

CREATIVE

MINISTRY

THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY JANUARY 2013 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 1

YOU'RE
THE
VOICE

ALEXANDRA ON
SONG IN NAMBUCCA

SYDNEY
YOUTH BAND
CELEBRATES
10TH ANNIVERSARY

ALSO INSIDE

CHRIS
SMARTT'S
SONG OF
HOPE

FAMILY
WORSHIP IN
COOMERA
GETS MESSY



PERFECT PITCHwith Major Kevin Uncomb



Major Kevin Uncomb is Territorial Families and Childrens Consultant

OUTREACH BEGINS AT HOME

I was listening to talkback on the ABC recently. The topic of discussion was a new book that claimed that “school homework” was a waste of time.

Parents and listeners were invited to comment. I was astounded by the parents’ attitude to their kids, their lives and school.

“Our kids work hard enough at school when they get home kids should be able to be kids”, one woman said.

A man said, “I work hard to support my family. The school should do a better job with their education. I shouldn’t have to help my kids when they get home from school and I get home from work”.

There were many similar comments. It seems that society has forgotten that the family is the primary source of children’s education. School is supposed to be the place where what we learn at home is developed, tested and rounded off, as we complete a world view that will guide our lives.

For the vast majority of us, the person we will become is based on what we learn at home and particularly in the first few years of our lives. Of course there are many other influences we have in our development, including church, friends, relationships and circumstances, but family stuff is what counts the most.

There is a parallel with our spiritual development too.

I have always been led to believe that faith is developed by what happens in the church – and that our creative energies and effort are to be directed outside the church “to reach the lost”.

Our evangelical thrust, I imagine, more than anything is based on the scriptural imperative known as the “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:19 -20 to “Go out and make disciples”. This implies that we have the passion and knowledge

and the skills we need to be able to share our faith with those we meet in whichever culture and generation we live.

Perhaps our emphasis on finding creative ways to reach our world has meant we have missed the commandment of making disciples as being the training of our own children. In the Western world at least, research tells us that 96 per cent of professing “evangelical” adult Christians in the world today were raised in Christian homes, went to Sunday School as a child, or had other significant Christian teaching under the age of 10. Only four per cent of active Christians today were evangelised over the age of 10 and had no Christian teaching as a child.

Faith development had more to do with what happened at home when we were young, than what happened at church. This explains why so many young people have dropped out of the church. To be direct, what they have learnt at home has not been enough to make disciples of Jesus.

As I turn to Scripture I find that this is exactly what God has told us. From Deuteronomy 6:5, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands I am giving you today. (Parents) teach them to your children.” This is the basis of discipleship in the church.

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus confirmed that this is the number one commandment in Scripture. Nowhere in scripture can I find that it says, “Church teach the Children”, yet this has been a major focus of the church for the past 200 years.

There remains a role for children’s ministry in the church and this issue features a number of corps engaging creatively with that, but more than anything we need to re-learn the role of “family” and the truth that what happens in the family is more impacting, for the vast majority of disciples, than what happens in the church.

COVER STORY 06

HEART FOR WORSHIP

Nambucca Heads kids’ worship team lead the way



FEATURES

04

CHRIS SMARTT’S
SONG OF HOPE

10

FAMILY WORSHIP
IN COOMERA GETS
MESSY

14

SYDNEY YOUTH
BAND 10TH
ANNIVERSARY

REGULARS

- 2 PERFECT PITCH
- 13 CD REVIEWS
- 16 THE CUTTING EDGE
- 20 PICTORIAL



www.salvos.org.au

CREATIVE MINISTRY The Salvation Army WILLIAM BOOTH Founder
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 101 Queen Victoria Street London EC4P 4EP LINDA BOND General
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY 140 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000 JAMES CONDON Commissioner, Territorial Commander
BRUCE HARMER Major, Territorial Communications and Public Relations Secretary
EDITOR Anne Simpson GRAPHIC DESIGN Kem Pobjie COVER PHOTO Shairon Paterson
CREATIVE MINISTRY is a publication of the Communications Department
EDITORIAL AND CORRESPONDENCE PO Box A435 Sydney South NSW 1235
PHONE (02) 9266 9690 EMAIL eastern.editorial@ae.salvationarmy.org
Published by The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory by Commissioner James Condon
Printed by SOS Print + Media Group, 65 Burrows Road, Alexandria NSW 2015, Australia
All materials are copyright of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory and cannot be reproduced without permission

the.BIG picture

A heart-warming story and an afternoon was all it took for young Salvationist Chris Smartt to create an inspirational song. Called *Break the Cycle*, Chris, (pictured), who attends Auburn corps, wrote the song after reading a *Pipeline* article about a woman's battle with alcoholism.

Chris was not planning to submit a song to the Macquarie University diversity project, but four days before the deadline, he was invited to participate. "My lecturer just walked up and said, 'Hey, can you write a song for me and show it by Friday?' It was quite daunting.

