

WOMEN In touch

A heart for all nations

Stopping the traffick
in Taiwan

Youth groups: building
the Kingdom

People and playlists

It's time to be kind!



A matter of honour

accepting, respecting and valuing each other

An awareness of grace

I've had the privilege of visiting many amazing places – the ancient ruins of Rome, the Colosseum, and the Eiffel Tower. However, nothing compares to a recent holiday to Uluru. It's hard to believe that in Central Australia, in the middle of the desert, you find this magnificent creation!

There is something about Uluru and its rich Indigenous culture that draws the attention of people from all over the world. Apparently 400,000 to one million people visit Uluru every year to experience the rock. The colours of Uluru change constantly throughout the day, from sunrise to sunset. It seems that every time you turn around, its sandstone magnificently reflects a different shade.

The rock is 348 metres above ground, and stretches for several kilometres underground (exact distance unknown). The walk around the base of the rock is just under 10 kilometres and takes approximately three hours – I know because I walked it!

In 1873, European explorer William Gosse named the rock Ayres Rock. However, in 1985, the region was returned to its traditional owners, the Anangu people, and re-named Uluru. The Anangu people now jointly manage the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park with Parks Australia.

A matter of honour

Aborigines think of Uluru as a symbol of all creation. The Anangu people do not climb Uluru because of its great sacredness, and they request that visitors refrain from climbing it as well. A sign at the base of Uluru posted by the traditional owners specifically ask visitors to honour their request not to climb their sacred rock. It reads in part:

"Our traditional Law teaches us the proper way to behave. We ask you to respect our Law by not climbing Uluru. What visitors call 'the climb' is the traditional route taken by ancestral Mala man upon their arrival at Uluru in the creation time. It has great spiritual significance. We have a responsibility to teach and safeguard visitors to our land. 'The climb' is dangerous and too many people have died while attempting to climb Uluru. Many others have been injured while climbing. We feel great sadness when a person dies or is hurt on our land."

It wasn't a hard decision for me not to climb in honour of their culture. It was also a challenge to me as I observed the many people who did choose to visit, climb and take in the sunsets, as to whether they paused to think about the **Creator** and not just enjoy the creation.

This edition of *Women in Touch* says much about "honouring one another".



James 3:17-18 says:

"Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterised by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour" (*The Message*).

What a great verse to live by! I am sure that we all desire a healthy, robust community that lives right with God. As we seek to do this, may we also remember the truth in 2 Thessalonians 1:12: "If your life honours Jesus, he will honour you. Grace is behind all of this, our God giving Himself freely, the Master, Jesus Christ, giving Himself freely" (*The Message*).

As we each endeavour to show **honour** to each other and to our amazing God, may we each have a greater awareness of his grace for us!



Colonel Robyn Maxwell
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

About this issue – from the editor's desk

"Be kind to one another; everyone is struggling with something; every person is carrying a burden inside."
"People don't need to be judged and criticized; they need genuine, frequent and deliberate kindness."

These two sentences came to me recently in two separate emails from two different people within two hours of each other. Kindness and the impact it has, and its lack in our world, has been on my mind ever since.

In this issue we look at kindness – how this hurting world needs it, and the power it has to change people's lives.

We also go one step further, deeper, and explore the concept of honouring one another. This concept can often sound old-fashioned and somewhat quaint, and yet Jesus makes it clear that honouring each other – genuinely loving, respecting and valuing each other – needs to characterise our relationships at all levels.

Our three writers on this subject focus on different aspects of honouring one another: from seeing the value and worth of fellow believers, even in times of disagreement; to choosing to allow the Holy Spirit to change us and reflecting God's nature in our relationships; to allowing the love we experience in our relationship with Jesus to motivate us in treating others with that same radical, all-encompassing grace.

Youth groups and how they are providing safe places for young people to grow in their relationships with Jesus and reach out into their communities are another focus of this issue. The acceptance, sense of

belonging and hope that young people across the territory are finding in these groups, and the dedication and vision of their leaders, is truly inspiring.

Two ladies share their very different walks with the Lord – one through a painful divorce and the other through challenging experiences in remote regions of the world – but who are both serving God in unique ways and having an impact on all those around them.

Human trafficking is a global crime of deep concern to us all. Major Leanne Duncan writes about how The Salvation Army is tackling this growing tragedy in Taiwan, and their determination to equip communities to fight back and stop the traffick!

Perspective features a survey you can take to find out how many "slaves" work for you – check it out and be prepared to be surprised by the results.

From the *Women in Touch* team, we hope and pray you find this issue challenging, encouraging and worth sharing!



Simone Worthing
Editor

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In touch

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,
Communications and Public Relations Secretary

EDITOR: Simone Worthing

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Kem Pobjie

COVER PHOTO: Shairon Paterson

EDITORIAL AND CORRESPONDENCE:
PO Box A435

Sydney South NSW 1235

PHONE: (02) 9266 9690

EMAIL: eastern.editorial@ae.salvationarmy.org

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A matter of honour

A matter of honour: accepting, respecting and valuing each other

Honouring one another encourages, uplifts and makes others feel significant. Major Jo-anne Brown takes a look at just how deep an impact truly honouring someone, can make

Seeing others through the eyes of Christ

I recently attended a course where people spoke about “honouring” each other. I was struck by how often this word was used – and how it was practised. I did indeed feel honoured by those around me: I was treated with the utmost respect, as though I were someone special.

As I drove home I thought about this experience and the verb “to honour”. I seldom hear this in conversation, and I seldom say it myself. I realised that, not only is it a word I don’t often hear, but perhaps a concept not commonly practised.

The Salvation Army is known for “alleviating human suffering and distress without discrimination” and the Australian public generously honours the work we do in Jesus’ name. We care deeply about all those in need and we show them practical love and respect. We treat them as people of great worth.

Within the Church, however, there doesn’t always seem to be the same respect for others as is evident in our ministries to those in need. I am challenged about how I honour those I spend time with – or more to the point, how little I sometimes honour those around me.

Tasks versus people

Sometimes we are so busy that we almost forget to greet one another before we start talking about the task at hand. It is very easy in this world to become so task-oriented that we forget about the person standing right in front of us. I notice this especially at the supermarket. I am tired and the supermarket, especially in a long queue, is the last place I want to be. The person working at the check-out might be slow, and all I am concerned about is getting home. I don’t always think of this person as a person created in God’s image – in fact, I am sometimes tempted

to think of him or her as the obstacle to my getting home at a reasonable time.

This is far from Jesus’ attitude. Jesus noticed people. He attended to them. Yes, he always had more to do: more people to heal, more people to teach, to raise from the dead, or to challenge. But this never deterred him from attending to the people that crossed his path along the way.

Scripture tells us of the time he was going to Jairus’ house to heal his daughter (Luke 8:42-48). The crowds were pressing against him, yet he noticed the woman among all the others who

“Honouring” implies a sense of value and esteem. It means I see the value and worth of the other person, even if I don’t agree with their opinions, decisions or behaviour.”

touched him, hoping and believing she would be healed. Amid the tumult, Jesus noticed her – and paid attention to her. He honoured her and she went on her way, healed.

It seems that in everything Jesus did, he noticed the people who were in his presence and he paid attention to them, regardless of what else was on his or someone else’s agenda. Jesus never gives the impression he was in too big a hurry to give his whole-hearted attention to those who reached out for him.

Esteeming each other

Paul tells us to honour one another above ourselves. He also writes “Love must be

sincere”, and “Be devoted to one another in love” (Romans 12:9-10). There are echoes of the Sermon on the Mount here – and Jesus’ command for us to “Love one another” (John 13:34). Both Paul and Jesus are speaking about how we should treat fellow believers.

“Honouring” implies a sense of value and esteem. It means I see the value and worth of the other person, even if I don’t agree with their opinions, decisions or behaviour.

Often we allow our disagreements or our differing opinions to lead us along the path of becoming critical or judgmental. If someone is not growing in the Lord as I think they should, sometimes my reaction is one of frustration or impatience instead of simply honouring who they are and where they are in Christ.

