

WOMEN Intouch

**Celebrating
the cross**

**Mentoring:
a dynamic
relationship
of trust**

**Young Women
in Touch**

God time

Free to fly

**Captivated
2012: The
challenge
to arise**

The Cross reminds us

It was an interesting headline! “Priest wants cross removed from hot cross buns!” The January article continued, “A priest in Tasmania says the cross should be taken off hot cross buns, which have gone on sale in supermarkets months before Good Friday.”

Another newspaper reported it this way -- ”Cross priest slams sale of favourite Easter treat!”, and went on to quote the priest calling for the removal of the cross from hot cross buns which had gone on sale in two major supermarket chains across the country in early January.

Both supermarkets said the buns go on sale in January every year and customer demand is responsible for their appearance on shelves 13 weeks before Easter Sunday, on April 8.

The priest, Father Tony Kennedy, doesn’t mind the buns themselves, but he wants the cross removed from them until Good Friday. He says that hot cross buns are meant to be eaten on Good Friday to remind people of the day Jesus died on the cross, but with selling the buns so early in the year he felt the meaning of the cross is lost.

His argument is that, in January, we are barely out of the Christmas season and he certainly has a valid point.

For those who were really keen to get into the debate there was the opportunity to “vote on line” under the heading “HOT CROSS BUN FIGHT” answering the question, “Should crosses be removed from hot cross buns?”

This article challenged me. Should the cross be removed and should the cross only be displayed on Good Friday, or should it be before us every day as a reminder of all that God did for us through

his Son Jesus Christ?

Ephesians 1:7 says: “Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we’re a free people — free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!” (*The Message*).

When Jesus died on the cross for us he paid the highest price. He gave his life!

The highest price you can pay for anything is to give your life for it. And that’s what Jesus did.

The cross not only reminds us how much God values us but it also reminds us how much we are worth in the eyes of our God.

Because of the cross and the resurrection we have an inheritance!

1 Peter 1:3-5 says: “What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all — life healed and whole” (*The Message*).

The cross is our hope; a hope to keep before us no matter what the time of year.

Because we have a living hope, we can experience hopeful living!



Colonel Robyn Maxwell
Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries

About this issue – from the editor’s desk

At the two Captivated by the Word conferences last month, several women gave their testimonies. These women came from different backgrounds, were of different ages and with various life experiences.

Despite their differences though, there was common element in their heart-rending yet overwhelmingly positive stories -- transformation. These women’s lives and outlooks have been changed by the love and power of God.

And that’s not the end of their stories. They are continuing to experience deep and ongoing transformation as they follow Christ and are open and vulnerable to him, one step at a time.

“Being transformed” and “lives changed” can, like many other Christian expressions, become just that – expressions, that, sadly, have lost their power, substance and true meaning.

Not so for these women. Their lives are not what they were. They are different; changed from the inside by God in a way that compels them to hunger for more, and to reach out to others with the love, peace, forgiveness and hope that has revolutionised their worlds.

In this issue of *Women in Touch* we focus on transformation.

In our feature on the *Captivated* conferences, guest speaker Commissioner Sue Swanson, discusses what happens in the life of a woman, a family, a community and a nation when a woman, regardless of her circumstances, responds to the challenges before her, trusting God and willingly following him.

Major Leanne Duncan celebrates the cross in her moving article,

expressing deep gratitude for God’s unconditional and sacrificial love that has transformed her purpose in life, her future, and her ministry.

On pages 12-14 we feature some reflections and thoughts on mentoring – a vital ministry that plays an important role in the emotional and spiritual growth and change of all its participants.

Take a look too, at the reflection on *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, on page 10. In this book, author Peter Scazzero poses many challenging questions, including: “ ... is it any wonder, in light of the reality of the beast [modern society] outside us, and our sinfulness within, why so few people experience deep, ongoing transformation in their following of Christ?” This is definitely something to think about and apply to our own walks with God, perhaps, particularly, as we approach the Easter season.

I hope and pray you are both challenged and encouraged by the articles in this issue and, on behalf of the *Women in Touch* team, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyful Easter, and one that deepens and enriches your relationship with Christ.



Simone Worthing
Editor

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She chose • to arise...



The *Captivated by the Word* conferences, both in Brisbane (February 10-12) and Sydney (February 17-19), ended as they had begun – with women worshipping God, praying, and enjoying rich fellowship with one another.

There was an atmosphere of gratitude – for forgiveness, for freedom and for the strength and gentleness of God's enabling love.

Over 200 women attended the Brisbane *Captivated* at Watson's Park Conference Centre, while The Collaroy Centre in Sydney hosted 317 women this year.

Guest speakers

Commissioner Sue Swanson, World President of Women's ministries, was special guest at both *Captivated* venues. Commissioner Swanson opened each conference with a warm, humorous yet challenging session entitled "Uprisings on my Journey" where she shared about her childhood, those who had influenced her life and still do, and her personal journey to repentance.

Additional guest speakers at both locations included Karen Sagala who, with her husband, Alona, and their three children, serve as urban missionaries with The Salvation Army in Carole Park, Queensland.

Magda Ackad, from Middle East Christian

Outreach (MECO) also spoke and presented a challenging and thought-provoking role play based on real stories of some Muslim women living in Australia. Magda's passion and enthusiasm is contagious as she shares practical ways and insights on how to present Christ cross-culturally.

Powerful testimonies at both conferences also gave glory and gratitude to the love, grace, and transforming power of God in some of life's darkest circumstances.

Choose to choose

Commissioner Swanson continued the theme of arising during her second session on Saturday, focusing on Moses' sister, Miriam.

Reading from Exodus 2, Commissioner Swanson spoke about the teenage Miriam's choice to rise up with courage to speak to Pharaoh's daughter on behalf of her baby brother.

"God is not named here, but we can see him at work," Commissioner Swanson said. "Courage doesn't mean we're not afraid. It means, in spite of being afraid, we stand up."

"Courage is not restricted to any age. It's the faithfulness of ordinary people to rise up because they love others."

Commissioner Swanson also discussed Numbers 12, where Miriam faced some challenges and chose to rise up against her brother. The Lord's response was to make



Left to right: Guest speakers at *Captivated*: Captain Tracy Robinson, Magda Ackad and Commissioner Sue Swanson.
Photos by Shaaron Paterson

Miriam leprous, and to confine her outside the camp for a week.

Commissioner Swanson emphasised the Lord's delight in healing Miriam and bringing her back into the camp and into his presence. "When we call out to the Lord it's his delight to cleanse us, forgive us and bring us back to him," she said.

The Commissioner challenged the women to think deeply about their own lives. "Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, is God calling you to rise in courage?" she asked the audience.

"Are you spiritually leprous and in need of God's forgiveness?"

"It's all found in Christ."

Many women responded to the call and went forward to the mercy seat for prayer.

Rise to my knees

"In our society we can lose sight of the impact of the everyday and of celebrating small things," said Karen Sagala, as she spoke about her family's ministry in urban Brisbane.

"I have seen God make such a difference as we come alongside people to help them clean, mow a lawn or take them a loaf of bread."

"I'm not trained – I'm a wife, a mother, a woman. I just do ordinary things and speak life into people and offer them hope."

Karen shared some stories of people whose lives have been transformed by the power of God as he lifted them out of addictions, crime, family breakdowns and personal struggles.

"It's such a privilege to watch people discover Christ and to see his journey in their

lives," she said.

Karen then shared the most powerful work she has seen God do – in her own heart and life.

She spoke openly about her childhood, the wrong choices she had made as a teenager, and the emptiness, ache and guilt that had plagued her for so long.

"Basically, I needed a saviour and Jesus showed me that he loved me," she said. "I finally got what it means to be loved and forgiven, and that's when my blooming began."

