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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



Healed and made whole

The life-changing message of Easter

In every crisis, doubt or confusion, take the higher path – the path of compassion, courage, understanding and love.

Amit Ray

Author and teacher



PHOTO BY GAVIN SPEAR ON UNSPLASH

The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?
The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement
Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement
The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:
- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

WARCRY

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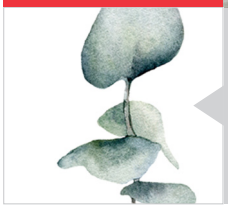
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From the editor

These are challenging days. As the COVID-19 pandemic escalates, many people are anxious, overwhelmed and fearful. For others, this pandemic comes on top of already tough life situations.

Many good things are happening though, too. Communities are caring for their vulnerable, helping neighbours and cheering on healthcare workers. People are more aware of others needing special attention, and are finding creative ways to support them.

Perhaps, in all of this, we see that the opposite of fear isn't actually bravery, it's love. In the Bible, one of the writers, Paul, says that well-formed love casts out fear.

Fear won't stop tough times, but it can steal any joy or happiness from the good things still happening. So, as we react responsibly to the very real dangers of this world, we can also respond by loving other people — from home, or through physical distancing measures.

Simone Worthing
Assistant Editor

Healed and made whole

Jesus' unparalleled display of unconditional love

BY GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

"Surely he took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:4-6 *Berean Study Bible*).



The Easter message is the most profound, true, life-changing, life-giving message we can ever hear, respond to and participate in. In short, the Easter story is the culmination of God's plan of salvation for the redemption and restoration of humanity. Such unconditional sacrificial love unleashes the mercy, grace and forgiveness of God. We should be experiencing boundless joy, caught up in awe and wonder, celebrating our new-found freedom and living in a new dynamic relationship with the Almighty.

We see in these verses from Isaiah just what God has done for us in Jesus. In going to the Cross, Jesus does something extremely positive, yet it involves him being subjected to pain, ridicule, brokenness and separation from the Father with whom he has shared a deep intimacy for all eternity. Jesus takes on everything that is negative, destructive and painful. This display of genuine, unconditional and sacrificial



love is unparalleled in human history.

Even as we read and consider what Jesus takes on himself, we sense a release, an unburdening and a freedom. Jesus takes on our infirmities and carries our sorrows. Yes, there is a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus here as the Word that "became flesh" (John 1:14) — fully human while fully divine — understands the frailty, weakness and imperfection on a personal level. Having said that, we need to recognise that there is much more going on.

Jesus is doing more than identifying with us. He is taking on our weaknesses, infirmities and sorrows so that we don't have to carry them. Link that opening statement to Philippians 4:6-7 ("Do not be anxious about anything …") and 1 Peter 5:7 ("Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you") to better understand what is offered to us in Jesus. Look again at what happens to Jesus — he is pierced, crushed, punished and wounded. Why would Jesus accept all of that? Why would God allow his only Son to endure all of that?

Another read of the verses from Isaiah illuminates what we receive through this sacrifice — peace and healing for ourselves. The punishment inflicted upon Jesus brings us peace. We experience healing because Jesus was wounded. It is almost beyond our understanding, but a horribly painful moment brings us healing and a horrifically violent act brings us everlasting peace.

There is something of an unfair trans-action going on that demonstrates the extravagance of God and his unmerited favour that we call grace. There is also something profoundly theological,



sacrificial and covenantal taking place.

The sacrificial code and practices we find in the Old Testament are there to atone for our sins and imperfections. Here on the cross, the spotless Lamb of God pays the ultimate sacrifice once and for all, ushering us into a new dispensation of grace and deliverance.

We have peace with God because of all that was accomplished by Jesus, and this peace is experienced by having faith in Jesus (see Romans 5:1: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"). Yes, it's that straightforward — we don't have to complicate it!

The Easter story doesn't end with Calvary. Easter Sunday is about resurrection and new life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are reminded that, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" The old reality of being held captive by sin, of death being our final enemy, is gone! On Easter Sunday we rise to new life in Christ — that new life is eternal life, it encapsulates victory over sin and death, it includes our healing and wholeness, it is a life of deep peace. As Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

This Easter you can experience healing and wholeness in Christ. It's why Jesus came to earth.

It's what God desires most for you.

General Brian Peddle is world leader of The Salvation Army.

Brewery bottling sanitiser for the Salvos

A business adaptation helps keep front-line workers safe

BY LAUREN MARTIN AND SIMONE WORTHING



Tim Page-Walker has adapted his brewery to produce hand sanitiser.