"I was pretty rushed for time and was looking for inspiration left, right and centre. My mum showed me an article in *Pipeline* and it really stood out to me. I thought that could totally be a song."

Break the Cycle was recorded on *Room for Me*, an album produced by Macquarie University, featuring songs written by the university's students, which celebrates freedom and diversity.

After reading the *Pipeline* article, Chris thought a song about breaking the cycle of addiction would fit perfectly with the university project.

Break the Cycle follows the struggle of an individual suffering from addiction, he explains. "I'm really happy the way the song turned out and it was a God thing," says Chris who plays guitar, piano and sings.

Music runs in the family. His brother Matt is an accomplished guitarist and his mother, Major Robyn Smartt is a trained singer.

His experiences of travelling overseas with his parents, Salvation Army officers, Majors Robyn, Australia Eastern Territorial Director of Salvation Army Counselling Services and Howard Smart, Secretary for Education and Training, had a major impact on his musical perspective.

"Music is one of those things that connects everyone, regardless of where they're from," he says.

Writing a combination of blues, soul, jazz and acoustic folk, Chris says at the heart of his music is his faith.

"My faith is really important to me and I guess that just comes out in my writing. I guess my whole attitude; it's an expression of my faith."

While songwriting is Chris' passion and he aspires to be a professional music artist, he says he wants to serve God in whatever he does. Chris graduated at the end of 2012 from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and a non-credited major in Contemporary Music.

"God's given me this awesome gift to glorify him; in whatever capacity. If that means performing all the time then I'm totally cool with that. If not, that's also cool." Chris has been worship leading at Auburn Corps for the past two years and is also involved with the corps' youth ministry.

Chris is currently in the process of developing his first EP and hopes to perform some of these songs at Easterfest in March, a Christian musical festival held in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Room for Me was launched on 19 October at Macquarie University and will be used by the university for internal purposes. A live performance of Chris' song was posted on YouTube at <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8kiNlpBbZ0>

Photo: Shairon Paterson



Heart for worship drives Alexandra's vision

They are young, enthusiastic and bringing worship to their generation.
ESTHER PINN speaks to a dynamic youth music team from the northern NSW town of Nambucca Heads



Photo: Shairon Paterson

With natural leadership ability, Alexandra Viles is most comfortable with a microphone in her hand.



Twice a year, the kids' music team leads worship for the entire corps alongside the 20 or so children who attend Nambucca's children's church.

"The corps love it. They welcome it with open arms and they're so encouraging of it," says Captain Nicole. "I believe this team can shape their Sunday School. All four of them really have a heart for God and they want their church to be a place where kids connect with God, where kids can get involved and feel like it's their church."

Captain Nicole says Alexandra has really driven the program and has an ear for picking up Christian themes in secular songs.

Alexandra explains to *Creative Ministry* why she loves worship.

"I like that through the worship of songs you can learn so many

stories and Bible verses. An example of that is when [my] mum was preaching the other day on Jeremiah; she was reading out the Bible verse, Lamentations 3, and the first thing Paris and I did was begin singing the song *Steadfast Love of the Lord*.

Along with singing a number of contemporary worship songs such as *Super Saviour* and *I Am Free*, Alexandra says she uses *Count on Me*, by secular artist Bruno Mars, because the song has Christian-themed lyrics.

The success of this team is spreading like wildfire. For the second time, the kids' music team was given the opportunity to lead worship at The Salvation Army North NSW Divisional Kids' Camp in September.

"In 2010 we led the worship at kids' camp and ever since then,

we couldn't wait to go back. I love seeing everyone jumping around and singing how great our God is," shares Alexandra.

About 72 children attend the camp at Echidna Gully, about 20km from Armidale, and Lieutenant Narelle Unicomb, North NSW Divisional Youth Secretary, says it is always a huge success.

"I'd love to get them back. I love that young people are leading young people. It's actually training them to be worship leaders in their corps."



Esther Pinn is a staff writer for *Creative Ministry*

The Nambucca Heads music team – Madeline Scott, Paris Briggs, Alexandra Viles and her brother Jacob – are passionate about leading worship among other young people.

Photos: Shairon Paterson

Alexandra saw a need and filled it. Arriving at Nambucca River Corps in 2009 with her parents, Captains John and Nicole Viles, she was disappointed to find there was no worship time during children's church. Instead of sulking or looking to others to lead the way, Alexandra took some initiative and started up a kids' music team. The team has now been leading worship in children's church every Sunday for the past three years.

This innovative leader is only 12 years old.

"I love getting up there and jumping around, singing praises to God," Alexandra exclaims.

Starting with only three girls, who are all passionate about both worship and singing, the group has now expanded with Alexandra's brother, Jacob Viles (11) joining the team to play the drums. Madeline Scott (10) plays bass, Paris Briggs (11) plays the keyboard and Alexandra leads the group vocally.

"They love it," enthuses Captain Nicole, Nambucca River Corps Officer. "I think certainly the girls have leadership gifts. They do it very naturally."

