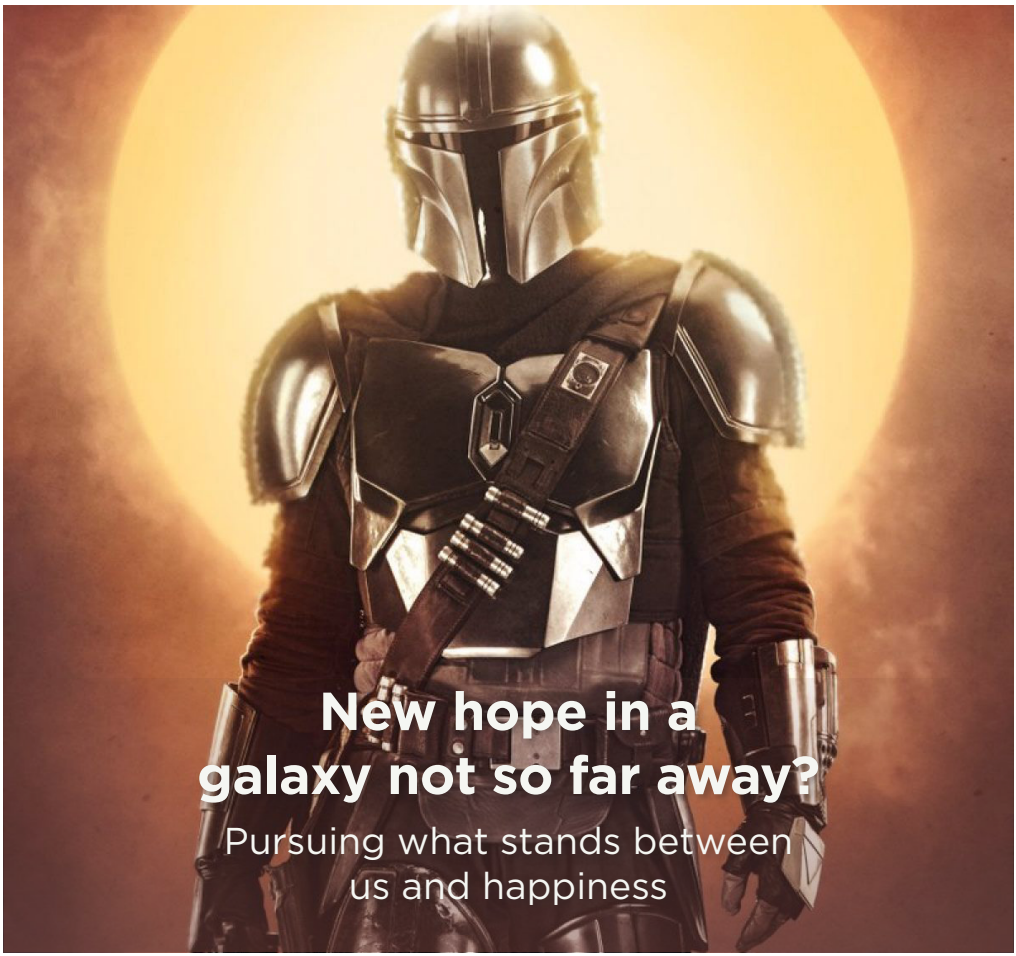
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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



New hope in a galaxy not so far away?

Pursuing what stands between us and happiness


Life is a series of tiny little miracles.
Notice them.
Author unknown.
PHOTO BY KIAN WORTHING

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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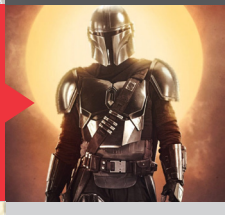
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[04] Feature
Small things matter



[08] Review
New hop in a galaxy not so far away?



[10] Faith talk
Small is beautiful

From the editor

Little things can make a huge difference in our lives. As a receiver they can change our mood, give us a fresh perspective on a particular issue or incident, encourage us, give us hope, and even lead us to life-changing decisions.

As a giver, they can also do all of the above, as well as develop in us a way of thinking and responding that is focused on caring for others and being sensitive their needs.

In this issue we look at the impact that small things can have — from making a bed or praying for 10 minutes, to swapping to Fairtrade chocolate or dropping in on a friend.

As internationally renowned priest and author Henri Nouwen said, "Sometimes we are called to do great acts of kindness or make great sacrifices. But this is seldom normal. Usually we have the opportunity for many small acts of love and service and are called to make many small sacrifices. The significance and power of these cannot be underestimated."

Little things count.

Simone Worthing
Assistant Editor

Small things matter

Just one word, one act, can change someone's life.

BY DANIELLE STRICKLAND

I have a friend who spent years battling an eating disorder because her dad called her 'fat'. Another friend dropped out of school because he had a teacher who said he was stupid. Another can't receive or give love because their mother withheld that from them as a young child. Just one sexual abuse episode can send us hurtling into dark places that we revisit time and time again into our adulthood.