It seems that the ones we spend most time with – our colleagues, fellow believers, family members – are least likely to know how much we honour them. Sometimes this is simply because we allow our tiredness or our busyness to get the better of us. Or can it be that sometimes we just really don’t want to pay attention to the needs of others?

Really paying attention

Honouring each other means being attentive to each other. It means that when I am with someone, then I am **with** that person wholeheartedly. I value him or her and want to pay attention to what he or she is saying or not saying. Who that person is matters to me and I give freely of myself. When I honour someone else it means I am seeing them through the eyes of Christ and seeing them as a creation of God.

One thing I heard recently has also challenged me in this. It is about seeing the person in front of me not as a problem to be solved but as a mystery to be honoured. This means not being task-oriented but being person-centred. I focus my attention on the one who is

before me and I honour that person as a child of God who is being shaped and transformed by the living God, who is empowered by the Holy Spirit and who has been redeemed by Christ.

We might be working together for the Kingdom, and we might in fact be working intensely for the Kingdom, but I am reminded again of Paul’s words to honour one another and to be devoted to one another in brotherly love, no matter how busy we might be.

The love and honour I show to my fellow believers may well be more important than the task that we are involved in together. If I am not truly attentive to those closest to me, I will not notice what amazing work God might be doing in their lives.

This one simple verb has spoken deeply to me. When I am treated with honour, as a person of value, it uplifts and encourages me. When I feel that someone is being truly attentive to me, I feel valued and heard, and know that I am significant.

I am challenged to treat those around me in the same way so that they too feel uplifted and encouraged; that they too may know they are valued and significant.

The challenge for all of us is to continue to work together to “alleviate human suffering and distress without discrimination” in such a way that we honour one another as we serve, and that those who don’t yet know Jesus will see his love in action among us.



Major Jo-anne Brown
Corps Officer, Calamvale

Photos: Shairon Paterson





Captain Cheryl Kistan enjoys a cuddle with her son, Micah.

Counter cultural grace

In almost every culture, the ultimate insult is a slap in the face. Jesus though, says in Matthew 5:39: "If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

Why would Jesus say such a thing? Why would he encourage us to allow people to touch us in such a fashion?

As disciples of Jesus, our minds need to operate differently than most of society – we need to be motivated entirely by our personal relationship with Jesus. This means a different way of thinking, a different attitude with different values and a different lifestyle. We must be willing to be different and sometimes radical in the eyes of the world.

Radical grace

Jesus obviously disagreed with society's view that people need to be compensated for things that happened to them. Compensation had, in fact, been written into the laws of society from its very beginning:

"If anyone wounds his fellow, he becomes liable to compensate the injured party for five different aspects of the injury: damage, pain, healing, loss of time from work, and insult ..." (taken from the Mishnah, the first written record of the Jewish Torah (part of the Bible))

When Jesus speaks in Matthew 5, he is actually challenging the fifth point of compensation for insult as stated in the Jewish law. He was essentially saying to take the insult and ask for more.

A ruling from the Talmud, the central text of mainstream Judaism of which the Mishnah is

a part, says: "Does he give him a blow upon the cheek? Let him give two hundred zuzes; if with the other hand, let him give four hundred."

What Jesus says in Matthew 5 is in contrast to the Talmud's ruling which allows for suing a brother for every possible infringement.

Jesus is talking about putting up with insult, and even a moderate amount of abuse, before you take someone to court. Let people have space to be human, to make an error. Don't take the attitude of an opportunist, ready to exploit every wrongdoing.

Let people have space to be human, to make an error. Don't take the attitude of an opportunist, ready to exploit every wrongdoing.

Going the extra mile

At the time of Jesus, Israel was under Roman occupation. A Roman soldier could legally constrain any non-Roman to carry his supplies for one mile or 1000 paces. When Jesus speaks of going the extra mile (Matthew 5:41), he is talking about voluntarily going beyond the requirement of the Roman law. Yet Jesus does not say to go as many miles as someone demands. He encourages us to offer generous

but reasonable boundaries. He is urging us toward an attitude of service, grace, giving people space, and generosity.

To do this we need to be:

- Loving our enemies, which means choosing to override any feelings of disgust we may have. Not all forms of love are the same and the secret of loving our enemies is not the Greek word, but the context. This kind of love in Matthew 5:44 refers to a form of duty, not merely a feeling.
- Aiming at the right target – to know God and become more like him every day (Matthew 5:48)

Focus on Jesus

I love the chorus of *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus* because it shows the great truth of how our perspective turns to becoming like Jesus when we get our aim right:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

When we look at Jesus, everything else fades into insignificance. As we recognise his most amazing love, and grace, we will see his glory and want to be more and more like him; who we are and the lives that we live will be completely changed.

Captain Cheryl Kistan
Auburn Corps Officer

Of choice and change...

Honouring each other – I wonder if this is what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Christians in Ephesus: "... I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4: 1- 3).

It sounds wonderful and is certainly a way of living that is worth striving for but, like most good things, it's not easy to consistently do this. Strangely, it was a visit to a London palace which gave me some new ideas about how I could live like this.

The "Great Vine"

My husband Alistair and I have been living in London for over a year and we are enjoying the opportunity of visiting some of England's old stately homes. One day we went to Hampton Court Palace, one of the remaining residences of King Henry VIII.

The fruit of the Spirit do become more and more part of our nature as we allow the Spirit to work in our lives, but I am also finding it helpful to view this fruit as gifts.

We had a great time wandering through the formal gardens around the house and were fascinated by a huge grape vine which grows there. This "Great Vine", deemed by the Guinness Book of Records to be the largest and oldest in the world, was raised from a small cutting in 1768, and is now measured at 3.65 metres, or 12 feet, around its base. The vine and its branches are housed in a huge glasshouse, but the roots are outside in a very large plot of land which is kept completely clear of any growth so that the soil only supports the vine.

What spurred my thinking was the huge crop of fruit that is produced by this vine year after year. King George V, during his reign and time at the palace, collected the crop of sweet black eating grapes, put them into baskets and took them to the hospitals as gifts for the patients. (Today the grapes are sold to visitors in the palace shops in late summer or early autumn.)

Giving the gifts of the Spirit

While we were in the glasshouse, the words of



Above: Commissioners Astrid and Alistair Herring on a recent visit to Japan. Left: Commissioner Astrid at Hampton Court, London.



Jesus in John 15:5, of course, came to my mind: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

What intrigued me most though, was the thought that, like the grapes, this fruit, the fruit of the Spirit, could also be given away as gifts; and that living with others in the way that Paul wrote about in Ephesians is as much an act of choice as it is being changed by the Spirit within.

In Galatians 5: 22-23 the fruit of the Spirit are listed as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control," (*New Living Translation*); attributes or responses which can be consciously given to people as different situations arise.

For example, in the checkout queue, when an elderly person is slowly going through

their purse looking for the right change to pay for their goods, we could give them a gift of patience through an encouraging smile, rather than showing our restlessness through the occasional sigh and shuffling of feet. Or, when a colleague shows signs of wanting to share some personal need with us, we could give her a gift of love and kindness by stopping what we are doing and giving her our full attention.

The fruit of the Spirit do become more and more part of our nature as we allow the Spirit to work in our lives, but I am also finding it helpful to view this fruit as gifts – gifts that can be especially chosen and given away whenever the need arises.

Commissioner Astrid Herring
Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministries
South Pacific and East Asia Zone

Reflections

People and playlists

There is a phenomenon that happens with music. When you hear a song you can get “tingles” and your emotion changes, you can feel somehow connected with the author or the performer, and you can feel a sense of ownership of the piece of music even though you have no right to it.

When a song is an anthem for something in your life, it does not have to be your preferred style. Instead, it can resonate with you because it causes you to remember a feeling or an event that you connect with.