"No matter our journey, we need to face the truth of what we are and understand that Jesus loves us so much that we can face that and rise up, change our homes and communities and the world."

Free time

At both *Captivated* venues, women enjoyed a few hours of free time to relax, catch up with friends or enjoy the "markets" where various ministries set up displays; and crafts, books and jewellery were available for purchase.

Full-on follower of Christ



Photo: Simone Worthing

"Dancing is worship, it's where my relationship with the Lord is at," said Shirley, from Cairns Corps, who worshipped God through her ribbon dancing at the Brisbane *Captivated* conference.

"When I dance, I don't see people, I see my Father, and I dance before my Father."

"Worship is a gift; it comes from deep within, from the concept that God loves us."

"At the end of the day, he wants you to praise him no matter what. He wants you to praise him in the storm and that is where you will get your spiritual breakthrough."

Shirley gave her heart to the Lord 19 years ago.

"I'm a full-on follower of Christ," she said.

Bananas, pears and apples

New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory Officer, Captain Tracy Robinson, led “Beautifully arising” on the Saturday evening of both conferences. Hilarious, warm, challenging and encouraging moments captivated the audience as Captain Tracy showed the women how to recognise and accept their body shape and work with different styles to wear what looks best on them.

“It’s not about dress size, it’s about body shape and what looks good,” said Captain Tracy, former Visual Director for Esprit NZ. “We must be careful not to mix up body image with self-esteem – this is not of the Lord.”

Using models from the audience, pre-chosen according to body shape, Captain Tracy illustrated which body shapes, whether “banana, apple or pear”, should wear which

pants, dresses, tops, skirts, coats, shoes, bags and jewellery.

“We are created in God’s image and he created us beautifully,” Captain Tracy said. “We are beautiful to the Lord.”

Nameless she

For the first hour of the Sunday morning session, women were given a prayer box and the gift of time to spend with the Lord.

Major Julia Metcher, Coffs Harbour Corps Officer, thoughtfully prepared the ten prayer box activities to help the women connect with God.

In her final session, Commissioner Swanson based her message on Exodus 35 and 36 – Moses building the tabernacle in the middle of the community so God’s name would be honoured and his presence felt.

“This is not just something that happened back then, but is a picture for us today of

Jesus coming and living within our hearts,” Commissioner Swanson explained. “Christ is the centre of who we are and he wants us to surrender a willing heart to him.”

The Commissioner discussed how, as the tabernacle was being built, the people were moved to bring their gifts to God.

“I am convinced that in every Salvation Army corps, if people brought their gifts with a willing heart, we would see God’s tabernacle and our communities rise up in a powerful way,” she said.

“Forget the money, we have an opportunity to rise up and offer ourselves and give God our hearts, our love and our trust.”

Both conferences concluded with women arising and responding to God, knowing they were in his presence and had been strengthened, encouraged and equipped to continue the journey.

Karen Sagala, guest speaker
All photos: Shairon Paterson



Commissioner Sue Swanson, World President of Women’s Ministries, was guest speaker at the 2012 *Captivated* conferences. During the Brisbane conference, Commissioner Swanson shared some thoughts with *Women in Touch*



What is the most important message that you would like to give the women of the Australia Eastern Territory?

Love the Lord and love his people. Enjoy loving the Lord and enjoy giving that love out to others. You don’t have to do this by yourself – bring other people along with you as you go. This is the privilege we have, and it’s a sacred privilege.

WIT: Can you give us an overview of your role as World President of Women’s Ministries?

My role is focused on providing encouragement and support to women globally. It’s a ministry to and for women, empowering them in their ministries around the world.

What do you see as the primary goal of Women’s Ministries?

The Gospel.

Recently, I have been embraced with the concept from Luke 7, of “Do you see this woman?” [The Parable of the Sinful Woman].

This means living the Gospel, communicating it, giving it, and enjoying it!

Our underlying goal is to reach women with the Gospel and to give them opportunity to grow, to learn, and to build relationships.

How have you seen Women’s Ministries differ in areas of the world you have travelled to?

Every country has the capacity to interpret Women’s Ministries and to fit it into their culture, which is so exciting. Women’s Ministries stands out. It’s a powerful means of reaching out to women outside our doors and embracing others with the love of Jesus.

Women’s Ministries has the capacity to invite women to come together and to open their eyes to the needs of other women. There is a great capacity for women to belong, and they can belong in so many ways.

For example, in India we see the Junior Miss Home League program that steps in and reaches out to young women, providing skills to help them build a positive future.

In the United Kingdom there is a focus on anti-trafficking, and in Chile, women were given material and taught to knit after the 2010 earthquake, so they could clothe their children.

Within each culture, people have a clearer sense of their culture’s needs and can be setting God goals to address those needs. For example, the *Babysong* program from Sweden was a result of someone looking into their

culture and directly addressing needs.

Women around the world are broadening their view of Women’s Ministries and focusing on specialised needs. They are also working everywhere to reach women through corps, social services and rehabilitation centres.

We are finding every means and every opportunity possible to reach women.

During the conference you have made many references to mentoring, accountability and empowering. How do you see this tying in with Women’s Ministries?

As older and established women in the faith, as we read in Titus 2, we can help the younger women both in and outside the faith. We can come alongside them, be a safe place for them and be truly present with them.

People don’t have the same generational linkups that used to exist, so we need to be those links. And, of course, there is also peer-to-peer mentoring which plays a vital role.

What do you see as one of the most immediate challenges for Women’s Ministries today?

We need more Florence Booths! We are in the days of Florence Booth (wife of Bramwell Booth, second general of The Salvation Army), and no day goes by where we don’t need to value women with God’s value and protect them with the love of God.

If we didn’t already have Women’s Ministries, this would be the time to develop it! There is no corps, no community, where there are no women in crisis.

We have to see the need and respond. We have to rise up.

Celebrating the cross

Major Leanne Duncan shares her deep gratitude to God for relentlessly pursuing her with an unconditional and sacrificial love that redeemed, restored and reconciled her future, her faith, her purpose in life and her ministry

*Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice.
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.*

*And once again I look upon the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.*

Once Again by Matt Redman

Once again I look upon the cross where Jesus died, overwhelmed by God's relentless pursuit of me. I determine to acknowledge and celebrate his love for me. I choose to celebrate a love that has proven daily to be a love with no limits, expressed at any cost.

Once again I look upon the cross where Jesus died and I choose to celebrate a love that invades the darkness and dispels the shadows of brokenness, injustice and despair with power for salvation; to redeem, restore and reconcile.

This love relentlessly navigates displays of rebellion, wilful self-determination and temper tantrums; it presses through yesterday's experience and current circumstances, and pushes past arrogance and defiance without one limit to its expression.

This love considered me above all else and flowed into death that I might have the gift of life. And not just any average, everyday, garden variety kind of life either: I mean life in all its fullness, life redeemed, restored and reconciled to the Father; a forever life (John 10:10).

Extravagance of grace

I find myself dwelling on Romans 5:8: "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" *New*

Living Translation.

I'm amazed by the extravagance of God's grace.

There is no getting past the truth; even while I wasn't looking, in fact while I was against him, God relentlessly pursued me with his love.

When I was far away, with no thought of God whatsoever, God looked through the vast expanse of space and time and saw me, poured out his love for me and laid a plan to rescue me – a complete and perfect plan; an all-out, no holds barred, relentless pursuit of an unconditional, sacrificial love.

In the midst of the darkness and the shadows, God showed his great love for me by sending Christ to die that I might live redeemed, restored and reconciled.

I give testimony as one who has had her future, her faith, her purpose in life and her ministry redeemed, restored and reconciled by God. And I have experienced God's love breaking down barriers over and over again through the years.