Captain Nicole believes this team to be vital to growing their corps children's ministry and she expects her corps to take them seriously. And they do.

"ALL FOUR OF THEM REALLY HAVE A HEART FOR GOD AND THEY WANT THEIR CHURCH TO BE A PLACE WHERE KIDS CONNECT WITH GOD, WHERE KIDS CAN GET INVOLVED AND FEEL LIKE IT'S THEIR CHURCH."

- CAPTAIN NICOLE VILES



FAMILY WORSHIP GETS MESSY

By **BILL SIMPSON**

Imagine ... excited children and adults sitting on the church floor splashing paint across paper, cutting out Christmas tree decorations or drawing Jesus feeding 5000 on a sea shore.

In one corner are parents heating sausage rolls and pies, making sandwiches and drinks, or cooking sausages on a barbecue.

Others are sharing coffee, tea and talk while the activity proceeds at a frantic and usually noisy pace.

This is Messy Church. It's not for the traditionalist. It's for families who don't find themselves in regular church. And it's for church members prepared to give up some of their tradition time to try a different way of reaching people for Christ.

Messy Church started among a church group in England eight years ago as "... a way to reach out to families with children looking for non-traditional expressions of church life. Held once a month, a typical session includes craft activities for both children and adults together, a worship celebration and a meal together".

It has since swept across Britain, South Africa, Canada and Australia. Hundreds of churches have added Messy Church to their program.

The Salvation Army is among the denominations giving Messy

Church a try, although adoption in the Australian Eastern Territory has been cautious.

Some corps started, but are assessing the advantages before going further. Others have persevered and are loving it. A few have adopted the entire program, while others have incorporated components.

Messy Church isn't intended for use during the standard Sunday morning meeting. It is very much a stand-alone event. In some places, it is

year. Woden Valley Corps is using components of Messy Church in Sunday morning services a couple of times a year.

Most of the people who attend are from families with a connection to The Salvation Army through Mainly Music, their local school, SAGALA, playgroup or other young people programs.

The Coomera Mission is part of The Salvation Army Life Community Church at nearby Slacks Creek.

Life Community Church says:

"MESSY CHURCH IS GREAT FUN. I GET TO MEET LOTS OF FRIENDS AND LEARN LOTS OF THINGS,"

JARED BALL, AGED 8

still held on Sunday morning, but in a different venue.

Others try Friday nights. It doesn't really matter when Messy Church is held. The big difference is that it is, well, different.

Community connections

Coomera Mission at the northern end of Queensland's Gold Coast holds Messy Church on the first Sunday morning of each month. Bundamba Corps, west of Brisbane, has held one Sunday morning and two Friday evening Messy Church events this

"Messy Church is our church's attempt to be church for families who might want to meet Jesus, belong to their local church and bring up their children as Christians, but can't cope with traditional Sunday morning church services."

Mother of three, Anita Moore, is the Coomera Mission team leader. An obvious reason for Messy Church's success at Coomera is Anita's enthusiasm.

On the first Sunday of every month, while her fellow Salvationists are worshipping at Slacks Creek,



Maxine Manyweather and her grandson Ethan (pictured top left) are part of 18 families that turn up each month for Messy Church at the Coomera outpost.

Anita is leading Messy Church in the Coomera School of Arts hall.

Up to 18 families – mums, dads, children, grandparents – have joined the celebrations during the year. Fourteen of the 18 families are not regular traditional church attenders. But they don't like to miss Messy Church!

It's on from 9.30-11 am.

Most of the Coomera crowd were recruited from Mainly Music, the local school, where Anita and husband Anthony's children attend, or invitation of friends already attending Messy Church.

"We started Mainly Music three years earlier and that went really well," Anita says. "So we tried an afternoon church service. That didn't go as well as we had hoped, so we stopped that and waited to see what God might want us to do next.

She heard about Messy Church, discussed it with Mainly Music families and the new style of worship got under way 12 months ago.

Coomera settled on Sunday because it was the day most families could attend together.

The Messy Church program at Coomera starts with 30-40 minutes of craft, involving anybody who wants to take part.

"If dads want to paint pictures, cook the sausages or drink coffee, that's up to them," Anita says. "If people want to just walk around watching others or just chat, that's OK. Everybody finds their own place at Messy Church."

Five craft tables are set up. Each table has a laminated placemat explaining the link between the theme for the day and the craft.

After craft, Coomera's program includes a couple of action songs to support the theme for the day. Children are encouraged to share their news, then there is a Bible story supported by puppets, dressing up, acting out, etc, followed by a Bible memory verse and an edible craft for morning tea.

"The program is geared for kids, but allows adult involvement, too," Anita says. "It's a different way of doing church and sharing God's love. There's a lot of paint, paste, paper, cutting out; that sort of thing. And

"MESSY CHURCH GIVES ME A SENSE OF BELONGING. I LOVE THAT I CAN GO TO CHURCH AND SHARE THE EXPERIENCE WITH MY GRANDSON AND HELP WITH OTHERS, TOO. ETHAN LOVES IT. WE SIT TOGETHER AND DO THE CRAFT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MESSY CHURCH."