Then there are other types of songs that, when you hear them, make you want to quickly turn the radio off or cringe. They dampen your mood. What if you were told to connect with that kind of music, to spend time listening to it, to search for its value and look for how it can make your life better?

People are the music in our life. Some we connect with instantly, others are an acquired liking or a familiar sound, and there are others that we struggle to listen to.

We can assume that the music we do not like is inferior just because it's not our preference. I know I have often been guilty of saying, that “techno pop music is nothing but a lack

of talent with synthesised effects and auto tuning”. If I were to apply the Philippians 2:3-5 principles to music, I would have to consider techno pop better than heavy rock, and so would have to allow techno pop time on the radio, when I would really rather not.

Maybe it is just easier to live out Philippians 2:3-5 with people, rather than change my music preference?

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:3-5).

If talking to a particular person is outside your personal preference, apply the Philippians 2:3-5 rule. Search for their value and include them on your playlist.



Kate Cathcart
Auburn Corps

Passionfruit tart

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1/3 cup icing sugar
- 125g chilled butter, chopped
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tbs chilled water
- 1 cup thickened cream
- 1/2 cup caster sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2/3 cup passionfruit pulp

METHOD

Process the flour, icing sugar and butter in a food processor until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and water. Process until the dough just starts to come together. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth.

Roll out the pastry on a floured surface to a 4mm-thick disc. Line a 3.5cm-deep, 22cm (base measurement) fluted tart tin, with removable base (if available), with the pastry and trim any excess. Place in the fridge for 30 minutes to rest.

Preheat oven to 200°C. Place tin on a baking tray. Line the pastry case with baking paper and fill with pastry weights or rice. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and weights. Bake for a further 10 minutes or until crisp and light golden.

Meanwhile, whisk the cream, caster sugar and remaining 4 egg yolks in a medium bowl. Stir in the passionfruit pulp.

Reduce oven to 160°C. Pour egg mixture into the pastry case. Bake for 35 minutes or until set. Place in fridge overnight to chill. Enjoy!



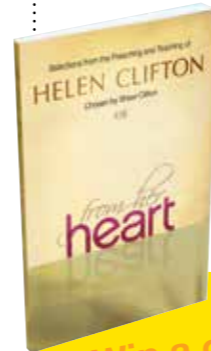
Recipe and photo courtesy Lena Pobjie

... Of the sweets of adversity, and let me say that these are not numerous, I have found the sweetest, the most precious of all, is the lesson I learnt on the value of kindness. Every kindness I received, small or big, convinced me that there could never be enough of it in our world. To be kind is to respond with sensitivity and human warmth to the hopes and needs of others. Even the briefest touch of kindness can lighten a heavy heart. Kindness can change the lives of people.

Aung San Suu Kyi – Nobel Lecture

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1991/kyi-lecture_en.html

Recommended Read!



from her heart

Selections from the Preaching and Teaching of HELEN CLIFTON
Salvation Books, London, 2012

Win a copy of this book! Simply send your name and email address to simone.worthing@aus.salvationarmy.org for a chance to win our giveaway copy.

Chosen by her husband, General Shaw Clifton (Ret.), this compilation represents writings from almost every phase of Commissioner Helen Clifton's influential service as a Salvation Army officer.

Part one includes preaching and personal testimonies from Commissioner Helen's service in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), the UK, USA, Pakistan and New Zealand. Part two contains extracts from Commissioner Helen's prayer journals that are eloquent testimony to a deep faith. Part three comprises 20 talks from her years as World President of Women's Ministries.

Clear scriptural teaching is interspersed with fascinating glimpses of both family life and the challenge of service as an Army officer. Her love and prayerful concern for her family and the worldwide family of The Salvation Army are evident.

Each talk is enhanced by background information, whether

Commissioner Helen was preaching at a small corps or speaking to the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Her public addresses, given in January and March 2011, provide a poignant conclusion to this record of a lifetime spent communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“My hope is that it will honour her memory, but even more that it will prove of help and encouragement to readers in many cultures,” writes General Clifton, in the introduction to the book.

I am certain that it will – here is a legacy from the heart and mind of a beautiful woman of God.



Lieutenant-Colonel Jayne Roberts
Editor – *The Salvation Army Year Book*
International Headquarters, London

Article and image courtesy of *Revive*, July-September 2012. See ad page 23.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ange Stevens, Rockdale Corps, who won last issue's book, *The Power of Praying for your Adult Children*. We do apologise for any confusion caused by last issue's offer. We have one free copy to give away and are unable to send a copy to everyone who sent in their names, much as we would like to!

How many slaves work for you?

“None!” you probably say, with great confidence. Really? Are you sure? Take the survey below to find out and understand your own slavery footprint. Prepare to be surprised.

<http://slaveryfootprint.org/>

To learn more and find out what you can do to help, visit:

- www.salvos.org.au/more/get-involved/social-justice
- www.stophetraffic.org.au
- <http://www.salvationarmy.org/ISJC>
- <http://www.worldvision.com.au/OurWork/Solutions/DontTradeLives.aspx>
- www.thea21campaign.org
- www.callandresponse.com
- www.notforsalecampaign.org
- www.justsalvos.com
- www.actnow.com.au

Women online

Liberti magazine

Liberti is a dynamic, independent women's magazine with a vision to encourage, equip and inspire Christian women living in today's world. Using the tag “Faith with Attitude”, *Liberti* discusses a range of issues including church, being a Christian in the workplace, abortion, overseas mission, and wearing high heels! You can purchase downloads or a subscription to the magazine at libertimagazine.com, or view the free blog at liberti-mag.blogspot.com.au

Kids free 2b kids

This is a not-for-profit organisation concerned about the increasing sexualisation of kids in the media, advertising, and clothing industries. The organisation is supported by teachers, health professionals, academics, parents, grandparents, children, authors, journalists, clothing designers, youth workers and many others. The site offers information, resources, and ideas of what you can do to make your voice count – www.kf2bk.com

Everybody has a story...

God was holding on to me...

Leanne Plon is grateful to God, her family, and her corps family for supporting her through one of life's most challenging times

"I would not have got through that time without God, my family and my church family," says Leanne.

Nine years ago, Leanne Plon finalised her divorce with her now ex-husband. Feeling alone, with two children, Keira, now aged 20 and Matthew, 24, Leanne shares some of the struggles she faced when her husband left and her life suddenly changed.

"I don't think everybody gets how lonely it can be all of a sudden," explains Leanne. "People think 'oh you've got children, you'll be alright'.

"But who do you talk to about the day-to-day stuff that's happened at work? Normally I would go home and tell my husband what happened. But when that is gone, who do you talk to?"

For Leanne, her church family became her main support and she says she wouldn't have made it through this difficult time without them.

"It would have been easier not to go to church and deal with questions, but the church family was just so supportive.

"I just think it's important for women to find a couple of friends that will help and support you. I had a friend that told me I could ring at any time of the day or night and I knew she meant it.

"I think it's really important that you have good, spiritual friends and a spiritual home that you feel loved in. I still didn't attend large Salvation Army events though, as I was embarrassed and felt I would be judged."

Family blessings

Leanne has been a Christian for the majority of her life, making a commitment when she was just eight years old. And for the past 19 years, Leanne has been attending Auburn Corps with her family.

Leanne is particularly proud of her children. While things haven't always been perfect with family life, Leanne says is grateful that her children didn't walk away from God or the church.

"I'm actually very blessed because they're both Christians; they're both attending the corps and both very spiritual. The church had a lot to do with keeping us together as a family and as a family we have grown closer together."

"I think it's really important that you have good, spiritual friends and a spiritual home that you feel loved in."

In everything she's been through, Leanne says she has always stuck with God, but it wasn't always easy.

"When my husband left it was a very hard time, but looking back I can see that God was holding on to me and that is when I got close to God. I never left God but I was very angry with him and questioned a lot of things.

"These days I struggle to have a set time for reading my Bible and praying. But I like to talk to God like he's beside me. If something comes to mind, I will pray about that particular thing. It's like he's just there as a friend," she says.