There will be many opportunities as we come to the cross this Easter to consider the realities of the unjust, horrific death of Jesus, who left his place by the Father to invade the human arena and bring salvation. This is part of the journey that is ours at Easter.

However, through the reality of the cross

I choose to receive and celebrate the relentless pursuit and life changing power of God's love and emphasise the words *at any cost*.

God invades our world

I find myself daily taken by surprise as God invades my world and captures my attention with extraordinary expressions of extravagant grace. Still today, at times when I am not looking, God intervenes to bring about his plans and purposes for me, blessing me with goodness beyond my wildest dreams.

The once and for all, victory sealing expression of God's unconditional love was displayed at the cross through to the triumph of Sunday morning. But it wasn't a once off expression of love, it was a brazen shout out of "I LOVE YOU" and every day since, God has continued to reaffirm his unconditional love for us, delivered with rich mercy.

God continues to shout out "I LOVE YOU" every new day and reaffirms our position as "Beloved of the Most High God". Oh, how can I not but celebrate, even amidst the mocking, the thorns, the blood and tears and rejoice in a love that invaded, pressed through and pushed past.

Do I deserve it, this amazing gift of life ushered in through the power of God's unconditional, sacrificial love?

NO! There is *nothing* I can do, or ever

hope to do, which would come close to deserving this love.

Finally though, I have begun to understand something of God's idea of grace. Its foundation is undeserved, unmerited favour that has nothing to do with anything about me and everything to do with God; grace that is true and strong and powerful for my salvation.

For all humanity

So this Easter I find myself once again in this place, standing at the cross, amazed, overwhelmed and humbled but celebrating with a grateful heart God's unconditional love that sought and found out me. Today, at the foot of the cross, I choose to unashamedly live in the extravagance of this love and every expression of it so that all would see how great is my God.

I am not a spoilt little princess of the King of Heaven. This is not Leanne's story. It is God's story written for humanity. This includes you.

There is no question of whether we are worthy, or whether we deserve it. It is signed sealed and delivered via the cross, waiting for open arms to receive it.

What he has done for me he has done for you.

How do you choose to respond?

Our response

I choose to gather up with great delight every expression of God's love to me and experience it for all it's worth. I choose to live a life of worship, full of praise to the Lord my God, Lord of all, ruler over all the earth.

I find myself daily taken by surprise as God invades my world and captures my attention with extraordinary expressions of extravagant grace.

How do **you** choose to respond?

How could I not celebrate as I find myself in this place once again, overwhelmed by a love with no limits expressed at any cost; a love that has invaded the darkness and the shadows of brokenness, injustice and despair, rebellion, wilful self-determination and temper tantrums; a love that pressed

through yesterday's experience and current circumstance and pushed past arrogance and defiance and declare with all that is within me:

"Lord Jesus,
*Now You are exalted to the highest place
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow
But for now, I marvel at Your saving grace
And I'm full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again*

*Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my Friend"*

"I love you because you looked to me then whispered to the Father,
'For her sake Father, not mine, but your will be done.'

"Thankyou Jesus, I celebrate the cross and its outrageously extravagant expression of unconditional love for me."



Major Leanne Duncan
Regional Mission &
Resource Officer
Taiwan Region

Reflections

Free to Fly

We almost walked into it: a large and sticky spider's web that spanned the walking track we were on. As we stepped back, vigorously scrubbing our faces to make sure no spider was creeping around on us, we noticed something shining in the sun, wriggling in the web. A beautiful dragonfly was caught by its wing and as it twisted desperately to escape, it was getting more and more caught in the sticky strands of the web.

My husband, Ross, stepped closer to the web and tried to see if he could pull the dragonfly free. The web was so thick and so tightly wound round its wing that if he pulled too hard the wing would break off. Picking up a sturdy twig, he gently wrapped it round the part of the web that was holding the dragonfly captive and eventually pulled it free from the rest of the web.

The dragonfly was no longer caught in the web but was still tightly entangled in its sticky strands and seemed too weak to do anything further to try to free itself.

Ross patiently worked at the strands wrapped around the wings and soon the dragonfly was released from all entanglement. It continued to lie unmoving on the twig, even though it was free. We held it up to the sky and soon it had recovered enough to launch itself into the air, a blur of silver against the brilliant blue sky. We rejoiced to see it flying away.

Release from entanglement

This encounter spoke deeply to me – I too had once been entangled and the more desperately I tried to free myself the more entangled I became. It wasn't a spider's web that held me captive, but my own sinful nature and the habits I had developed that kept me in that state.

I was reminded of the words of Chris Tomlin's song, *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*:

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me!

The dragonfly had been entangled by the sticky strands of the spider's web and left to itself it would have soon died. There was no hope for it until someone came along who was able to release it from its bonds and enable it once again to soar freely in the sky.

True freedom

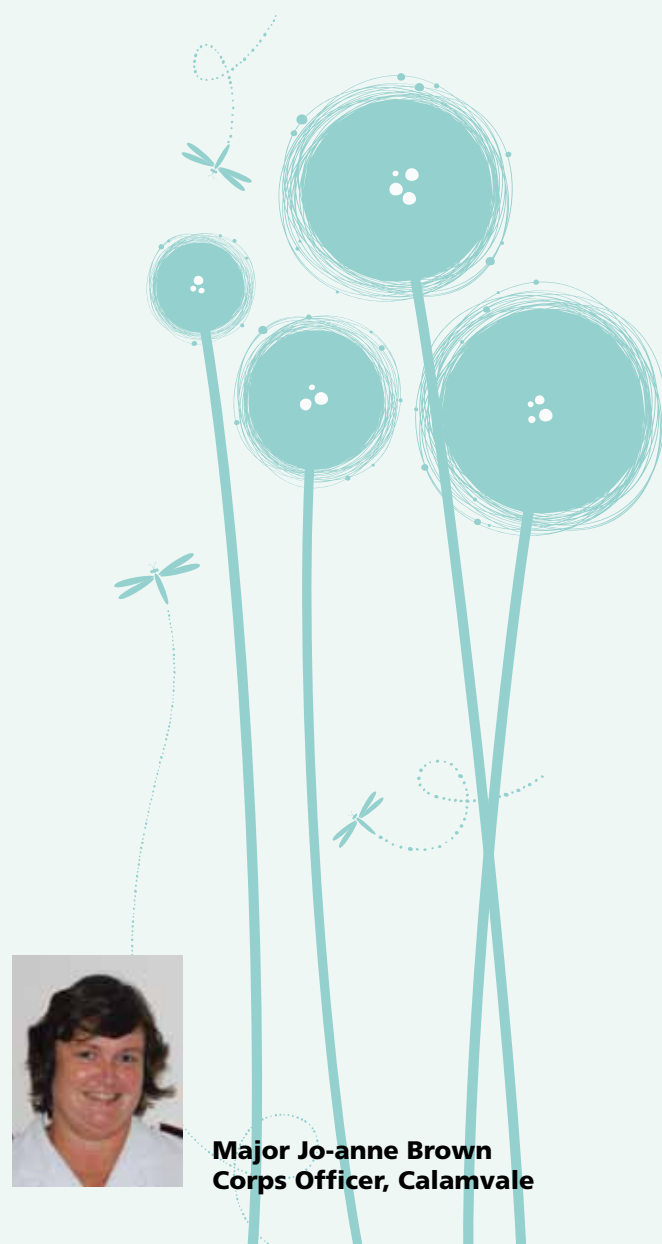
The incredible story of Easter is about how God set us free. It is about a redeemer who died to free us. God's Word tells us that we were once slaves to sin: "... Everyone who sins is a slave to sin" (John 8:34) but Paul continually reminds us that we were once slaves to sin (Roman 6:6, 17, 20) but through Jesus Christ we have been set free and now belong to God.