A Salvo supporter on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula has converted his brewing business to mass-produce hand sanitiser and is supplying it free to Salvation Army community services.

Tim Page-Walker, the Bellarine and Greater Geelong Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal chairman, has adapted his business, Bellarine Brewing Company, to produce five-litre bottles of hand sanitiser to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sanitiser is a World Health Organisation recommended formula.

"This couldn't have come at a better time," said Peter Hobbs, Bellarine Corps Officer (minister). "Our front-line workers at the Bellarine Salvo outreach van, the Geelong Salvo outreach van and SalvoConnect workers and clients in Barwon are in much need of extra protection.

"Tim was already thinking about adapting his brewery when we spoke to him about being low on sanitiser, so he made the change to meet the needs of local outreach workers and other businesses."

When this issue of *Warcry* was completed on 31 March, Peter and his team had already minimised their community connections. "We still have a list of people who are really struggling, and we are dropping off essential items to them and keeping in touch from a distance... I am so grateful for Tim's generosity [that allows us] to continue to serve people safely," he said.

Tim's connection with The Salvation Army was forged when Peter and his wife Diane arrived in the Bellarine Peninsula to establish a ministry.

Tim initially partnered with Peter and Diane to train young people in hospitality skills. In time, he began to reconnect with his own faith, stepping out to follow Jesus more boldly.

"I've always had a strong faith and connection to God and Jesus," Tim said. "But I was, like many, very disillusioned with the churches through recent scandals and behaviours and so I distanced myself from the physical structures and that's when I really started to become more and more involved with the Salvos because it's not about the physical structures, it's about getting out there and playing my part."

Shazam!

Families and communities need each other, especially in times of crisis.

BY MARK HADLEY

We're living in troubling times, no doubt. Including for film reviewers. The COVID-19 crisis has led to the cancellation of multiple releases, as well as the closing of many cinemas. With sporting events and social gatherings also stopped, families are likely to find themselves with a lot more time together. Thankfully, streaming television means there are still plenty of good ways to put it to use — beginning with *Shazam!*

Released last year, *Shazam!* recently made it to the lounge room courtesy of streaming giant Netflix. Billy Batson, a ward of the state, has run away from multiple foster homes. As a child, he got lost at a carnival and has been searching for his mother ever since. What Billy finds, though, is a wizard who gifts him his ancient powers. Billy is destined to combat a villain determined to release the demonic 'Seven Deadly Sins'. Unfortunately, Billy is largely unaware of his new abilities, let alone how to use them. His new foster brother Freddy is a comic-book obsessive and keen to help. But can they discover how to be 'Shazam' in time to save the day?

As far as safe viewing goes, you can rest easy. There is some mild language and bleeped expletives, but no sexual content or significant violence. *Shazam!* is easy-access superhero fun much like *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. What it does offer, though, is a clear understanding of how important it is to admit your need in troubling times.

Not to spoil the storyline, but Billy's search for his lost mother does not end well. As Shazam, Billy passes on this embittered advice to his foster sister:

Shazam: Don't be so worried about everyone else. Always look out for number one. Gandhi said that.

Mary: I don't think he said that.

Shazam: Yeah he did. Or someone wise. It might have been Yoda... Look the point is, you do *you* — families are for people who can't take care of themselves.

Billy believes people are better off when they put themselves first, much like those who've hoarded everything in sight during COVID-19. Yet the truth is, it will take a communal response to this crisis to avoid individual tragedies. So, Billy is right. Families *are* for people who realise they can't take care of themselves.



Our best examples of humanity have emerged when we've realised we're in this together and help others. One step better, though, is realising we're not just the helpers. We also need help. This is what Jesus was getting at when he told the Pharisees (a superior bunch from 1st century Palestine) they'd never get the help they needed so long as they just trusted themselves:

Jesus told them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark chapter 2, verse 17, *New International Bible*).

Only people who realise they're sick look for a doctor. In this case the virus Jesus is referring to is sin — that personal rebellion against God which says we can live in his world, but do without him. There's a consequence for thinking that way, but there's also a cure. The problem is, like COVID-19, you've first got to admit you're sick. Like Shazam, when we know we can't care for ourselves, we're finally ready to receive the care we *need.*

Top 10 family TV viewing

1. *The Incredibles* — PG (Disney+)
2. *Fantastic Mr Fox* — PG (Prime Video)
3. *Wonder* — PG (Stan)
4. *A Series of Unfortunate Events* — PG (Netflix)
5. *Babe* — PG (Foxtel)
6. *My Neighbour Totoro* — G (Netflix)
7. *The Adventures of Tintin* — PG (Netflix)
8. *Matilda* — PG (Netflix)
9. *Bluey* — G (Disney+)
10. *The Iron Giant* — PG (Netflix)

A new life waiting to rise

Finding hope when, on the surface, everything appears to be finished.