Ministry life

For the last 13 years, Leanne has also been working at Auburn Corps as the office administrator. And Leanne says she feels very blessed.

"I started work there before my husband left and there were times when, if I hadn't had the job, I probably would have gone to pieces.

"But if something happened through the day, my work mates would stop and pray with me. That's just such a blessing. I can play Christian music when I need to hear soothing music or need Christian influence."

Leanne is also very busy with ministry life. She's the kid's church coordinator at her corps and teaches the two to five-year-olds group called Kid's Praise.

"It's an honour to be able to help these children start off in their faith and learn the Bible story basics and give them a bit of a foundation," shares Leanne.

As well as working with children, Leanne helps organise Auburn Corps Home League every Wednesday, as well as the yearly ladies Anya day.



A heart for all nations

Captain Doctor Kathy Crombie believes that her experiences in Asia formed much of who she is today. She never imagined though, how the Lord would use that influential time in her life.

Originally from New Zealand, Captain Kathy came to Australia in 1986.

"I came for two reasons," she explains. "One was to study and the other was to run away!"

Captain Kathy laughed but she wasn't joking. She had just spent almost six years in Asia; serving in remote areas of Nepal and Bhutan with Interserve, an interdenominational and international mission movement.

In Bhutan Captain Kathy, a qualified nurse, was seconded to the government with a small medical team from Interserve to train local health personnel. As time went on, Captain Kathy felt that certain staff were not meeting training expectations, so it was unsafe to pass them in their subjects. She was challenged on this, remained firm, and so was told to leave the country.

"I was devastated and ashamed," she said. "I came to Australia for further study, and then to go back."

A change of direction

Captain Kathy completed her Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Public Health degrees but although she felt like her heart was still in Asia, particularly the remote, poor and beautiful nation of Nepal, it didn't seem right to go back.

Instead, she accepted a teaching position at the University of Western Sydney in the Faculty of Health, and also started on her Doctorate.

During that time, Captain Kathy stopped going to church, feeling that it was all just too hard, and that she had "too much baggage."

Some friends from The Salvation Army started "harassing" her about going to church, so she went with them one Sunday to the Springwood Corps.

"It was just like God had been waiting for me there," she said. "I felt a real sense of God's presence and in my heart I knew not to keep staying away from church."

Captain Kathy became a soldier in 1998. "I really sensed that God wasn't finished with me yet, and that he wanted me back in full time ministry. That realisation came as a bit of a shock and I resisted it for a long time!" she said.

A multicultural focus

Captain Kathy was also being challenged through her doctoral studies.

"I was reading feminist literature, particularly Bell Hooks, who wrote on how race, capitalism and gender are interconnected and how they can produce and perpetuate systems of oppression and class domination," Captain Kathy explained.

"I really had to question myself, look at my motives and at my own way of living and practising, and ask myself whether I really was one of those colonial White professors.

"As I look at my work now, as Director of the School for Multicultural Ministry, I see how God has a sense of humour and he knows what he is doing. So much of who I am and how I think was formed in Asia. I have a heart for people from other cultures, I see the importance of cultural awareness and cultural differences, but I can now put a theological



framework around it, which will be the focus for the school."

In 2002, Captain Kathy began working for the Greater West Divisional Headquarters. "They asked me to stay two years, which I thought would mean I wouldn't need to go to training college," she laughed. "After one year though, I knew God was calling me."

Captain Kathy completed her Doctorate of Education in 2004, after seven years of part time study. She completed her first year at the School for Officer Training in 2005, and, because of prior Bible College in New Zealand, her second year externally as a cadet assistant officer at the Petersham Corps. Her first appointment was back at the training college as a project officer before being appointed to Bega as corps officer.

"It was great to be in a small rural corps and I also enjoyed connecting with the community and building relationships," she said.

In April this year, Captain Kathy was appointed again to Sydney as the Director of the School for Multicultural Ministry.

"As the future unfolds, I hope to continue my involvement with the school, whether here in Sydney or wherever God may lead," she said.

YOUTH GROUPS

building up the Kingdom of God

Youth groups around the territory are providing healthy communities and safe places where young people can come to know Jesus, grow in their faith, and feel a sense of belonging. **ESTHER PINN** takes a look at the impact some of these groups are making.



Claire Hill with baby son, Lukas.

Water fights, messy games, sugar-hyped teenagers and God-talks. Sound familiar? At some point everybody has come across a youth group – whether you’ve been to one yourself, or you’re a parent who sends your teenager along.

There are over 100 youth groups that exist in The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory. And they all come in different shapes, forms and sizes. Some happen every week; others occur once a month. Some have it on Friday night; others are on Sunday evenings. Some have only three young people who regularly attend; others have more than 80 attendees. Some have structure and others have next to none.

Claire Hill has been the Territorial Mission Coordinator – Youth for the past four years. From Townsville to Auburn to Menai, Claire is proud to say that all their youth groups are unique in their own ways.

“There is some beautiful diversity throughout our territory of The Salvation Army when it comes to youth groups,” she says.

“The important thing, of course, isn’t the form or size, but that they are offering young people a healthy community that will help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.”

Claire firmly believes in the value of a regular youth program and says youth groups are a place to see young people experience salvation, grow to maturity in Jesus and live out a kingdom lifestyle that impacts the world around them.

“I believe that all young people need and deserve a safe place to belong, an opportunity to hear about and experience the life-changing love of Jesus, a positive older role model who will speak positives over their life, unconditional, selfless love and the experience of discipleship through community.

“There are thousands and thousands of young people in Australia who are missing out on some or all of these things.”

In this month’s *Women In Touch*, we feature four different Salvation Army youth groups: Pine Rivers, Forster/Tuncurry, Menai and Mackay.

MORE THAN A FRIDAY NIGHT

Controversial Coffee is Mackay Corps’ youth group name. While it may seem to be an odd name choice, Emma Neale, Mackay Corps Youth Leader, believes it works for their group of young people.

We’d love to have a lot more youth so we can do more things, but ultimately it is for them to come to know God even more – Emma

“We chose “controversial”, meaning who we are is controversial to the world, and it was also based around drinking coffee and Milo,” Emma says, laughing.

Over the past 18 months, Emma and her husband Brent have seen *Controversial Coffee* grow to up to ten people. While

the numbers are still small, Emma is more focused about helping their young people grow closer to God.

“We’d love to see continued growth in them spiritually, as well as in numbers,” she says.

“We’d love to have a lot more youth so we can do more things, but ultimately it is for them to come to know God even more.”

Emma describes their youth group as a mixed bunch. Ranging from ages 13 to 18, some have a church background and solid family, while others come from more challenging backgrounds. Ultimately, Emma and Brent aim to meet the needs of anyone who walks through their doors.

“It’s personal. We want them to come here and know this is not just a Friday night thing,” Emma explained.

“They know that we’re just a phone call away during the week. We want to see them grow as people.”

Every Friday night is not the same at Mackay as the evenings often revolve around a theme.



“We’ve had a scavenger hunt, an amazing race and also the couch project where young people sit on the couch and talk about pressing matters in the media, world events or just things that interest them,” says Emma.

Both Emma and Brent plan to develop a youth Bible study group and devote time every Friday night to reading God’s Word as a youth ministry.

The young people at *Controversial Coffee* are also keen to serve their community and Emma says they are looking into how they can help individuals within the Mackay region.

Mackay youth, left to right: Kerri Young, Kimberly Neale, Emma Neale, Brent Neale, Robert Cox, Sarah Goodwin, Chris Cox and Ashley Cox. Missing from the photo is Tegan Brett.

EXPOSING PEOPLE TO THE WORD OF GOD

“It’s been built from the ground up,” explains Nathanael Hardaker, about his involvement with *Revive* youth group at The Salvation Army Forster/Tuncurry Corps.

Until March 2009 there was no youth program available for young people at the corps in the region, says Nathanael.

“We didn’t have any youth based stuff at our church except for a youth Bible study which was just me and my sisters, so I wanted to get something started at my church and get involved with ministry myself.