It is impossible to free ourselves from the entanglement of sin, and the more we try the more stuck we become. The Apostle Paul understood that. He said, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do" (Romans 7:15).

He goes on to acknowledge that through Jesus Christ we have been set free from the law of sin and death and that we are also free from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)!

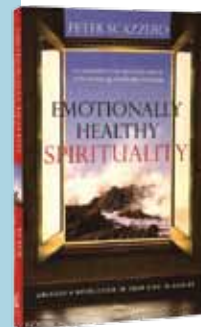
Jesus came and lived among us, he died upon the cross carrying our sins, and rose from the dead so that we might experience freedom -- freedom from sin, from guilt and shame, from condemnation and from everlasting death.

By his death and resurrection he broke the chains that bound us and now we are free: free to fly and be who we are created to be, just like a dragonfly, soaring and shining in the sky above.



Major Jo-anne Brown
Corps Officer, Calamvale

Recommended Read!



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Peter Scazzero
Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2006

"It's impossible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature," writes Peter Scazzero, and this is the central theme of his book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*.

Scazzero writes out of his own experience, incorporating the wisdom and experience of Christians throughout the centuries as he describes the signs of emotionally unhealthy spirituality and outlines seven biblical ways to break through this.

His answer to emotionally unhealthy spirituality is the combination of emotional health and contemplative spirituality. Part one of the book considers the problem of emotionally unhealthy spirituality, listing ten symptoms of this and shows how to combine emotional health and contemplative spirituality.

Part two includes topics such as getting to know yourself, breaking the power of the past, journeying through the wall, and grief and loss. It concludes with some practical advice on keeping the rhythms of a daily office, the Sabbath and developing a personal Rule of Life.

One valuable insight from this book came from his discussion of how emotional health and contemplative

spirituality overlap. This integration offers three primary gifts: the gift of slowing down; the gift of anchoring in God's love; and the gift of breaking free from illusions (p. 47).

Scazzero explains how we need to slow down from our hectic pace and our busyness in "doing" for the Lord. He quotes the example of Mary, whose "life has one centre of gravity – Jesus" (p. 49). When our time spent being with God is out of balance with the time we spend being active for God then we will feel off-centre. When these two are integrated well, there is a harmony and balance to our lives.

Scazzero points out that the call to emotionally healthy spirituality is "a call to intentionality, rhythm, and expectation of a life transformed by the risen Christ with the power to see through the illusions and pretence of our world" (p.58).

As he explains, this is a call to a "radical, counter cultural life" but it is a life of freedom, extraordinary hope and joy, and a life worth risking our complacency and comfort for.

Major Jo-anne Brown
Corps Officer, Calamvale

WIN a copy of this book!

Simply send in the title and publishing details of a book that has recently had a profound impact on your life and, in 50 words or less, explain how. Email: simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org by 16 April.

To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat. What good is a God who does not control his Son's suffering? But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, "I LOVE YOU". Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to - because of us. At Calvary, God accepted his own unbreakable terms of justice.

Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.

Philip Yancey

Recipe Easy quiche

4 eggs
1 cup milk
½ cup cream
½ cup self-raising flour
2 cups filling *
1 ½ cups grated cheese

Mix the ingredients together. Bake in a moderate oven for approximately 1 hour in either a quiche dish or muffin trays.

*Filling suggestions:

Ham and creamed corn; ham and roast pumpkin; roast chicken and asparagus; mixed grated vegetables and bacon; sundried tomatoes, basil and feta.



Mentoring:

a dynamic relationship of trust

Rachel Glover shares some of her mentoring journey and the joy of being used to help people through different life experiences



“For me, mentoring and being mentored has been a journey of many years,” said Rachel Glover, Mission Leader, Lake Community Church Mission, near Brisbane.

“Mentoring makes sense, given that relationships are central to our being. And God has an important role for us as women to be teaching other women, as Titus 2 clearly shows.”

Rachel, who has an accounting background, was first approached to be a mentor by an older teenager who asked for her help in learning about and working on faithfulness and self-control.

“She was very different to me, very artistic with a different outlook on life, but Jesus was real to her and we had an amazing journey together,” said Rachel.

“Her life changed and she opened up a remarkable, creative world to me and I grew and changed because of that involvement. It

was a win win situation.”

When the young woman got married, she asked Rachel to be her maid of honour.

“She told me she wouldn’t want anyone else to stand beside her on such a significant day,” Rachel said.

“I wanted to be in people’s lives, not to ‘sort them out’ but to leave them to Jesus and help them aim to be the best they could be.

“I am excited about being used to help people through different life experiences.”

Drawn together

Rachel believes that mentoring is about relationships that blend well and people being drawn to each other. She cites the example of a mentoring group at the Mission, led by Faye Johnstone, for younger women (see story, page 13).

“Although this is not one-on-one mentoring, the group is comfortable together, members encourage each other and are just absorbing the truth of God, of love and of life,” she said.

Other mentoring relationships can be more sister-like, when the element of one generation learning from another is not present.

Mentoring relationships may be short-term, or may grow, develop and continue for much longer periods. Many have a natural cycle and reach a conclusion that both parties are satisfied with; others are intermittent over many years at particular times of life.

Mentoring relationships don’t always work and don’t last, and they can’t be forced.

“One lady had a heart for a girl with significant need but the girl wouldn’t engage with her,” Rachel explained. “That happens, and sometimes it’s just a matter of finding the right match for both people.”

Proactive and accountable

For Rachel, mentoring includes being both proactive and accountable.

“I want to be there regularly and also proactive in following up, sending texts and emails, and praying for those I mentor,” she said.

“I have had mentors who have proactively made contact with me and have championed me on to what I can be, and it makes a difference.”

For this to happen, mentors need to be positive and encouraging, but also willing to address challenging issues. Rachel emphasised that all conversations, especially the difficult ones, need to be done in love.

Accountability and commitment go together, and are both essential elements of a growing mentoring relationship.

“When it comes to accountability, at the end of a coffee or session, I would encourage my mentee to think about something or do something concrete,” Rachel explained. “I would also try to follow up on it before our next session; it’s important to have some connection between sessions.”

Faithfulness, together with commitment, is another key in mentoring relationships.

“You have to be deliberate, intentional and engage with your mentee for the relationship to make a real difference,” said Rachel.

“You’re on a journey with someone and it’s discouraging if you’re not faithful and supportive.”

In tune with God

Staying close to God is critical when it comes to mentoring.

“It is God doing this through me, giving me the words to speak and giving life and

purpose to my words,” Rachel explained.

“For this to happen, I need to be in tune with him.”

This includes relying on God to help her ask her mentees certain questions that will lead them to their own solutions and revelations.

“I heard this in a message years ago and it’s stuck with me, that revelation often follows a question,” Rachel explained. “Like in Matthew 16 when Jesus asked Peter, ‘Who do you think I am?’ This allowed Peter to think through and express his beliefs, as revealed to him by God” (*The Message*).

Questions also open up dialogue, which is another crucial part of the mentoring process.

Mentoring flow on

As Mission Leader, Rachel prioritises mentoring senior leaders, staff, and the wives of leaders.

“It is important for me to prioritise these people as there is a chance they will mentor others, although this doesn’t always happen,” she explained.

“One lady I mentor is in a mentoring relationship with a lady in her twenties who in turn is mentoring a teenager. That is the ultimate mentoring flow on.”

Rachel also will approach girls she believes God is prompting her to mentor, or refer girls to other mentors who she feels will work best for that person.

There are many people who could be greatly encouraged and ministered to through a mentoring relationship.

“Teenagers, young mums, women whose husbands don’t follow God, those going through tough times – we need to be out there.”

Reflecting Titus 2

Faye Johnstone responded to God’s call to start a mentoring group and her journey since then has brought some surprising results

“Three years ago I sensed that God was calling me to follow Titus 2 and work with younger women with children,” Faye explained. “It’s been a wonderful journey but not in the way I thought it would be!”