BY DEAN CLARKE

Nature is a great teacher of hope. During the recent bushfires, I watched the fire ravage increasing areas of Australia. Seeing the countryside burn and knowing our best efforts were often not enough to stop the fires gave me a sense of hopelessness and despair. What future does our land have against such destruction? Yet, just a month after the bushfires, tiny shoots of greenery began appearing in the blackened landscape. Signs of life and growth.

Eucalyptus trees, although they may appear destroyed by the fire on the surface, have epicormic buds protected from the fire by the tree's bark, which sprout new shoots and green foliage. Most eucalyptus species have lignotubers at the base or below the ground. These large roots contain hidden buds which, when the tree is damaged by fire, sprout new shoots enabling the plant to survive.

On the surface it appears finished, but hidden from sight, there is life waiting to rise.

As a Salvo minister, I have conducted many Easter reflections and services. Good Friday is a time of significance for Christians as we pause and remember Jesus dying on a cross. The significance is not because he was crucified, as, at that time in history, the Romans killed many people by crucifixion. It is remembered because of Jesus' claims to be the Son of God and that his death was to give others life.

Every Good Friday I take time to think about the claims of Jesus, the meaning of his death for me, and the sorrow of the occasion. Then comes Easter Saturday. Or maybe it is just Saturday? Because nothing happens on Saturday. Saturday is the day I'm walking around the bushfire-ravaged area in the days after the fire. Death, destruction and sadness have just passed through and today … today is just a day to exist. A day to live but a day without hope. Not much good happened on Easter Saturday.

I know people for whom Easter Saturday is their Groundhog Day. The older man stuck in the cycle of addiction. The prisoner who was out for a while but finds himself once more behind bars. The addict desperate for a fix to numb the pain of life or give that 'just one more' high. Then there is the young person couch-surfing at a friend of a friend's home because their 'real home' isn't safe or welcoming.

These are the obvious ones who live every day as if it was Easter Saturday. Nothing to celebrate. Nothing to hope for. I know others, without such challenges, who also live life on repeat on Easter Saturday. Employed in a dead-end job and get up, go to work, come home and then do it all again tomorrow. Purpose, meaning, legacy. These are not words associated with life.

Easter Saturday is the day after the fire when hope cannot be seen. It appears finished, but hidden from sight, there is life waiting to rise. Sunday is coming.

Easter Sunday is Resurrection Sunday. A new day dawning. It is the day of new life, new beginnings and new hope. Out of the ashes of despair come the shoots of a future. Whereas Easter Saturday has no future, Easter Sunday is brimming with possibilities. Jesus has risen from the dead. And because Christ lives, I can truly live.

I know people who state that, because of Jesus' resurrection, their addiction cycle is broken. They enjoy real freedom in or out of prison. There are addicts who have a long-lasting high while living clean. Young people, and old, who now have a family to belong to. And legacies and impact are resulting from lives lived with purpose and meaning. Hope rises with Jesus.

This Easter, take time to reflect upon the claims of Jesus, the meaning of his death and his resurrection. There is hope for our land impacted by bushfires, and there is also hope for us.

Dean Clarke is a Salvation Army minister in South Australia.



A life returned

Denise Smart courageously shares her journey through brokenness and abuse to a place of peace.

BY DENISE SMART

Born in 1950, I was institutionalised at 10 months of age with coeliac disease. I then contracted polio and spent the majority of my early childhood in Sydney Children's Hospital. I saw my family for two hours every Sunday which resulted in me having no emotional connection to my mother. Desperate to be loved, I was sexually abused at three years old and a target for a paedophile (family friend) from 14-18 years of age.



Denise with her three girls growing up.

Growing up, a very motherly neighbour always included me when she took her four daughters to Sunday school. She was a pivotal and positive influence in my young life and I loved being with her family. I had a vivid imagination and highly-tuned fantasy world which was more real to me than life itself. I spent hours in that space where everything was good. It was one of the coping techniques I'd developed in order to survive.

God seriously let me know that I belonged to him when I was 15, during a youth camp.