“Growing up in The Salvation Army church, the older folk would always be saying that the younger folk are going to keep the church going. But nothing ever really happened with the youth so it pretty much came from that.”

Once a month 30 to 40 young people attend a Sunday night youth service hosted by the Forster/ Tuncurry Corps for the whole community, including young people from other churches within the area.

“The idea around the name was to revive our Forster and Tuncurry area and get people exposed to the Word of God,” says Nathanael.

The youth service follows a format similar to a regular church service with both worship and a message. There is always time for supper; games, including table tennis and foosball; and building relationships.

“It’s a really great night for everyone

who comes and everyone who comes looks forward to it,” said Nathanael.

Since the group began, the *Revive* leadership team has grown to 10 people and they now have a full worship band with six members.

At the beginning of 2012, Nathanael moved to Lake Munmorah to enrol in the School for Youth Leadership.

The idea around the name Revive was to revive our Forster and Tuncurry area and get people exposed to the Word of God – Nathanael

“Running *Revive* made me realise how much I love youth ministry,” he shares.

Nathanael’s older sister, Talitha took over his role at *Revive* and is now co-ordinating the monthly services.



“Exposing people to the word of God”: Worship is a key focus of every youth group service.

PROVIDING A SAFE PLACE TO GROW

“We want to ‘splash’ God into their lives.” These were the words of the *Splash* youth group leaders, Cari-Ann O’Sullivan and Lucas Daly, from Pine Rivers Corps.

Cari-Ann and Lucas took over leadership of *Splash* at the beginning of 2012 and are seeing around 30 young people attending the weekly youth group events. They are surrounded by a youth team of six, who pray and support them in their leadership.

We want the kids to feel comfortable to invite their friends along, and then to share with them about Jesus – Cari-Ann

Youth meetings currently take place each Friday night, and usually consist of a game, devotion, and the opportunity to just hang out together.

“Each week is a different lesson about Jesus, and each game that we play means something to the message that we are taught,” said Esther Howell, speaking about what she loves most about youth

group. “This is the one day of the week that we can all go and just be ourselves among the same people that love God.”

Lionel Marutawana also enjoys the fellowship of Pine Rivers youth group, and desires to see it grow. “I go to Pine Rivers Youth because it is a great atmosphere to be in,” he says.

“Watching everyone enjoying themselves and, most of all, worshipping the Lord, is just a blessing. I hope our Youth gets bigger in numbers and in Spirit.”

Spiritual growth

Developing a safe environment for the youth and their friends where they can grow spiritually is one of the core elements of Youth that Cari-Ann wants to develop within the group.

“We want the kids to feel comfortable to invite their friends along, and then to share with them about Jesus,” she said.

“It is great to see Youth Group kids having fun on a Friday night, but then to see them united in prayer for God is amazing. Lucas and I are blessed to be the youth leaders for these kids.”

At the heart of this youth group is a love for music. During all that happens on a Friday night, music is almost always heard playing. Sometimes it will be background music, at other times it has the entire group dancing together, singing at the top of their lungs.

Twelve of the youth are part of the worship team on a Sunday morning at the corps, with six of these being guitar players. Their talents were on display at the South Queensland Division’s Youth Councils, “Riverfest” in March. The Pine Rivers youth band took part in a worship marathon night, leading the youth of the division into a time of praise and worship with God.

In July, 13 youth attended the Queensland Performing Arts School (QPAS) camp and one of the newer

This is the one day of the week that we can all go and just be ourselves among the same people that love God – Esther

youth members gave his life to Christ.

Splash have recently begun a monthly Youth Church, thanks to their supportive church family, and are planning to have a youth camp just outside of Brisbane, later this month.

Nathalia Rickwood
Pine Rivers Corps

TURNING LIVES AROUND

“The whole idea about ONEIGHTY youth is about turning lives around,” shared Matt Godkin, who has been leading the youth group at Menai Corps for almost two years.

“Our mission at Menai Corps is transforming lives through relevant practical mission. We wanted our youth mission to go along with that.”

And that’s exactly what they have been doing – turning lives around. Matt says ONEIGHTY youth has grown significantly since he started as their youth pastor at the start of 2011.

“It’s grown heaps – 2011 was a big year for us,” he says. “I’d say we’ve doubled in numbers. We’ve definitely grown in terms of spirituality too. It’s good to see them [youth] get involved with ministry in the church and bring their friends and share their faith.”

Matt says he owes much of this growth to the foundations set by the youth group’s previous youth pastor, Mark Soper, who established their life groups.

Menai life groups are run fortnightly on Sunday nights with about 35 young people attending these groups regularly.

“That’s the meat of what we do here at ONEIGHTY [referring to the life groups]. The growing and all the intimate stuff happens in life groups. It’s relationship building as well. It’s good getting intimate and seeing the young guys be more in depth with each other.”

Along with life groups, ONEIGHTY youth gather together every Friday night and alternate between two different programs called Unite and Unleash.

“Unite is our social event,” explains



Matt. “We hang out, play games and have fun. The aim is to be non-threatening to the community and a place to bring your mates along to.”

It is a great way to spend Friday nights building up the kingdom of God and investing into these lives as my life was invested into – Emily

“Our Unleash nights are like a youth-styled church where we worship and have a message.”

Both programs bring in an average of 40 to 50 young people every week from school years six to 12. Matt says though, that they are looking to expand their numbers this year by having a more outward focus.

“A lot of the Salvos at Menai in the past have been a bit inward focused,” he said. “We want to focus on the community, serving people in the community, reaching people through the gospel.”

Once a term ONEIGHTY youth have a serve night where they go out into the Menai community and help people in need.

They also take a bus down to 601, the housing community in Menai, to pick up the young people there and bring them to youth on a Friday night.

Working alongside a strong leadership team of 12 youth leaders, Matt says his passion for youth ministry keeps growing stronger.

“I feel like it’s [youth ministry] a calling on my life. There’s nothing else better than doing the will of God and I just love seeing young people experience God, find his love and come into relationship with him,” he says.

Emily McColough, 19, is one of the youth leaders at ONEIGHTY youth and shares why she enjoys being a youth leader.

“I find it fulfilling spending time with teens, knowing I am impacting their lives for the Lord,” she says. “It is a great way to spend Friday nights building up the kingdom of God and investing into these lives as my life was invested into.”

(From left) Emily Mcclough, Ally Beasy, Courtney Williams, Beej Steep.

The young people enjoy being together, having fun and worshipping God.



A love of music is at the heart of all *Splash* activities.



ONEIGHTY youth group love growing together, serving the community and reaching people with the gospel.

Social Justice Snapshot

What are you *really* wearing?

It's fairly common knowledge that a large amount of our clothing and footwear is made in sweatshops overseas. But did you know that an estimated 50-70 percent of Australian clothing is made in backyard sweatshops in suburbs around Australian cities?

You might be even more surprised to discover, that a majority of Australian school uniforms are also made by exploited sweatshop workers who don't receive their legal entitlements or fair wages.

Lobbying for change

It's not all doom and gloom, however, as campaigns such as *FairWear* are bringing about change. *FairWear* is a community campaign that works towards eliminating the exploitation of sweatshop workers and home-based outworkers in the Australia clothing industry. To view their progress or jump on board with their campaigns, visit www.fairwear.org.au

What can I do?

- When shopping, look for the Ethical Clothing Australia* label on the garment.
- Write letters to the headquarters of your favourite clothing brands and ask them to become accredited with Ethical Clothing Australia*.
- Spread awareness by bringing it up in conversation with family and friends, and encourage them to also look for the Ethical Clothing Australia label* when shopping.
- Make your school uniform ethical – take action at your school by either sourcing school uniforms from an Ethical Clothing Australia* accredited supplier or encouraging your current supplier to become accredited. Visit www.uniforms.fairwear.org.au for further information.