MAXINE MANYWEATHER



Joanne and son Jared (left) are regular attenders, enjoying the relaxed, fun atmosphere that Messy Church offers.



there is a lot of fun and laughter. I love the fact that people don't see church as boring and somewhere you have to sit still, be quiet and listen the whole time.

"I usually lead and it's not unusual for a little child to walk up to me while I am leading and want to be picked up or for kids to want to help. I love that children feel comfortable to do this and that it doesn't stress the parents.

"It's natural. It's also exciting to see new people coming along each month. I love what God is doing here."

Expect to get messy

At Bundamba, Corps Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Christine Rees laughs as she tells that if you attend Messy Church, you have to expect it to get messy.

"It's nothing like a traditional Salvation Army Sunday morning meeting," she says. Bundamba holds Messy Church in a community hall within its complex. "It's pitched at families. It's very much a hands-on approach, activity-based, uncomplicated, non-threatening, non-intimidating; everybody can get involved.

"Activity can be frenetic. But there are themes, interactive songs, a short

message, and we finish with a feast. It's great fun.

"We had a special one for Fathers Day. A young dad sat among the kids at a craft table and made a card for his dad. It was beautiful to see. We have people who use Messy Church as their only church. It's a good positive

"MESSY CHURCH HAS FITTED WITH WHAT I AND MY FAMILY (TWO CHILDREN) NEEDED. ONCE A MONTH, AT THE MOMENT, IS GOOD FOR US TO COMMIT TO."

JOANNE BALL

outreach and I think it's a good thing for our corps."

At Woden Valley, the corps has begun to use the intergenerational principles of Messy Church during selected Sunday morning regular services.

This encourages Mainly Music,

Kids Club and youth group families to join with the regular morning worshippers.

ACT and South NSW Divisional Youth and Children's Secretary Karen Connors says the Woden Valley experience is probably an example of how Messy Church ideas are used in most corps taking a serious look at it.

"To be truly Messy Church, it needs to have all the components set down by Lucy Moore [one of the Messy Church founders]," she says.

"Lucy Moore would see having a meal together [children and adults] as critical to the Messy Church program. Lucy Moore also says that Messy Church is not necessarily a link to people moving on to our Sunday morning congregations.

"In The Salvation Army, we have a problem if we don't see people from our various programs eventually coming to our [regular] Sunday morning meetings. That's how we measure success.

"What we measure is what we focus on. We need to change that approach and to see that if people are attending one or more of our programs when it suits them, then we are reaching them for Christ in a different way."

CD REVIEWS

Social justice begins with adoration

Hope.Glory

Hope.Glory is the latest worship resource released by the Australia Southern Territory. In late 2011, hundreds of Salvationists gathered at 614 in Melbourne to join their voices for a night in worship of our mighty King Jesus. This live-worship event was recorded and is now available as a resource for the wider church to use.

Often Salvation Army recordings are dominated by social justice-themed songs that call the church to be the hands and feet of Christ to a broken world. This call to action needs to be sung, but there is a danger that we sing, and subsequently act, in the belief that change begins with us. The degree to which the church will fulfill its mandate to love the world is directly related to the degree to which it is centred on, and empowered by, the love of Christ. Beginning with the Christ-hymn of Colossians 1 *Hope.Glory* leads us in adoration and worship of Christ.

Hope.Glory was headed up by Phil Laeger, Australia Eastern Territorial Worship Development and Resource Consultant, who wrote or co-wrote most of the songs. I guess if you wanted to categorise the album you could say it doesn't stray too far from a "contemporary worship" sound but by no means is it predictable or stale. Overall, it's a little more reflective than a Hillsong album and the bigger songs are not as punchy as they are powerful and driving. The songwriting is thoughtful and creative and it's been enhanced by great production, offering a really polished product.

I've led worship using a couple of songs from the album

and have been blown away by how God has used them so powerfully. *Oh What Love* is a personal favourite as it just offers the congregation a beautiful avenue through which to reflect on and bask in the love of Jesus that brings freedom.

The CD has also been loaded with the chord charts and lead sheets which makes life easy for churches who want to use these songs.

Another great addition to *Hope.Glory* is the DVD of the recording which also makes it a great resource for smaller churches and for use in personal devotion times.

Hope.Glory is a powerful resource that will equip churches and individuals as we pursue worship renewal in The Salvation Army.

I highly recommend it!

– Nathaniel Brown

The CD/DVD compilation of *Hope.Glory* is only being sold at Salvationist Supplies in the Australia Southern Territory for \$25. Visit www.salvationarmy.org.au/supplies



ISB hits right note again with meditative offering

From the Heart – Reflective music by Kenneth Downie

The Salvation Army's International Staff Band has long been valued for its high standard of musicianship and this CD is a continuation of that tradition.