However, the following 18 years were quite horrific. I was emotionally, sexually and socially dysfunctional, living out the lies I believed about myself.

By 1983, I had given birth to three beautiful daughters. The marriage to my daughters' father fell apart and I was a single mum from 1983 to 2002. I loved being a mother. During that time God continually had to rescue me from disastrous relationships and situations that I was powerless to avoid.

I spent four of those years in a fledgling Salvation Army church in NSW. I diligently worked through the Twelve Steps program, taking ownership of my actions instead of blaming others. I was happy. That church was another pivotal, positive influence in my life.

I met my second husband at my initial church and we joined a smaller church some time later. This church traumatically split when the pastors' marriage broke up. We followed the woman leader who quickly began showing controlling, manipulative and cultish behaviour patterns.

At her instigation I left my husband, was ripped apart from my children and grandchildren, moved into a flat with her and became her personal assistant. I was not permitted to grieve nor return to any of my 'old' ways, but rather to do her bidding without question. After three years of this relentless and fear-based situation, I was unable to make a decision, have an opinion or contact my family without her agreement or initiative. I didn't even know if God still loved me.

Through complex circumstances, I found myself in Brisbane in August 2012. I was 62, alone, fearful, grieving deeply. I couldn't stop crying and had severe panic attacks over the smallest of things.

Over the next three months God returned my life to me — my daughters, grandsons, my ex-husband, my own little home and work. He restored my identity, gave me new friends and built a network of strong, stable professionals around me. A Salvation Army chaplain visiting the Family Store where I was volunteering suggested I might fit in at the Salvos' Brisbane Streetlevel Mission. He was right! During



Finding a home at Streetlevel changed Denise's life.

my first chapel attendance in September, I sat with tears streaming down my face, listening to others tell their horrific stories of suicide attempts, hopelessness, desperate loneliness and mental illness. I knew I belonged there. I had come home. God had led me back to The Salvation Army's comforting ethics, safety, non-judgmental acceptance and love.

On 25 September 2014, I was enrolled as a soldier (member) of The Salvation Army. I volunteered at Streetlevel for five years, including being employed on a part-time basis for one of those five years. I have moved on from Streetlevel and Brisbane and now live in Lismore (NSW). I've got a peace now that I've never really had before. I am happy. I am finding out who I really am, and no longer believe the previous lies that used to control me. I am a work in progress, and will always be so grateful to Brisbane Streetlevel, The Salvation Army, and to God for all he is and all he has done for me.

Smoky BBQ ribs



Ingredients

2 kg pork spare ribs, ½ cup brown sugar, 1½ tsp paprika, 2 garlic cloves, 1 tsp crushed salt, ½ tsp black pepper, 1 x 375g bottle smoky barbecue marinade or barbecue sauce

Method

Preheat oven to 170°. Mix together sugar, paprika, garlic, salt and pepper. Rub combined spice into pork ribs, covering both sides.

Cover baking tray with foil. Arrange ribs on tray, meat side down. Cover firmly with foil and bake for two hours or until meat has shrunk from the end of the bone. Allow ribs to cool, then pour sauce over, covering both sides. Refrigerate for three to four hours.

Preheat barbecue or frying pan. Cook for 15 minutes, occasionally turning and basting with any leftover sauce. Cook until crisp.

Tip for the race of life

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
John chapter 14 verse 27

There's a bear in there...



In a suburban area south of Sydney, parents are taking their children out for walks each day, observing the current rules of social distancing and making sure their kids get fresh air and exercise. To help make it more interesting for the kids, one parent posted to the community's local Facebook page, asking families to put a teddy bear in a window of their home so the kids out walking could look for, find, and count the teddies. The idea was that each participating household would use a different teddy in a different window every few days. The idea took off, dozens of households put teddies in windows in all kinds of creative ways, and local children can't wait to get out for their walks to count the teddies. A simple yet fun way to entertain kids, improve their health and connect the community along the way.

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

Sudoku

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

Tum-Tum

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



Answers: 1. Seven — R O Y G B I V
2. Circles. They look like arches when viewed from the ground.
3. René Descartes in 1637. 4. No.
5. God's promises.

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

Tum-Tum: is sitting in the window on page 14.

Quick quiz



1. A rainbow is made up of how many colours?
2. What shape are rainbows?
3. Who discovered that rainbows were caused by light from the sun being split into different colours by rain?
4. Are rainbows possible on other planets?
5. In the Bible, what do rainbows signify?

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