**Australian textile, clothing and footwear businesses that have registered with Ethical Clothing Australia ensure that all their workers receive ethical rates of pay and conditions. For more information about Ethical Clothing Australia, read the website review on page 19.*



Letting it go

In her regular column, Lieutenant Vanessa writes about getting rid of excess baggage!

I've recently packed up my house again in preparation to move to my new appointment. I was really challenged by the amount of stuff that I had, in particular the ridiculous amount of clothes I own. My friends joke that I have enough clothes to clothe a small country, a slight exaggeration, but you get their point!

Some of the clothes I hadn't worn for years. As I was sorting through them, getting them ready to pack yet again, God said to me, "You've got to stop carrying these around with you from place to place. You need to get rid of this excess baggage."

Bam!
And God wasn't just talking about clothes. God was talking about those other things I carry around from place to place – insecurities, worries, fears, regrets and painful memories ... I realised in that moment, that I have a lot of baggage.

And I don't think I'm the only one. Girls, we are thinkers, and we remember. We remember things that happen to us, we remember it for a long time, and then without knowing it, we carry it around.

However, there comes a point where we

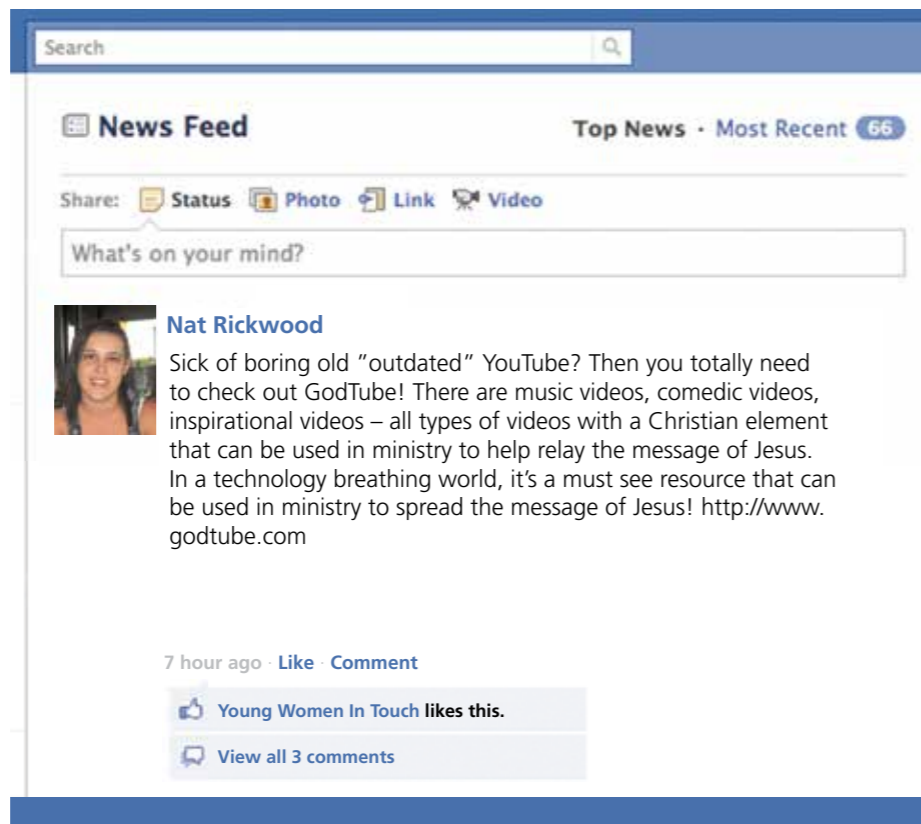
just have to let it go. Now that's much easier said than done. You see, we've become attached to those experiences, to those feelings, to those ways of reacting. It's become part of who we are.

We have to let it go because Jesus desires more for us. He wants to see us living a life of fullness, of freedom and of absolute dependence on him, not a life of pain and hardships while we drag around our baggage.

Is God asking you to get rid of your excess baggage and hand it over to him? If he is, I pray that you'll find the courage to do it. Don't just give it to him, but leave it with him. I thought about trying to take back my clothes after I had put them in the big metal clothes bins, but after visualising myself falling head first into the bin, I decided it wasn't such a great idea!



Lieutenant Vanessa Kohler
Mission Director,
Oasis Youth Service, Wyong



Everybody has a story ...

A walk of faith

Joy at belonging and deep faith in Jesus have replaced the pain and emptiness in Stormey's life, and she's not looking back

I am the eldest of eight children. My family is not Christian, they almost opposed Christianity. As a young teenager I made many silly mistakes. I was bullied profusely in my first two years of high school, which led to me yearning to fit in. I succumbed to peer pressure to fulfil my desire to belong. However, I soon found out that I was not too good at belonging.

When I was 13 my friends invited me to a youth group. That's where I first repented, first gave my heart over to the Lord. However, my post youth camp high died out after just weeks and I was back to doing the silly things I had been doing the previous years. My grades dropped dramatically (it was estimated I would be expelled by grade 9) and the bullying increased.

that invited me to my first youth group) invited me to this one. To be honest, I didn't know what to expect, but I surely didn't expect what I got.

When I first walked through the doors of The Salvation Army that night, I was welcomed by complete strangers who did not judge me for what I wore or the music I listened to. They didn't ask questions, they just accepted me into their family.

That day around three years ago changed my life forever. The joy and euphoria of finally belonging in a positive environment made me grow an endless thirst to stay there. My youth group has grown and thrived, and I personally aim to welcome people with as much sincere enthusiasm as I was welcomed that



sister asked to come to church and then came home singing praise to the Lord, I realised I should not care what my family think but should be a light within them. Now, five out of my seven siblings, (all that can talk and walk) attend church or youth regularly.

When I was first tempted away from God's path I lost all faith in Christ. I could not understand what was happening to me, or why it seemed that God had stopped loving me. It made me seek the kingdom further though, and overcoming temptation became the milestone for my faith.

Before Jesus I was lost and confused, and destined for failure and a life of self-hate. With a few loving gestures and prayers over my life I became a light to my family, and a leader of a Christian group within my predominantly Muslim school. I became a testimony to the power of Jesus Christ.

This year I attended a mission trip and became school captain. Now, as the rest of my life inevitably unfolds, I can no longer walk unknowingly into the world for I have the Lord Jesus Christ on my side and with my faith in him, nothing can deter him from my path.

Stormey McDougall
Auburn Corps

"I did not anticipate the power God has to turn around someone's seemingly mediocre life."

I quit youth group because, at that time, all it was doing was putting negative people in my life. I started working. Slowly, I started to detox my life of morbid people who just pushed me to do stupid stuff, but I could still feel a lack of something – I had no idea what it was though.

A new desire for Jesus

The dissatisfaction in my life and the annoyance at myself for the person I was, probably led me to jump at the opportunity to go to a youth group when my friend (the same friend

night. From something as simple as a welcoming I was able to grow a desire, not for alcohol and mischief, but for Jesus, and the life changing powers of the Holy Spirit. I did not anticipate the power God has to turn around someone's seemingly mediocre life.

Power to change

For a long time, longer than I care to admit, I was ashamed of my faith in Jesus. My family didn't understand why I went to youth and later church, but one day, when my seven-year-old



Plunge into God's promises

Who has ever stood in line, waiting for a rollercoaster? How do you feel? Excited? Nervous? Happy? Anxious? I have found that for me, my mood when approaching rollercoasters can be broken into three different categories:

Firstly, there are the rides that I straight out refuse to go on. No amount of peer pressure would ever get me on one, and I find myself saying, "I will never, ever, ever, ever get on that thing!"

Secondly, there are the rides that I have waited for what feels like a lifetime to experience. However, when the time comes, I'm often left disappointed, scared, or horrified. I walk off these rides vowing to never set foot on them again.

Finally, there are the rides that I need a little extra encouragement to get onto and, once eventually on, I'm certain will be horrible. Surprisingly though, these often turn out to be the best adrenaline rushes of my life, and I race back to the line for another go.