What makes this CD unique is that the music is all written by Kenneth Downie and is all of a devotional nature. The cover notes indicate that Downie found this type of music to be the most rewarding to write, and reflects the spiritual impact it had on people as he grew up in The Salvation Army. Many of the tracks revolve around well-known hymns while others, such as *Oasis*, are original songs without words, or "mood" pieces.

One of most beautiful tracks is *Stars of the Morning* featuring the children's song *When he Cometh*. The words from which the name is derived are as follows:

*Little children, little children,
Who love their redeemer,
Are his jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and his own.*

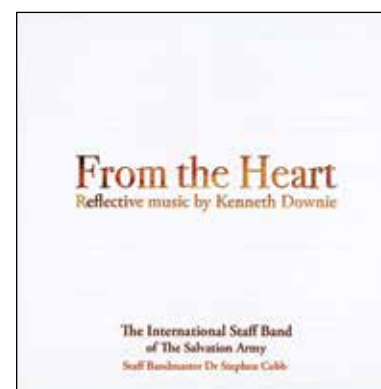
*Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty
Bright gems for his crown.*

The cover notes provide some insights into the composer's intended purpose, which enhances the listening experience.

The combination of Downie's music and soloists such as Philip Cobb, Derick Kane and David Dawes, backed by the International Staff Band, forms a beautiful and meditative atmosphere which will appeal not just to band enthusiasts, but to all those wishing to draw close to God or maybe just unwind or de-stress.

– Don Johnson

***From the Heart – Reflective music by Kenneth Downie* is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (www.salvosuppliesyd.com) for \$24.50.**



Sydney Youth Band celebrates decade of unique mission

By ESTHER PINN

Lieutenant-Colonel David Godkin experienced one of the best days of his life in Papua New Guinea. It occurred while he was on tour with the Sydney Youth Band in 2009.

Thousands of Papua New Guineans had gathered to watch the band play at a marketplace in the highlands town of Goroka. The hour-long performance held the huge crowd captivated.

Lieut-Colonel Godkin, a former Sydney Youth Band executive officer and spiritual mentor, recalls the moment as transforming for the group.

"This was the band's vision come to fruition," says Lieut-Colonel Godkin, currently The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Secretary for Personnel.

Having recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, the band is still known for being unconventional.

"They break all the rules," laughs Lieut-Colonel Godkin.

"One time we had to walk back to the hotel where we were staying after a concert. Every couple of blocks we would stop at a red [traffic] light and just started playing.

"They had this freedom about them not to be bound by structure or a time frame. You would never normally play your instrument if you weren't in a structured concert band."

Everywhere they go, band members are full of a passion which is centred around their missional focus, says Lieut-Colonel Godkin. The group's purpose is much more than just playing quality music.

"Just the way they interact with people when they're doing a concert, just the rapport they have with the crowd. There's a real energy they get from being together," he says.

Early days

Formed in 2002, the Sydney Youth Band was a joint idea of now Lieutenant Peter Gott and Salvationist James Hill. The pair approached Lieut-Colonel Godkin about forming a brass band exclusively for young people aged 13 to 30.

"We felt that there was a need amongst the young people to be stretched in their faith and in their abilities that they weren't able to get at that point in their local corps," explains Lieut Gott.

While the Sydney Youth Band comes officially under the Army's Sydney East and Illawarra Division, it is open to anyone who is able to attend monthly practices. Band members come from as far as Canberra, Shellharbour, Gosford and right across Sydney.

At the band's first rehearsal a decade ago, 70 enthusiastic young people turned up at Bankstown Corps. Apart from travelling to PNG, the band has toured across



the Australia Eastern Territory and most recently to places like Tamworth, Gunnedah, Port Macquarie and Canberra.

Former Territorial Creative Arts and Music Director, Graeme Press, initially led the band. In 2005, the direction of the group fell to James Hill who remained in the role until the conclusion of the PNG tour in 2009.

The band is now under the musical direction of Josh Mann, who has been with the group since its inception. He is supported by a leadership team of Jono Lang, Josh Godkin, Daniel Evans and Kieran Bedwell.

"It's an absolute honour to musically lead this band,"



Lieutenant-Colonel David Godkin during his time with the Sydney Youth Band, which he described as a passionate group of musicians with a missional focus.



says Josh. "Especially the past couple of years with the spiritual focus of the band. While our spirituality rose, our musicality has gone with it. As long as we focus on God he'll look after the rest. That's why I love it."

Celebration concert

The Sydney Youth Band marked the milestone of its 10th anniversary with a "Bonanza" concert at Sydney Congress Hall. Guest vocalist Rebecca Raymond, who performs regularly with the Melbourne Staff Band, flew from Adelaide to sing on the night, stunning the audience with her vocal

ability. The highlight of the evening was watching the band play *Ancient of Days*, accompanied by a video display of the PNG tour. Mid-song, the band stopped playing to listen to the audio of PNG children singing the chorus of *Ancient of Days*.