Faye initially approached Lake Community Church Mission Leader, Rachel Glover, to identify some women who could benefit from the group.

The group soon began meeting weekly, with discussions based on biblical topics and life experiences.

“I had no specific plan on how to run the group,” said Faye. “I just prayed that God would show me how to talk to the young girls, what to talk to them about, how to be honest and vulnerable in front of them, and that we would learn to trust each other.”

Faye encouraged the girls and spoke openly into what they were experiencing and wanting to discuss. There was no pressure on anyone to talk or share if they didn’t want to.

“There was a lot of sadness and difficulties within our group and so we prayed for each other, prayed to see God’s miracles, and we know he has used

us in each other’s lives,” said Faye.

It took 12 months, but now group members are more confident and the signs of growth are clear.

“They are answering each other’s questions, supporting each other, praying out loud, testifying in church, and telling others about the group,” Faye said.

“It’s been wonderful to see the love and trust happening, especially as I was questioning myself as to whether I was doing the right thing.

“Trust is what it’s all about. It’s coming alongside another woman and being an authentic friend they can trust.”

Older women have also begun to attend which has brought a different dimension to the group.

“They share with the younger women and everyone is opening up about what they’ve been through,” said Faye.

“We have tears, laughter and everything in our group, and their growth in God is amazing to see.”

Faye is excited to see every girl in her group now actively involved in ministry.

“I am so thankful that God led me to this ministry, and has helped us all take steps forward,” she said.

One-on-one mentoring: A suggested structure

Major Belinda Spicer has been mentoring for over 13 years, and shares her personal mentoring structure with *Women in Touch*

- Be intentional – this is mentoring, not a pastoral visit.
- Listen well!
- Agree on dates to meet over a 12-month period – monthly seems ideal.
- Discuss trial periods for and assessments of, the mentoring relationship.
- Meet at a suitable venue for approximately one hour.
- Clarify your role with your mentee and set out a structure.
- Ask them in which areas of life they would like to be mentored. Some common areas include marriage, children, family, gifting, character development and relationships.
- Pray before each session and ask God what he would have you ask your mentee.
- Encourage, encourage, encourage!
- Be willing to equip your mentee with helpful resources.
- At the end of each session, ask your mentee to think through 3-4 achievable goals they can work on and then discuss at the next session.
- Before concluding with prayer, ask your mentee how you can pray for them over the coming month.
- If your mentee agrees, keep notes of your time together so you can recall what has taken place.

Major Belinda Spicer, “Mentoring Women for Ministry”, *Life is a Song* 2011 Women’s Ministries manual. Major Belinda is Mission Leader, Greater Liverpool Corps.

Resources

Mentoring Matters
Rick Lewis
Monarch Books, 2009

Transforming Together – Authentic Spiritual Mentoring
Ele Parrott
Moody Publishers, 2009

Mentoring Leaders: Wisdom for Developing Character, Calling, and Competency
Carson Pue
Baker Books, 2005

<http://www.johnmallison.com>
<http://www.soulcare.com>
<http://arrowaustralia.com.au>

“Critical, is the fact that at the core of *all* the mentoring I undertake is my own personal relationship with God. Everything that I need to equip me in this ministry that I place so much value upon, will flow out of the heart of my own spiritual encounter and time spent with God. We just can’t give out more than we have ourselves.”

Major Belinda Spicer



Over coffee

I wait quietly and absorb the sound of chatter, eating and drinking going on around me. One by one my friends appear and take their place at the table. Sometimes we arrive flustered, running late or distracted, but as we greet each other and sit together we find time to take a breath and begin to relax.

It’s been six weeks since we last met and we relish this time to enjoy each other’s company and to share what has been happening in our lives. Sometimes there are tears, always there is laughter and always we share deeply about our joys and struggles. We each get a turn to talk and we listen.

Sometimes we offer advice from our own experiences, sometimes a probing question or two is posed and we wrestle together

with the mysteries of life, motherhood and ministry. Sometimes there are no answers and occasionally, very occasionally, there is silence.

We are not always like-minded, but we are on the same journey and the desires of our hearts are the same: we long to know God more and to become more like Christ. We feel safe to admit our failures and express our fears – we hold each other in our hearts and know that our time together is far more than three friends simply meeting for coffee.

We leave reluctantly, knowing that our lives and ministries draw us back into action, but we have been challenged, blessed, inspired, and loved in our time together.

Major Jo-anne Brown
Corps Officer, Calamvale

Social Justice Snapshot

Ethical Easter Eggs

It's no secret. It doesn't matter what age you are, we all wake up on Easter Sunday morning hoping the Easter bunny has left a stash of yummy chocolate Easter eggs. But for those who don't believe in the Easter Bunny (hopefully that is most of us!), what brand of Easter eggs or bunnies do you usually purchase?

Now at first this might seem like a strange question to ask but have you ever wondered what Easter eggs would Jesus buy? By now most of us would be aware of Fairtrade chocolate. Fairtrade endeavours to produce ethical chocolate that does not exploit labour in third world countries. And, this year Fairtrade has partnered with Cadbury, Heart of Chocolate, Lindsay and Edmunds and Chocolatier to produce ethical Easter eggs.

So when you buy your Easter eggs this year, look for the Fairtrade logo on the box to make sure you are purchasing ethical Easter eggs. Visit www.fairtrade.com.au for more information.



Finding ethical Easter eggs

- Cadbury Hollow Egg – Available at Coles, Big W and independent supermarkets
- Heart of Chocolate “Divine Easter Eggs” range – Visit www.heartofchocolate.com for stockists
- Chocolatier Milk and Dark Eggs and Milk Chocolate Bunnies and Mini Eggs, all \$8.99 – Visit www.chocolatier.com.au for stockists
- Lindsay and Edmunds Easter Eggs, and Bunny lollipops – www.lindsayandedmunds.com.au for stockists



Life is better when we do it together

In her regular column, Lieutenant Vanessa shares her thoughts on the beauty of having a mentor.

If I were to look back over the past couple of years and the lessons I have learnt, one of the stand outs would be this – life is better when we do it together. Prior to learning this lesson, I would have classed myself as fairly independent. For example, I would never let anyone pay for my meal and I actually took great pride in saying, “No thanks, I can do this on my own”.

However, God has been challenging me about this, and I've come to the conclusion that this whole concept of being “independent” has actually been twisted in our society and causes people to become isolated, facing the big things of life on their own.

I've recently discovered the beauty of “interdependence”. It's not independence, and it's not an unhealthy dependence on others, but it's a healthy, two-way relationship that is mutually beneficial and encouraging. It's the way we were created to be with others. I've discovered this both in some amazing friendships I have been blessed with and the amazing mentor I have had for the past two years.