Using your talents

Rollercoasters aside, how often does stepping into a new ministry feel like this?

Are you the person who takes one look at a particular ministry and refuses to be a part of it? Or are you the person who has been waiting for God's call to the perfect ministry, only to be met with trials, tribulations and failures when it

does come along? Or perhaps you are reluctant to step into ministry at all, certain that you are underqualified, but soon find it was the perfect "ride" for you all along?

Remember the parable of the talents in the book of Matthew? A master is going on a journey, so he entrusts some of his gold to three of his servants while he is away; each according to their talents. The first and second servants use their coins to earn more, and double their worth in no time. However, the third servant, certain he will fail, cautiously buries his master's coins until his return.

When the master returns, he asks his servants to bring him his bags of gold. The servants who had doubled their masters gold were praised for using their talents to enhance his wealth. However, the servant who had been cautious and buried the bag, disappointed his master. He had buried his abilities with the bag of gold. The master said to him:

"That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least" (Matthew 25: 26 – *The Message*).

The ministry rollercoaster

Time and time again, God is telling us to not live in fear of his promises and calling upon our lives.

Speaking of Abraham, Paul writes in Romans:

"He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously sceptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said," (Romans 4:20 *The Message*).

I think this verse fits so well with the notion of a rollercoaster. There's no going back. You can't stop the ride half way around. You're locked in. And this is how we should commit to ministry.

Sometimes, ministry takes us on an exciting new rollercoaster we never thought we'd try. Yet God calls us to these ministries and mission, and all that he asks is that we give our 100%.

If we give our all, God will do the rest. He doesn't guarantee that there won't be "dips" and "loop-da-loops" along the way. They're almost a given in life and ministry. But we must trust in God's grand plan for our lives – "I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for" Jeremiah 29:11 (*The Message*).

So – what rollercoasters are you willing to get on for God?



Nathalia Rickwood
Contributing writer
Pine River Corps

Reviews

WEBSITE REVIEW

Ethical Clothing Australia ethicalclothingaustralia.org.au

Unfortunately the term "Australian-made" doesn't always mean ethically-made. And while the word "sweatshop" is often associated with countries overseas, a large amount of Australian clothing and footwear is, sadly, made in backyard Australian sweatshops.

Ethical Clothing Australia aims to provide Australian textile, clothing and footwear outworkers with fair wages and decent working conditions. Many outworkers in Australia are paid as little as three or four dollars an hour and don't receive superannuation or annual leave.

By registering with Ethical Clothing Australia, or when purchasing a product with

the Ethical Clothing Trademark, it means that everyone involved will receive minimum legal rates of pay and conditions.

This website is an excellent site for businesses who want to become involved with ethical clothing. It gives detailed instructions of how to apply for the Ethical Clothing Australia trademark, legal obligations, benefits, fees and discounts and how it all works.

The website keeps an updated list of all businesses accredited and licensed to display the Ethical Clothing Australia trademark. So, if you're not sure whether a product is ethically traded, check out the list.

The website also offers suggestions for how you can support the work of Ethical Clothing Australia. These include:

- Purchasing products carrying the Ethical Clothing trademark
- Encouraging brands to become accredited
- Subscribing to the Ethical Clothing Australia's e-newsletter

- Helping spread the word on Facebook and Twitter. Visit ethicalclothingaustralia.org.au for further information and look out for the Ethically Clothing Australia trademark when shopping.



BLOG REVIEWS

Jamie the Very Worst Missionary

Jamie Wright is a Christian missionary. She lives and works in Costa Rica with her husband and sons. And Jamie says she's not a very good missionary.

The blog's title *Jamie the Very Worst Missionary* is quite ironic. Jamie is just an ordinary woman who took a leap of faith to follow God's calling and work overseas to help people in need. And she admits she's not perfect.

Jamie's blog follows the ups and downs of her journey as a missionary. She speaks about her struggles and offers advice about some of the things she has experienced.

Jamie shows that it doesn't matter how ordinary you are, God can use you to do extraordinary things.



Chatting at the sky

Visually, this blog is quite appealing. Emily, the author and photographer of *Chatting at the sky*, has a gift with the camera.

Complementing her beautiful photos are some inspiring advice articles. Emily's life experiences are the foundation for her blog posts – she writes about family, her faith and her inspirations for art and photography.

Emily is also an author and has written two books called *Graceful* and *Grace for the Good Girl*. She is currently writing weekly posts on individual chapters from *Grace for the Good Girl*. Along with explaining each chapter and offering further wisdom, Emily also leaves a space for group discussion of her book.



CONGRATULATIONS

Live At the Banks – Will Reagan and United Pursuit CD winner

Congratulations to Pearl Latemore, who has won our giveaway copy of this CD. Well done, Pearl!

Ipswich Home League celebrates 100 years

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

In July 1912, the Ipswich Home League was formed to help local ladies carry out their household duties, and to raise their children.

One hundred years later, in July 2012, the Home League's programs have changed, but the principles and core values on which they were established, remain the same.

"As the needs of women within society evolved, so did the Home League, which now educates women on what services the community has to offer, as well as provides a regular meeting place and social outlet," said Captain Lenore Pack, Corps Officer.

Ladies from Boonah, Inala, Caboolture and Bundamba Corps joined the local Ipswich Corps and other churches for the centenary celebration.

The South Queensland Divisional Mobile Team provided entertainment, before a three-course meal in the community hall.

To commemorate the centenary, some Home League members crafted a quilt, featuring photographs collated during the Home League's history.

"One hundred years on and we are still relevant to the community and helping provide for people's needs," said Captain Lenore.



Beatrice crowned queen for the day

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

Major Julie Campbell, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries, recently presented Mrs Beatrice Reynolds from Wynnum Corps, with a certificate acknowledging her 50 years of service as a commissioned local officer at both the Gumdale (formerly an outpost of Wynnum) and the Wynnum Home Leagues.

Beatrice, or "Beattie" as she is affectionately known, was crowned "queen for the day" and stories from her life and service were shared throughout the special Home League meeting.

Beatrice originally came into contact with The Salvation Army when a friend invited her to the Gumdale Outpost Home League. She later moved closer to Wynnum with her family and transferred to the Wynnum Home League.

"Through the 50 years Beattie has been a faithful local officer, and at the age of 93 she is still playing the piano for Home League," said Major Glenda Hentzschel, Wynnum Corps Officer.



Beatrice Reynolds celebrates 50 years of service and enjoys a moment with Major Julie Campbell.

Top prize to officer's humble lamington

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

The humble lamington has almost legendary status in Australia and Captain Cathryn Williamson, Warwick Corps Officer, has taken out one of Queensland's highest honours for her lamingtons – first prize in the open section at the "Ekka" (The Royal National Association Exhibition – Queensland's equivalent of the Royal Easter Show).

"The trick is to freeze the cake," said Captain Cathryn. "That way the chocolate icing doesn't soak into the cake."

Cathryn and her husband, Corps Officer Captain Mark Williamson, also had entries in the Ekka's Anzac biscuit, biscuit, scone and patty cake novice sections.

Captain Cathryn received a highly commended in the biscuit, patty cake and scone sections, and Captain Mark was delighted to beat his wife and win second place for his scones! He also finished with a highly commended for his Anzac biscuits.

The Williamsons enjoy cooking and it's become a hobby for them both.

"It is something Mark and I can do and there is a bit of competition between us. I'm OK with him beating me, as long as it only happens occasionally," Captain Cathryn laughed.

Captain Cathryn also incorporates her love of cooking into her ministry. She has recently begun monthly cooking demonstrations for the Stanthorpe Outpost Home League, growing the group from 2-3 members to up to 18 people in just six months.

This group includes some young mothers from Tenterfield who were made aware of Home League through the Tenterfield Youth and Family Support Services (TFYSS) via the Community Development Service in Stanthorpe. These ladies travel for almost an hour each way in the TFYSS bus to attend "What's Cooking?" every month.