In between performances by the band, a number of members shared how God has impacted their lives through being part of the group. Allan Bruton, who plays bass, gave his testimony and then concluded the evening with a surprise marriage proposal to his girlfriend Lorinda Belmonte, who replied with an enthusiastic "Yes!"

Peter Christie brings renewal through worship

Salvationist and country musician Peter Christie and his band, Mountain Folk, recently brought their unique brand of country music worship to Canberra City Corps.

Bringing blessing to smaller corps that don't have access to live music is a significant aspect of their ministry, said Captain Tracy Payne, Canberra City Corps Team Leader.

"Through song, prayer and testimony, Peter drew attention to the heart and purpose of worship as he shared his own personal experience of God's comfort, strength and leading," she said.

"The ministry of Peter Christie and Mountain Folk provide more than just music for churches without musicians, it serves as a reminder of the heart of church life – love for God, enthusiasm for his mission, encouragement in the community of his church."

Peter Christie and Mountain Folk's visit to Canberra on 15-16 September was part of a campaign to promote their upcoming project called *Revival*.

"Especially inspiring was the upcoming album's title track, one of Peter's own compositions, which struck at the heart of what it is to be Christ's follower in 21st century Australia," said Captain Payne.

As well as promoting their new record, they performed a number of gospel renditions at the Saturday evening concert from their current album, *Shine*, including *Rock of Ages* and *When We All Get To Heaven*.

While these songs were captivating, Captain Payne said the

highlight was seeing the congregation join in with the band, singing praises to God with *Amazing Grace* and *Power in the Blood*.

Visit www.peterchristie.com.au to book Peter and Mountain Folk at your corps.



Peter Christie's own story of faith ministered to members and guests of Canberra City Corps through his music.

Staff Songsters sing off cobwebs in Albury and Goulburn

The Sydney Staff Songsters' first concert at Albury in 10 years was well attended by an enthusiastic audience who came out to both the concert on Saturday evening and the worship service the following morning.

Lieutenant Marco Lupis, Albury Corps Officer, said the concert particularly blessed the members of his corps and reignited their passion for ministry.

"Being in Albury, we're a bit removed from the Army's Eastern Territory. We don't often get the chance to go to events like that or some of the bigger Army events," he said.

"I think for some time after [the concert], we kind of got that buzz in the air. It was something different from normal [corps] activities." Graham Ainsworth, Sydney Staff Songsters leader, said the weekend

was a special time for the group, having the opportunity to minister to the local community.

"There was a real sense of excitement. The group sang well. It was great to dust off the cobwebs. Certainly the overall impact of the weekend was wonderful. We felt it was a powerful weekend.

"Part of what we do is we're looking for opportunities to witness and to engage people and that happens not only in a congregation but in the community and even our own bus drivers."

While not their usual audience, the singing group was given the opportunity to minister to their bus driver who drove them around for the entire weekend.

After their Albury Corps visit the Sydney Staff Songsters again ministered in the ACT and South NSW Division with a visit to Goulburn Corps on the weekend of 10-11 November.

It was a very full program for the weekend: a public concert at the Goulburn Citadel on the Saturday, chapel service at Gill Waminda Aged Care on Sunday morning and the worship service at the citadel later that morning.

For all of these activities, the songsters – conductor, singers, musicians, tech guy, and executive officer – gave an excellent account of the gifts with which God has blessed them. And with songs like *Faithful*, *Love has Come*, and *Jesus Messiah*, amongst many, those blessings swept out to touch the listeners. People were also blessed by the interviews conducted with various members of the songsters, the choice of Scripture, and the preaching of the Word. And many hadn't realised the importance of eating carrots in our walk with Jesus until – during the children's segment – a bright little girl explained that it helps us to see our way.

Fellowship over "cuppas" and meals thrown in for good measure made it not a good weekend but a great one.

God was honoured, the name of Jesus was lifted up, and people were blessed.



The Sydney Staff Songsters' visit to Albury was a rich experience for those who attended.

Kids explore creative possibilities

About 30 gifted children expanded their creative abilities at the annual Salvation Army South Queensland Divisional "Kids in Ministry" camp at Stafford Corps.

Rhys Wilson, South Queensland Divisional Children's Worker, said he was impressed by the amount of talent the children had and their eagerness to serve the Lord.

"The camp is designed to teach, train and equip children for ministry and release them in

their gifting and calling," he said.

"You can't look past some of the talent these kids have, the enthusiasm they all have for wanting to get in there and do something towards ministry and to learn more about their skills and gifts."

From 25-27 September, prep and primary-aged children explored their talents in the various electives on offer including junior band, junior timbrels, dance, drama, mission, video and magic and illusion.



On the last day of camp the children were given the opportunity to showcase to their parents what they had learnt throughout the week.

"We put a show on in the afternoon to just encourage them [children] so they can go back and take what they've learnt into their own corps," Rhys explained.

Aside from the electives, the children took part in worship sessions each morning and Rhys said, in particular, he was encouraged to see the children participate with the prayer activities.

