and engage them in meaningful conversation. For me, it's a step further than simply giving someone a food parcel or referring them to a financial counsellor. While those things are beneficial too, I'm sure that if Jesus were in our position he would take the time to sit over a coffee with people who are broken, hurting and struggling.

I think that in God's Kingdom, those people are welcomed, cared for and made to feel valued. In my world, I see this happening every day over a cup of coffee and a conversation. From the person who donates their spare change on a Sunday morning to the person who invites someone into our café, it's a simple way of engaging people in building God's Kingdom.

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***As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.***

*Ephesians 4:1–6*

- What's something simple you can do to bring God's Kingdom to your local community?
- How can you show someone experiencing brokenness and hurt the love of God this week?
- Where and how do you see the Kingdom present in your community?
- What would your community look like if the Kingdom was present?

### Prayer Points

- That God would continue to challenge people to give financially to this project
- That as people come into our churches, we would be able to not only meet their physical needs, but also make them feel valued, supported and connected

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**Sarah** is the youth and community worker at Wollongong Salvos. She is passionate about youth ministry, sport and good coffee. Sarah loves travelling, the beach and spending time with friends and family.

# Dreams and Visions

## STUART REID

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My dream for Australia is that we would become a country that seeks God in prayer. There is a movement of prayer that is moving across the world and it is probable that at this time more Christians are mobilised for intentional prayer that at any time in history. It would seem that God is mobilising an army of believers who are disciplined in personal prayer, who discern the activity of God and who live in obedience to the leading of The Holy Spirit.

God has his mission battle plan already organised and our role is not to try to save the world ourselves but to listen to leading of The Holy Spirit, and to obey as his bigger plan unfolds. But it will require us to step out in faith as we respond to God's unexpected assignments. Imagine the impact of prayerful and obedient followers of Jesus accepting assignments from God that release apostles like Paul.

Living like this requires us to surrender our projects and agendas and to do much listening to the voice of God, and then to take action in ways that may have little significance to the priorities of others around us. It is trusting God to the big things, and we accept our small part in his bigger plans.

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***Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul.***

*Acts 11:25*

- If you were to pray exclusively for your community and this nation, what would you pray for?
- If our conversations were the only medium the Holy Spirit chose to use to transform people, how would that change the way we equip each other for service and engage with the world?

### Prayer Points

- Prayer for unity between all expressions of The Salvation Army within a region
  - Prayer for missional partnerships with the Body of Christ across regions, the nation and the globe
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**Stuart Reid** is an area officer in Sydney where his role is to bring missional focus to regional expressions of the Army. Stuart is married to Chris with two adult children, one son-in-law and three granddaughters. He is also a devoted follower of the second world religion—soccer.

# Australian Leaders

## PRAY FOR OUR MENTORS

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When I think back to my formative years as a teenager, there are several key people who significantly influenced my life. They valued me, saw my potential and walked alongside me.

They helped me navigate the awkward teenage phase and work through many of my doubts and questions; they also helped me step into my strengths and calling. I would not be where I am today if adults had not invested in my life.

I have that same privilege, now, speaking into the lives of young teenage girls. Every second Wednesday I run a Bible study with four teenage girls; we eat, discuss Bible passages, and share our lives. We have done this for three years. It brings me so much joy to see how God is changing their lives; equipping them to bring the kingdom of God into their families and school. I also recognise the responsibility!

I think a strength of the church is that we can speak life into peoples' circumstances, while others do the same for us. I appreciate the emotional and spiritual investment that mentoring requires, and I recognise how fortunate I am to have that opportunity, both as a mentor and mentee.

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***Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness. There should be a consistency that runs through us all. For Jesus doesn't change—yesterday, today, tomorrow, he's always totally himself.***

*Hebrews 13:7-8 (The Message)*

- Who are the people in your life that encourage you, positively challenge and support you in prayer?
- How can you encourage the mentors in your life?
- Are you responsible for mentoring anyone? Could you be?