Above: Captain Cathryn shows off her award-winning lamingtons. Photo courtesy The Warwick Daily News. Right: Captain Cathryn Williamson and Kimberley Kelu who attended "What's Cooking?" and assisted with a dish.



Refresh 2012: God in the everyday

ACT & SOUTH NSW DIVISION

Beautiful Bateman's Bay was again the location for the recent Women's Ministries Refresh weekend, hosting 65 ladies from around the division. Major Lyn Edge, Corps Officer at Sydney Congress Hall, was special guest for the weekend, and shared with the women the importance of God being in "the everyday".

"We need not keep God 'boxed in' to a certain time each week, but we should each allow God to infiltrate into all aspects of our lives so that there is no separation between the secular and the sacred," she said.

The Saturday evening was a night of oriental mystery and intrigue, with the ladies dressing oriental style and enjoying a Chinese meal.

Captain Tracy Payne, Corps Leader, Canberra City Corps, and her troupe of actors – other ladies attending Refresh – entertained everyone with a "How to Host a Murder" with an oriental theme.

"It was uproarious fun, with all the ladies receiving clues and trying to guess the villain – and we were left guessing to the end," said Captain Darlene Murray, Divisional Women's Ministries Secretary.

"The weekend highlight was the delegates on Sunday morning forming a large unbroken circle and praying with and for each other.

"Our prayer coming from this weekend is that we may each experience God in the ordinariness of life."



Guest speaker, Major Lyn Edge, addresses the delegates.

Noosa CAMEO celebrates 40 years

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

The Noosa Home League which in recent years was renamed CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other), recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The group reformed this year after a brief recess, and each week celebrates steady growth. Men have also been welcomed into the group.

"While the Corps is only 20-years-old, the Home League began in Noosa in 1972 as a mission from Gympie Corps and has been going strong ever since," said Lieutenant Lara Sutcliffe, Corps Officer.



Major Kath Berry (Ret.), Home League's longest serving member, cuts the anniversary cake.

Salvation Army advocates to stop the traffick!

Major Leanne Duncan sheds light on human trafficking in Taiwan and how The Salvation Army (TSA) is responding to this insidious global crime and its tragic consequences

Human trafficking, the world's fastest growing international crime, with an estimated annual profit of US\$3.6 billion, enslaves more than 2.5 million people in 137 countries around the world.

The beautiful island nation of Taiwan is no exception. Through deception, coercion and force, women are trafficked into Taiwan for domestic and sexual servitude and as carers for children and the elderly. Men are trafficked into the country as forced labour in the fishing industry, and for factories and construction work.

Most trafficking victims in Taiwan are migrant workers from Indonesia, The Philippines, Mainland China and Vietnam, with some from Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia and India employed through recruitment agencies and brokers.

To a lesser extent, Taiwan is a transit and source country for women trafficked into various areas of the sex industry. Most commonly, women are recruited through classified ads for employment or language learning opportunities in Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, where they are forced into prostitution.

Trafficking within our border is happening too, predominately but not exclusively, among aboriginal Taiwanese from small villages and smaller cities. They too are drawn with promises of work and enough wages to survive and still send money home to family trapped in poverty.

Stop the Traffik

This year, Stop the Traffik (STT), has appointed The Salvation Army as the National Lead Advocate for Stop the Traffik (STT), Taiwan. This partnership was established after TSA identified that education and awareness in Taiwan needed to be strengthened. We approached STT to join forces with us and they were delighted to work with us and increase their international influence in Taiwan.

STT is a global movement of individuals, communities and organisations fighting to prevent human trafficking around the world, protect the trafficked and prosecute the traffickers. For more information visit www.stophetraffik.org

The Salvation Army in Taiwan will be promoting and engaging in internationally recognised community education, awareness and action programs developed by STT. We believe this will significantly strengthen the awareness of human trafficking in our country.

The Salvation Army responds

In partnership with shelter workers in Taiwan, TSA Taiwan is initiating an international network that will assist trafficking victims upon return to their home country. We are working to establish a network with the Indonesian and the Philippines Territories to assist clients create an assisted pathway home.

Our case worker, in co-operation with case workers in Indonesia and the Philippines, will assist clients to establish a pathway home before they leave Taiwan, addressing the challenges of housing, accommodation, health, education and employment. Case workers in Indonesia and the Philippines will meet the clients at the airport and provide assistance to implement the clients' plans in terms of accessing the information and services needed to re-establish their lives. We believe this service will greatly impact our clients' vulnerability to being re-trafficked.

Taiwan responds

Taiwan is responding. We have come a long way in a very short period of time from when modern day slavery was considered not only acceptable, but the norm. Relevant government departments are working to pass legislation that can be enforced, the legal fraternity is attempting to uphold it, and service providers work tirelessly to advocate for and support victims.

There are education and awareness programs supported by government and organisations that advocate and assist victims. There is a measure of government funding to assist in efforts to combat human trafficking, and other initiatives planned through which victims can assist in the prosecution of their traffickers, and be protected.

However, as it is all over the world, we have a long way to go for all of this to become a cohesive, functioning and effective response that combats the realities of human trafficking. Cultural challenges run deep in addressing the issues surrounding human trafficking in Taiwan. This will require great courage from advocates and the nation as we work together to combat human trafficking.

The strength we have as we move forward is that those who are committed to addressing this issue are united, strong and focused. Government officials, prosecutors, academics and service providers partner together to speak and act with one voice. They are gaining respect and the community is responding. Communities are becoming aware of the issue and the injustice that it reflects. Communities are willing to respond.

Hope

We are convinced that when people act, things change. Our aim is to equip communities to raise awareness and understanding of human trafficking, to make a difference and join the fight to STOP THE TRAFFIK – to reduce the crime of modern day slavery – or, as we say in Taiwan, to equip communities to combat human trafficking.

Major Leanne Duncan

Regional Mission & Resource Officer Taiwan: Social Justice & Social Programme
Stop the Traffik Representative – Taiwan



STOP THE TRAFFIK
 PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

TAIWAN



Empowered by encouragement

SOUTH QUEENSLAND DIVISION

“Transformed women transforming communities” was the theme for the 2012 divisional women's camp, held at the Brookfield Centre from 30 July – 2 August.

Women from all over the division attended the camp. This included delegates from Fairhaven, Moonyah, Horton Village and Streetlevel.

“Everyone fitted in beautifully together,” said Major Julie Campbell, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries.

Stacey Dlamini, South African Salvation Army Soldier who runs a training and coaching business with her husband, Bhule Dlamini (who spoke at the men's conferences in Sydney and Brisbane), was international guest speaker for the camp.

Stacey describes herself as “A businesswoman and agent of social change who lives with her family at the bottom of the world in Johannesburg, South Africa”. She presented four sessions at the camp, focusing on letting go of unforgiveness and judgment, and using our lives as a ripple effect to make a difference in the world.

Electives were also part of the program, including a first-time elective on how to share your faith and story in a quick and easy way. “Women are being equipped to share their faith and speak their testimony to those they meet in their everyday lives,” Major Julie explained.

During the auction, held to raise money for the Territorial Mission Project, a young lady from Moonyah offered herself as a “granddaughter for the day” to help an older lady with meals, cups of tea, and encouragement. The response was so positive that seven young ladies became “granddaughters” to some older ladies from Pine Rivers Corps –

relationships were built and money was raised!

“The strength of camp this year was that the emphasis was not just on the women having a good time, but on deeply encouraging and building each other up,” said Major Julie.

“That was the real highlight for me; seeing mature women of faith speaking into the lives of young women struggling with the tough issues of life and sharing with them how their faith got them through; and in turn seeing the older women inspired and encouraged with the strength and growing faith of the younger ladies.

“These one-on-one testimonies were a powerful example of incarnational ministry.”



Guest speaker Stacey Dlamini with her children Trinity and Khaya.

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Be kind, for everyone
you meet is fighting a
hard battle

- Plato



Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other (Romans 12: 9,10 *New Living Translation*).

Photo: Shairon Paterson