I had been searching for a mentor for a long time before I came across the amazing

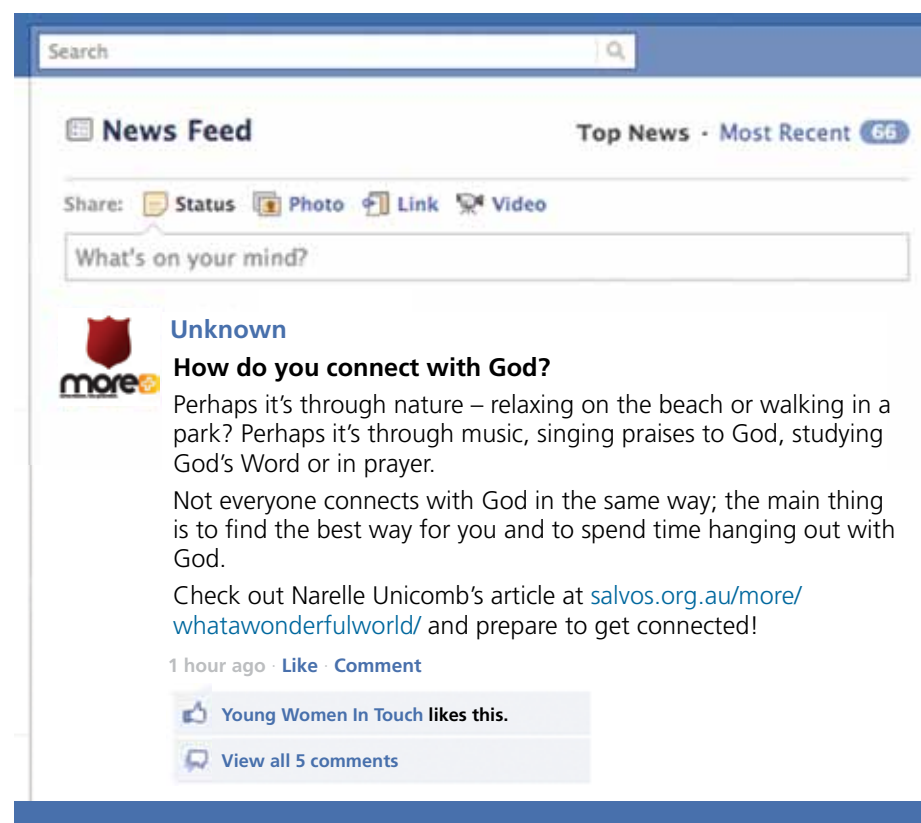
woman of God who is now my mentor. I knew that I needed a person who inspired me, modelled Christ-like qualities and would encourage and challenge me to be all I can be in Christ. My mentor has done just that. She has listened to me, prayed with me, kept me accountable, shared the highs and lows of my life and has given me plenty of wise advice!

My life, both spiritually and personally, has been enhanced greatly by this mentoring relationship. However, in order to make the most of it, I have had to be pretty honest with her, become vulnerable and share with her things that I haven't shared with many others. I had to strip away the “independent” self and let someone else in.

I still like to pay for my own meal at dinner, but if someone else wants to bless me by paying for me, then I'm OK with that now. Sometimes you give and sometimes you receive. That's the beauty of interdependence.



**Lieutenant
Vanessa Kohler
Team Member,
Far North
Queensland Hub**



Everybody has a story ...

Giving God the reins

Caitlin is 17, attends Newcastle Worship and Community Centre, and is in her final year of high school.

As an officer's kid, Caitlin Allen is familiar with moving. Packing up her room into removal boxes has always been a normal routine for Caitlin. But packing up her life and then trusting God with it has been the difficult part.

For six years Caitlin says she struggled with her relationship with God: “I kind of had God just on Sundays,” she explained.

And her struggles continued when her parents were appointed to Newcastle in 2009.

“That shattered my world. It was absolutely heartbreaking,” exclaims Caitlin.

During the moving process, Caitlin started to hear from God about the plans he had for her life.

“The moving process actually showed me that God has a plan,” she says. “He just doesn't have a plan for my parents but he has a plan for me as well as an individual in Newcastle. That was a great realisation.”

Over the past two years, Caitlin has become passionate about acting and is working towards a career as an actress. However, when God began to challenge her plans, she found it difficult to trust God with her future.

When Caitlin attended Kingdom Come, The Salvation Army Tri-Territorial youth conference in January 2011, she had a breakthrough experience with God.

“I basically said, ‘God if I don't get anything else out of the whole week, I just want to get right with you’.

“On the Thursday session I completely broke down and I realised what God was telling me and he



said, ‘I need you to trust me and to just let me take the control back and I started feeling a wall physically inside me break apart’.

A week later, Caitlin received further revelations from God about her future in acting.

“I was just in my room having a quiet time and God revealed to me that he did want me to continue with my acting; it was just that he needed me to give him the reins back.”

Choosing Jesus

As an officer kid I had always thought that I was a Christian, that I was saved and that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. But when I was 15-years-old, somebody asked me when I had accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. At that moment I realised that I had never experienced it!

Time passed and being a teenager, I had to make some choices, either for God or against him. Then came the moment where I had to make a decision once and for all, and I chose God. On Good Friday, 2008, I officially decided to receive God into my life and to love and serve him.

Now as a 19-year-old, I still have to make choices and many of them are quite difficult for me.

I have been attending Bucharest corps, Romania, for five years and I joyfully serve God and people in

need. People in Romania are very special, but at the same time very difficult.

Our youth has many problems because of the families and environment in which they grew up, but when we all gather together we feel like a family. We support one another, pray together and just be there for the people of our corps.

God is always taking care of me because he loves me and I love him back.

On the 26th of January I left Romania for Copenhagen, Denmark, to live there and go to a business school. This has been my dream since I was little.

God is good, dear young women. All the time! If you make his plans and his will your goals, you will never be disappointed. Pray, ask and make right choices. Choose him. He has a great plan for each one of us!



Vlada shares about her life, and her calling, in the nation of Romania

Hello! My name is Vlada and I'm from Romania. I'm an officer kid and I've spent my whole life in The Salvation Army.

All my life I have been moving from one country to another, which was both an advantage and disadvantage for me.

God time

Do you ever sit back at the end of the day, reflect on what you have done, and think, “Where did my day go?” I’m sure we have all been there!

We live in such a busy world, everything is fast-paced, we have so many options to choose from and we are always pushing ourselves just that extra bit further – sometimes even so far that we burn out! You know what I’m talking about, right?

So, when was the last time you looked at everything you do? I challenge you now: get a pen and paper and write it all down.

I challenged myself with this and, at first, I refused to do it. I knew I was doing too much. I knew in my heart and spirit that I wasn’t giving God as much time as I could.

He misses you

It’s a hard reality to face isn’t it? Sometimes we don’t even know we do it. We wake up, get ready to go to work or school, come home, go to meetings, go to practice, be a mum or a dad, a husband or wife, lead ministry, plan the weekend, have a social life, cook, clean, study ... And I’m sure there is more!

I ask you this – where in there is God’s time? Just you and him? God ministering to you? And this is where it hurts, we know it could be more; we know it could be better. But by the end of the day we are too tired, right?

My pastor recently challenged me with this and gave me some lyrics to a song by Larnelle Harris, *I Miss My Time With You*. Some of the lyrics are:

I miss my time with you, those moments together. I need to be with you each day and it hurts me when you say you’re too busy. Busy trying to serve me but how can you serve me when your spirit’s empty. There’s a longing in my heart wanting more than just a part of you, it’s true I miss my time with you.

A word of thanks

I am reminded of a verse in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3: “We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of

your faithful work, your loving deeds and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ” (New Living Translation).

As a sister in Christ I want to say thank you for all that you do, thank you for your time, your energy, your faithfulness and your service establishing God’s Kingdom here on earth. But please, please make time for God – on top of the good and faithful works you do.

He has so much more he wants to do with and in you, but he wants your time, your love, and for you to listen to him, first!

Strategise to prioritise

Let’s start out by doing these three simple things:

1. Live a life reflecting the priorities of God. What Kingdom priorities do you hold so dearly that you want to grow in them and really make a priority in your life?
2. Get organised! Make it clear in your calendar and your diary what you do, where and when. Try to make sure it is in line with the priorities you have thought about above. Include “buffer time” as we know things can come up at the last minute that we need to fit in.
3. Stay accountable to a Bible reading plan. Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that the Word of God is living and active. Everyday God can say something fresh to you, inspire you, and give you hope or maybe even a gentle reminder! Let’s get stuck into the Word, keep accountable, and be challenged!