### Prayer Points

- Thank God for the people he has placed in your life who encourage you and hold you to account.
  - Pray for your mentors; pray that God continually strengthens his work in their lives.
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**Amanda** is a Salvationist from Melbourne. She works in the Australia Southern Territory's mission resources department, serving as the '100 Days' coordinator. Amanda is passionate about seeing young people and their communities reach their potential. She is an advocate of justice and believes that all people in The Salvation Army can be agents of change in their local communities.

# Bright Spots - Corps

## THE SALVATION ARMY BELLARINE PENINSULAR

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The Salvation Army Bellarine Peninsula Corps Plant was established in February 2010, when Lieutenants Peter and Diane Hobbs were sent there as their first appointment. Their mission was disciple making—and that's what they did. Taking the Great Commission seriously, they started to immerse people in the reality of God by making positive connections with people in the community, and building trust filled relationships with anyone who was interested in connecting.

Over time, genuine relationships formed and the presence and reality of Jesus confronted people and was embraced by many in the community. It was at this time the corps started to see lives transformed, with people beginning to be emotionally healed, finding confidence, and discovering their inner passions and desires. As lives were transformed by discovering Jesus, it naturally transformed the community around them and their existing social networks. These transformed lives became the church.

Now the Bellarine Corps has multiple missional communities and has seen those transformed voluntarily step up to lead lives of worship, providing much needed social and community initiatives. These include Healing Art, The Up Cycle Hospitality Training Café, school chaplaincy, Salvo Resto, junior soldiers, youth group, adult discipleship training, child trauma/family counselling, a community garden, multiple thrift shops, and The Open Air Music Program and recording studio.

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***He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'***

*Luke 10:2*

- How can you build trust filled relationships in your community this week?
- Where in your corps and community is God at work?
- Where in your faith community can you see Jesus transforming lives?

### Prayer Points

- Please pray for all the corps family involved in this mission and specifically for the new Salvo Outreach Van, run by volunteers. We want to see God keep raising up workers whose lives are transformed, and are sent into the work God is calling us into.

[salvos.org.au/bellarinepeninsula](https://salvos.org.au/bellarinepeninsula)

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**Di and Peter Hobbs** are the officers of The Salvation Army Bellarine Peninsular. They have two energetic children, Ella and James. In their spare time, the Hobbs family enjoy creating their own Star Wars movies.

# The Australian Context

## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING STRESS

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Homelessness is the major social issue that The Salvation Army Policy and Programme Department focusses on.

There are many reasons for a person becoming homeless, and being homeless has a number of significant personal and social impacts. Rarely does a person become homeless by choice.

Awareness of the causes of homelessness, identifying the means of addressing homelessness, and measures to mitigate the impacts of homelessness underpins the policies and programs that the Policy and Programme Department research and develop. These include:

- Housing and accommodation
- Financial counselling and support
- Material aid and emergency relief
- Alcohol and drug treatment and support
- Child, youth and family services and Out of Home care
- Aged care and disability support services
- Domestic violence education and support.

It must be understood and acknowledged that homelessness will always be present in our society. This is because there are many causes of homelessness—intergenerational conflict, drug and alcohol use, poverty, unemployment, mental health issues, peer pressure to mention a just few. Many of these factors are transitional. This being said, the Policy and Programme Department strives to have measures in place to quickly identify and address the needs of people who become, or are at risk of, being homeless.

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***Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?***

*Isaiah 58:7 (NIV)*

- Have you considered some of the circumstances that contribute to a person experiencing homelessness?
- Have you considered the ways in which Jesus calls us to love people experiencing homeless?  
What does this mean for the outworking of your faith?

## Prayer Points

- Pray for individuals and families experiencing homelessness – that they would be safe, have access to adequate services and communities of support around them.
- Pray for the Australian society, that we would see people experiencing homelessness as valuable and loved.
- Pray that government policy responses to homelessness would be compassionate.

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**Peter Balmer** is a social researcher and policy consultant with The Salvation Army. Peter has worked extensively in migrant settlement, aged care, community housing and disability support across Australia, and in Canada and Scandinavia.