While the camp has been running for three years, Rhys firmly asserts that this year's camp to be the best so far and looks forward to the years to come.

"The kids really enjoyed it and they loved the opportunity to do something different that they might not necessarily get to do back at their corps."



The South Queensland Division's Kids in Ministry camp gave more than 30 young people the chance to hone their creative energies at Stafford Corps.

Southern Territory band praises God in Sydney

“Praising God” was the focus for the worship weekend hosted by Parramatta and Sydney Congress Hall corps on 13-14 October.

The special guests for the weekend were Ken Waterworth, Melbourne Staff Band Bandmaster, and Box Hill Citadel Band, from the Australia Southern Territory.

“The highlight was the worship on Sunday and lifting up the name of Jesus Christ together with our fellow brothers and sisters from Box Hill,” said Major Alwyn Robinson, Parramatta Corps Officer.

“No matter what your expectation was for the evening, the band delivered to one and all those special moments of reflection and challenge,” added Ross Duncan, a soldier from Parramatta Corps.

The weekend began on the Friday evening with a presentation by Bandmaster Waterworth who shared his vision for brass banding.

“The challenging question made in the presentation was that the message of Salvation Army banding is still the same, but the ‘packaging’ needs to be different,” Ross explained.

The following morning Box Hill Citadel Band and Bandmaster Waterworth ministered to the local community outside Parramatta Mall and then gave a special

concert at Parramatta Corps in the evening.

“The band was at the top of its game and brought great credit to the many hours of hard work needed to present such a challenging yet in part an entertaining evening,” Ross said.

Following Sunday morning worship, Box Hill performed at the Yallambie Nursing

Home and then continued outreaching at Sydney Hyde Park. The Parramatta Band and Sydney Congress Hall Band joined with Box Hill and Bandmaster Waterworth, drawing a large crowd throughout the afternoon.

The weekend then concluded with a final concert at Sydney Congress Hall.



The Box Hill Citadel Band, under the direction of Melbourne Staff Bandmaster Ken Waterworth, in Hyde Park during their tour of Sydney.

Sydney Veterans bring feast of brass to Forster-Tuncurry

The Sydney Veterans Band blessed Forster-Tuncurry Corps with a feast of music under the leadership of Bandmaster John McComb.

The band’s repertoire consisted of a range of styles from musicals, movies, well-known songs to deeply moving spiritual items.

Saturday evening commenced with a bright rendition of Handel’s *Allegro Deciso* arranged by Gordon Collins which set the scene for what was to come. There were many highlights throughout the night, including a cornet solo *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* by John Arthur, a horn solo *Swiss Melodies* by Graham Palmer, and a euphonium solo *You Raise Me Up*, by Barry Garnon.



John Arthur’s cornet solo was one of the highlights of the Sydney Veterans Band’s visit to Forster-Tuncurry Corps.

The musical talents of the 34 bandsmen were further emphasised under the leadership of James Muir with several vocal items and James also blessed the congregation by bringing a rousing vocal solo *The Impossible Dream* (arranged by Ian Jones) to the accompaniment of the band.

A powerful personal testimony was shared by bandsman Elwyn Humbly, whose desire to serve the Lord wholeheartedly was evident to all who were present. The night was brought to a close as the band played Eric Ball’s *The Kingdom Triumphant*.

The “Transforming Grace of God” was the theme for the Sunday morning service of which various bandsmen led and took part.

The band’s message for the service was *His Provision* arranged by Ivor Bosanko.

Bruce Bowie shared how he experiences God’s grace through ministry which was an encouragement to all.

Major Ray Pethybridge brought a powerful and challenging message entitled “The Grace Wherein We Stand”, based on Romans 5:1-9.

Following a fellowship lunch, the weekend concluded with an afternoon of further musical entertainment by the band.

John Arthur’s cornet solo *I’ll Take You Home Again Kathleen* and Barry Garnon’s euphonium solo *There Will be God* by Joy Webb were just two of many of the afternoon’s highlights.

Ian McComb, Warren Freeman & Bruce Bowie also entertained the congregation with a trombone trio *The Veterans*.

The weekend was an uplifting and inspirational experience for the capacity congregation that attended each meeting.

Koreans celebrate sixth birthday with rousing concert

The brass band of the Salvation Army Korean Corps celebrated its sixth birthday by holding its annual concert on 18 November.

Known as “Front-line Band”, the Korean Corps’ band aims to always be at the forefront in mission. Particularly remarkable is



Korean Corps Bandmaster Kyu-Man Lee addresses the congregation.

the youthfulness of its members, with most players being school or university students.

Only a very few of the members could play their instruments before joining the band. Many members testified that they have grown both musically and spiritually through their involvement in the group.

The concert began with notes of congratulations from various community leaders for the band’s enthusiasm and large contributions to numerous events such as the annual Holy City Movement March and Anzac Day services. Its influence on both the Korean and general Australian community was especially commended.

The concert consisted of items of a variety of thoroughly entertaining music styles. This included a trombone quartet playing the Super Mario theme song whilst the other members re-enacted the video game.