Toniele Williams
Youth Worker
Lake Youth Service
The Salvation Army Lake
Community Church
Mission

The full version of this article first appeared on the MORE website in July 2010. You can read it at salvos.org.au/more/godtime/

Reviews

Where I Find You – Kari Jobe

It is clear Kari Jobe’s life is utterly devoted to Jesus. Her latest album, *Where I Find You*, following her Dove award-winning self-titled debut, *Kari Jobe*, is a collection of her thoughts, prayers and heart-aches that all acknowledge Jesus as her saviour and rescuer.

Produced by Ed Cash (Chris Tomlin) and Matt Bronleewe (Natalie Imbruglia), *Where I Find You* features Kari’s new hit radio single, *We Are* – an excellent platform for summing up the album, which is designed for listeners to experience God’s presence to the utmost.

“Ultimately, it’s about declaring who he is and enjoying the simplicity of knowing the Lord is near,” Kari shares. “He’s for us, he loves us, and sometimes, we need to just stop,

enjoy his presence and take that in.”

Opening with *Steady My heart*, Kari tells listeners they can experience Jesus’ presence throughout all trials – a theme that continues through the entire album.

Kari is raw in sharing her emotions and struggles in the album, particularly in *One Desire* where she cries out passionately, “It’s you God, it’s you. It’s you, only you”, and in *Find You on My Knees* saying, “Find you when I’m at my end ... I find you on my knees”.

Run To You, *Saviour’s Here*, *Love Came Down* and *Here* all emphasise the importance of running to Jesus, finding rest in him, laying down your burdens and remembering that God’s love never fails.

Musically, Kari begins a majority of her songs simply, with just vocals and an acoustic instrument such as the piano or violin, and builds to where she cries out passionately to God with both her lyrics and vocal tones –



showing great strength in her voice.

We Exalt Your Name featuring Matt Maher does exactly this but then concludes peacefully, making way for the final piano-lead song, *Here*.

One Year Experiencing God’s Presence Devotional

Chris Tiegreen
Tyndale Houses, October 2011



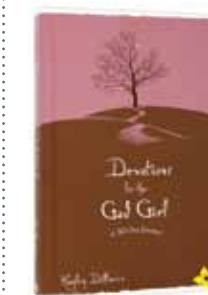
Do you long to be in God’s presence and to hear his voice? Chris Tiegreen’s one year devotional is all about real encounters with God and can help draw you into a deeper, intimate

relationship with God by learning to recognise his voice.

Price: \$14.95 from Koorong (www.koorong.com).

Devotions For The God Girl

Hayley Dimarco
Revell, October 2010

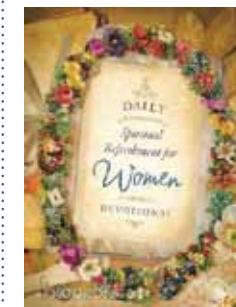


daily actions to life decisions.

Price: \$16.95 from Koorong (www.koorong.com).

Daily Spiritual Refreshment for Women Devotional

Compiled by Kathy Shutt
Barbour Publishing, August 2011



If you’re looking for daily spiritual refreshment then this is the devotion for you. This year-long devotion includes faith-focused messages that aim to rejuvenate your soul.

Price: \$15.95 from Koorong (www.koorong.com).

CONGRATULATIONS

The Great Awakening – Leeland CD winner

Congratulations to Jessica McCorriston from the Gold Coast Temple Corps. Jessica would like to see us review *Live at the Banks*

House’ – Will Reagan & United Pursuit. Thanks Jessica, for your suggestion and we’ll see what we can do!

WIN A CD

To go into the draw to win a copy of Kari Jobe’s album, *I Will Find You*, simply send your name, age and email address to simone.worthing@aue.salvationarmy.org

Juggling roles requires focus on God

Greater West Division

Cheryle Symons is one extraordinary lady. Not only does she run Hawkesbury City Corps with her husband Greg, she's the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service Chaplain, she co-manages an accounting business with her sister, Jeanette Thornley, and she rescues ridgeback dogs.

"You have to be organised and manage your time," Cheryle explained. "Time management is absolutely crucial. But I'm finding that God is the manager of time."

Cheryle's main passion in life is to serve the Lord.

"I just love seeing people grow in Christ," she said. "It's about getting



in there and trying to make people's lives better and helping them to recognise it's about Jesus."

While Cheryle is accustomed to juggling a busy schedule, her trials have been far from few. Due to personal reasons Cheryle and her husband resigned from officership in June 1989 after completing only four and half years of appointments.

"I'm here to tell you that there's no way that I could have survived any of this if I hadn't had my focus on God," she said.

After the resignation, Cheryle took a leap of faith and started studying accounting for six years at Charles Sturt University. While studying, Cheryle also began co-managing her sister's accounting business and has now been there for 22 years.

Since 2006, Cheryle and Greg have been leading the corps at Hawkesbury.

"We prayed about it and felt that this is what God wanted us to do," said Cheryle. "And we've found that Hawkesbury is a very healing place where people do come to us hurt and broken and you see them restored."

As the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service Chaplain, Cheryle has seen her fair share of devastation but firmly believes God will continue to use her to change people's lives.

"Some of the stuff I have seen is unspeakable," she shared. "We often get called out to motor vehicle accidents and also have to deal with domestic violence.

"But you wouldn't believe some of the stuff I have seen God do, it's just amazing."

Cheryle and her husband have two daughters, Karyn and Katrina.

Annual WOW weekend challenges women

Greater West Division

Over 150 women attended the annual divisional Women of Worth weekend, held late last year at The Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches.

"Everyone was in great anticipation of what God was going to do this weekend," said Major Judith Baker, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries.

The theme of the weekend was "Inside out – Spread the Love". Guest speakers were Pastors Amanda Best and Bibe Roadley who are also twins.

On the Friday night, Pastor Amanda challenged the women to be open to God and willing to allow him to work on them from the inside throughout the weekend. The women lit candles to show their commitment to take up this challenge.

"During the Saturday sessions, both guest speakers passionately shared principles that keep you living strong on the inside and being of good courage, no matter what is happening around you," said Major Judith.

Candidate Nicky Stowe, who is visually impaired and has a guide dog, inspired the women with her testimony. Nicky shared how for many years she had felt called to be an officer and that she had just been accepted for training in 2012.

"Her testimony was a real challenge to those of us who don't have this sort of disability, and also proof that 'with God, nothing is impossible,'" Major Judith said.

"Project Runway" was the Saturday night highlight. "The ladies enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and parade various creations as well as lots of hilarious moments," said Major Judith.

Sunday morning included an opportunity to give to the Territorial Women's Ministries project, as well as a gift of stationery or Christmas cards to women in prisons.

Following a powerful message from Pastor Amanda, an invitation was given to be ministered to through prayer and many women responded.

Each woman received the gift of a butter knife, painted with the words "spread the love" as a challenge and reminder to impact those around them with God's love every day.



My story is his story

Australia Eastern Territory



The Capricorn Region Corps held a Women's Only Weekend at Coolwaters Camp, Emu Park, in late 2011.

The theme, 'My Story Is His Story' was something God laid on our hearts that women need to know, particularly when we've had to take some hard knocks in life," explained Lieutenant Tara McGuigan, Corps Officer.

"It was a time of deep refreshing for our spirits as we shared in wonderful fellowship, great teaching and moving testimonies, not to mention the good food provided by the centre and delicious slices made by our ladies!

"Many received healing and encouragement as the Holy Spirit ministered to us so holistically that weekend."

Major Wendy Walters, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries, led the teaching.

"The ladies came to experience a deeper understanding and assurance that we are now children of the Kingdom of God," said Lieut. Tara.

"No longer do we need to go back to living our old 'Cinderella' lives in suffering and unhappiness. We are in now in relationship with Jesus who has redeemed us."

Anya weekend helps girls discover God

Newcastle & Central NSW Division

Lake Munmorah was the setting for an inspiring Anya girls' weekend for 20 girls and seven leaders from the Hunter Valley and Central Coast, 2-4 December 2011.

Anya is a youth outreach camp held by The Salvation Army aimed at girls between 12 – 15 years. "They are weekends of fun, relaxation, positive life teaching and exploring the Gospel for girls who may not have had the easiest start in life," said Leah Robinson, Port Stephens Corps, who served as a leader at the weekend.

Leaders bring three young girls from their community and commit to being their mentor throughout the weekend and beyond. "They commit to sowing time, energy and prayer into the support and development of their campers," Leah explained.

During the weekend the girls played games, relaxed and spent time at the beach. They also had their hair, nails and make-up done before a photo shoot and surprise dinner out at a local café.

Life sessions – interactive time with leaders – covered topics including being fearfully and wonderfully made, relationships, body image and the Gospel presentation.

"It was wonderful to see all the girls making new friends, discovering there is a God who loves them, and seeing their interest in the Gospel," said Leah.



New Women's Ministries manual now available

Australia Eastern Territory

The 2012 Women's Ministries manual, *Whatever is Lovely* is now available through local corps.

"This manual is for Women's Ministries as a whole and is a resource filled with creativity and inspiration to take women on a journey into the deeper things of God through a focus on Philippians 4:8," said Colonel Robyn Maxwell, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries.

The manual opens with a message from Commissioner Jan Condon, Territorial President of Women's Ministries. The pages are then divided into seven chapters, based on the attributes expressed in Philippians 4:8 – those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy.

Content in each chapter includes meeting plans, devotions, Bible studies, décor ideas, thoughts on each topic, ministry stories and additional resources. Sub topics include social justice, Easter, encouragement, nurturing your spiritual life, and positive thinking. A CD with extra resources comes with the manual.

"I would like to extend our grateful thanks to the women leaders of the Australia Eastern Territory who have contributed rich resources to this manual," said Colonel Robyn.



Retreat helps women face their giants

Sydney East & Illawarra Division

Life is a Song was the theme for the women's divisional retreat in Wollongong late last year.

In her opening comments, Major Narelle Rees, then Divisional Director of Women's Ministries, reminded the women of the importance of understanding just what their "song" really was.

Major Cheralynne Pethybridge, divisional Women's Ministries Secretary, led worship. This included a prayer walk based on Darlene Zschech's song *Shout to the Lord* and various passages from the Psalms.

Major Susanne Cox, Corps Officer, Campbelltown, was guest speaker for the retreat.

"Major Sue based her teaching on various aspects of the life of David and how God was his lifesong," said Major Cheralynne.

In her first session Major Sue used illustrations from the movie *Happy Feet* to challenge the women that their heartsong needed to be grounded in Jesus. She reminded them that God uses unlikely characters with weaknesses and faults in order for his strength to shine through them.

"The women were challenged in her second session, based on the story of David and Goliath, to face up to the 'giants' in their life and not let Satan distract them from their lifesong," said Major Cheralynne.

"Major Sue's third session was based on David's excitement at being in the presence of God and the need to be careful that our own emotions don't cause us to be critical of the lifesong that God has placed within others."

Major Sue challenged the women by relating David's kindness and compassion to Mephibosheth to dine at his table, even with his "giants", to Christ's invitation to us.

"Many women responded to this invitation by bringing their 'giants' to the table of grace," said Major Cheralynne.

Other highlights of the weekend included a music trivia night, a Mary Poppins sing-along night and an auction from which all proceeds went to the Territorial Women's Ministries project.



New project sets bold target

Australia Eastern Territory

Throughout last year, Women's Ministries groups raised an impressive \$105,025 for the Territorial Women's Ministries 2011 project – Indigenous Ministries. This money has been and will continue to fund community vegetable gardens, homework clubs, small enterprise support projects, positive parenting groups and leadership capacity development programs.

The Women's Ministries Department has set a bold target of \$110,000 for the 2012 project – health education flip charts for Africa. These charts will be used to educate, and therefore assist, women, children and men in vital areas of healthcare.

"These charts will be produced in local languages and will be used in Home Leagues, community health training sessions, youth groups and men's groups," said Commissioner Jan Condon, Territorial President of Women's Ministries.

"They will cover topics including HIV / AIDS, nutrition and growth, diarrhoea and hygiene, safe motherhood, immunisation and breastfeeding" (see ad below).

Territorial Women's Ministries Project 2012

Health Education Flip Charts for Africa

Based on ten sets of "Facts for Life"

- HIV / AIDS
- Malaria
- Nutrition and Growth
- Diarrhoea and Hygiene
- Coughs and Chest Infections
- Injury Prevention
- Safe Motherhood
- Immunisation
- Birth Spacing and Contraception
- Breastfeeding

These will be used in Home League meetings, youth groups, men's meetings and other community health training sessions in Africa.

Target: \$110, 000



Q&A - Captain Victoria Lalac

Captain Victoria Lalac, together with her husband, Captain Valeriu Lalac, serve as Regional Leaders of Romania, part of the Eastern Europe Territory. Captain Victoria shares her deep love of her calling to this beautiful, yet challenged, country, and her faith in God's future plans for its people



Can you give us a brief overview of The Salvation Army in Romania?

The Salvation Army began its work in Romania in 1999. There are currently four corps in four big cities – Bucharest, Ploiesti, Craiova and Iasi. In November 2005, The Salvation Army in Romania was officially registered as a Christian Mission. It is now in the process of being re-registered as a church.

Every corps is both a spiritual and a social centre. The spiritual life of these corps is vibrant and full of joy in Christ. The social arm focuses on different ministries, including:

- Collecting clothes and furniture and giving them to the poor
- Laundry facilities for street people (the homeless), invalids and poor families
- Feeding programs for the homeless
- Educational programs including after school clubs for orphans and teenagers, music and guitar classes, and computer classes
- Marriage enrichment courses.

Women's and Men's Ministries are more spiritually focused and include Bible studies and prayer fellowship.

What are the major areas of ministry in which you serve?

I am the Bucharest Corps Officer, Regional Director for Women's Ministries, and also oversee education, candidates and cadets, finances, projects, personnel, resources and trade.

What are some of the greatest needs in Romania?

After saved souls and registration as a church, our greatest needs include more personnel and properties.

What are some of the most difficult challenges you face in ministry?

People's secularism and traditional religion are two of our biggest challenges.

What can our readers be praying about for The Salvation Army in Romania?

They can pray that we would grow in holiness and increase our number of members, that we could expand our ministries and numbers of corps, that we will be registered as a church, and can find ways to acquire property.

Please pray and ask God to call people to Romania to harvest souls. We need leaders and officers for new openings.

What are some of the deepest joys in your ministry?

When souls are saved and lives are transformed.

I am so happy to serve in Romania – a country where God called my husband Valeriu and I to open The Salvation Army and to watch his wonderful work here unfold. I love being God's instrument in his work.

I love my calling to be a Salvation Army officer. I love my God and I love people, so I love seeing how people's lives change, how they grow in their knowledge about God and his salvation, and how they are impacted by the Holy Spirit.

I am happy to see how people accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. I am also happy to see how people open their hearts for the Holy Spirit's work. I love to encourage people in that and also to be for them a real example of the teaching I provide them with.

I believe that God has a wonderful plan for The Salvation Army in Romania and a great future lies ahead for it!



“... death was not Jesus’ penalty; it was His destiny. It was not His lot in life; it was His mission. It was not His unavoidable fate; it was His purpose statement for coming to earth that first Christmas: ‘Born to die.’ ”

The Path of His Passion
Bill Crowder
Discovery House, 2006