The Korean Corps stems from the Campsie Corps and it was wonderful to hear a joint musical item with the Campsie Corps brass band. Especially inspiring to the young members of the Korean Corps brass band was to hear Major Don Gates from Campsie Corps, who had been playing for 70 years. After the concert, everyone was invited to share a meal for fellowship.

Ken’s photographic passion unites Kempsey churches

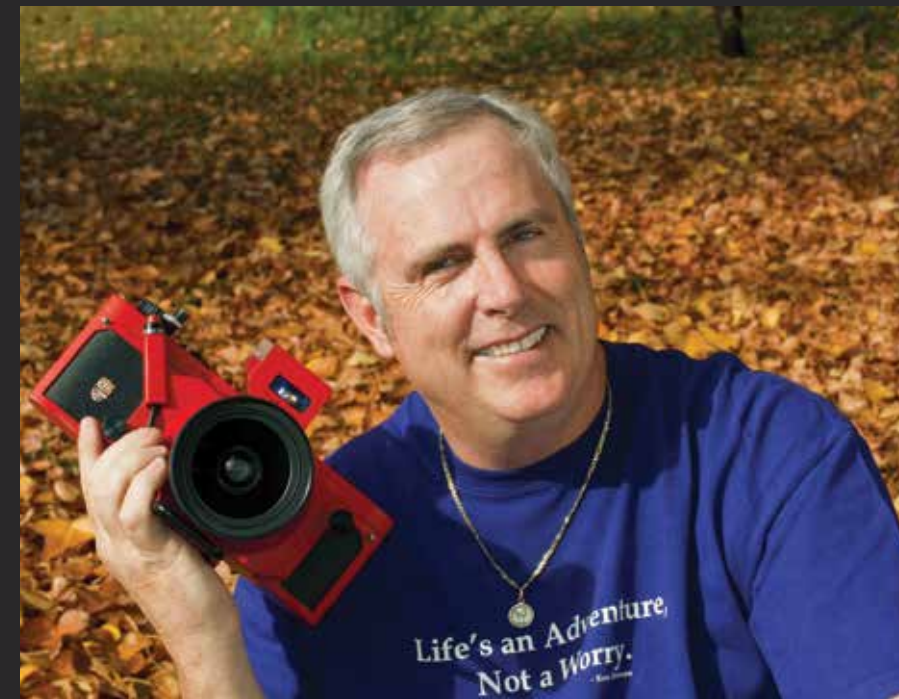
A weekend with iconic photographer Ken Duncan, (pictured), has brought local churches together in the Kempsey area, and drawn more than 1500 people to hear the gospel message.

Lieutenant Karen Keddie, the Kempsey Corps Officer, said the event, which was held in early October was a united effort by five local churches and has given birth to a new era for the message of Jesus.

“We had a plan but God had a bigger picture,” said Lieut Keddie. “God has really impressed upon us through this event that if we want to win this place for Jesus we have to do it together and this is the start.”

The weekend included worship services with a combined churches worship band as well as a men’s breakfast and photography workshop led by Ken, whose gift of photography is fuelled by his Christian faith.

“It was wonderful to hear Ken’s passion for seeing people come to Jesus and to see its impact on



those who were there.

“One lady from our corps was helping on the barbecue but planned to leave without staying for the service, but she just said something was telling her to stay. She came in and went forward to the mercy seat for prayer and told

me later it was one of the most powerful experiences of God she has had since coming to the Army three years ago.”

Lieut Keddie said the churches have committed to continue working together in the future as a testimony to their community.

PICTORIAL

COMMUNITY LIFE THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS



The breeze caught in colourful fabric, a portrait of the family dog, and city life – dynamic images captured through a camera lens by residents of Waterloo in inner-Sydney.

They might be amateurs, but these graduates of The Salvation Army's Waterloo Neighbourhood Centre photography course have an eye for everyday moments. An exhibition of their work was held late last year, but it was not just seeing their work on display that gave these photographers a buzz – it was the six-week journey of discovering new skills and of expressing, through image, how they see their community.

Marina Reznikov, 23, took out the People's Choice Award with her portrait of the family dog (above left).

"It's such a big boost," she says. "It [the course] opened my eyes not just to taking photos of people, but to everything else. I won the award for a photo of my dog. It's made me realise that people can enjoy photos of things even if the photo is not about them."

Marina's confidence in her abilities has now grown into a dream to work professionally as a photographer.

"I have a friend who has asked me to do family shots for them for Christmas and a teacher at our child-care centre has asked the same. I am a little nervous, but excited."

Major Raewyn Grigg, director of Samaritan Services at Waterloo, said the photography course had been a real encouragement. "We had one participant who is a recluse and all his photographs were taken from his balcony. They are wonderful, but even better was seeing him out in the community when he came to the exhibition to receive his certificate. People's lives are changing because of this six-week class."

The course, which includes techniques for photography as well as basic business and marketing skills, will be offered again this year.