Just one act, one word, can affect every area of our lives.

In recovery circles the small things matter in sobriety. One guy told me about how every morning he makes his bed. It's not a big deal, he said. But he makes it as a commitment to his own recovery. He does it on purpose, even when he stays in a hotel. It's like a prophetic act that strengthens his resolve to make his own life on purpose too. I can picture him smoothing the wrinkles out of his ego, and tucking in the corners of his pride. Small things matter.

Another woman told me how she changed the way she drove home after work. Just the different direction meant her evening was a sober one. Another mentioned they added 10 minutes of prayer and reflection to their life before they went to bed. It changed their sleeping habits. They even have a slogan for this — "First things first". Small things matter.

Those of us familiar with our Bible know this. It's God's specialty to take insignificant smallness and turn it into brilliant strategies that change the world. Many leaders God chose seemed specialists in unqualified smallness. Almost every weapon God chose to use seems small — a small stone to fell a giant, a wooden staff to overthrow a superpower, a little lunch to feed a multitude, a small



virgin girl to usher in the Saviour, a rural rabbi dying on a wooden cross to forgive the sins of the world.

Small things matter.

The letters to the Christians (in the Bible) are also full of this stuff. In the book of James it says that your whole life can be 'shipwrecked' by your tongue. Think about that — your whole life ruined by your words.

The apostle Paul said it was in the small things that God would shape our character. Test our faith. And grow fruit. He told us that our simple thoughts are what gives birth to the desire that leads to sin and ends in destruction. Whoa! Destruction starts with a thought. New life starts with a prayer. Small things matter.

So, as you navigate living through the temptation of 'big' in a shiny and show-off culture, remember that, in God's culture, his kingdom starts small. Like a seed — the smallest of seeds. Because small things matter.

I remember walking through an inner city when my husband and I were beginning a new church. It seemed too hard. I felt insignificant and foolish even thinking about the smallness of the 'plan'. That's when I saw it. It was a little flower. It was growing through concrete. All the concrete around this flower had broken so that this small yet strong life could emerge, and God began to whisper to me this truth again — small things matter.

Danielle Strickland is a justice advocate, communicator and spiritual leader. For more information, visit ***daniellestrickland.com***



The power of your purchase

Swap to Fairtrade chocolate and make a difference today.

BY ANNE SIMPSON



We live in an age when it's easy to make a difference in our world. No, really, I mean it.

Yes, it is true that there is graphic and overwhelming evidence that global poverty is a daily life struggle for more than a billion people in the world right now, that there are more human slaves in our generation than ever before and that injustice seems to be rampant globally.

But that doesn't mean we are powerless. Rather, we are the ones who have the power to turn the tables. We can use our resources and freedom as leverage for the poor and the voiceless — today.

Take Fairtrade for instance. When you choose to swap to Fairtrade labelled chocolate, coffee and tea (available from Aldi, Woolworths, Coles and other outlets) you are joining a movement that is directly changing the lives of 1.65 million farmers in more than 74 countries.

Easter is a particularly good time to consider swapping to Fairtrade chocolate.

Much of the world's cocoa is harvested in West Africa, using a labour force of over 1.8 million children. This work is physically, emotionally, socially and morally damaging to children and deprives them of opportunities for education and development.

Not only does buying Fairtrade ensure the local producers are paid a fair price for their crop, it also includes an additional payment to help the local community develop basic infrastructure such as fresh water, education and health services.

Other ethical chocolate brands, including UTZ and Rainforest Alliance, are taking steps to improve working conditions across their global supply chains.

Will choosing Fairtrade products cost you a little more? Probably. Will finding them take you a little more effort? Maybe. Will it make a difference? It already has. Join the movement.

For more information on Fairtrade products check out ***fta.org.au***

Salvation Army responds to novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the world steps up its response to the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), all Australians are urged to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and others. When this issue of *Warcry* went to print on 16 March, mass events were being cancelled, as state and federal governments continued to respond to this evolving situation.

With the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic, The Salvation Army is taking considered action to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of our personnel, people who access our services, guests, suppliers and contractors.

The Salvation Army has a business continuity plan in place to reduce the impact of this pandemic on our charitable services. It is vital that our work with the most vulnerable in the community is not negatively impacted and we are aware that people already experiencing hardship may be significantly affected by the immediate threat as well as the longer-term repercussions of this emergency.

The Salvation Army will continue to care for the most vulnerable in our community and meet human needs. While the means of delivering our services might be changing, our mission hasn't.

HYGIENE MEASURES

The Salvation Army has advised all personnel to be vigilant in practising personal hygiene to prevent the spread of the virus. This includes practising proper hand-sanitising procedures and cough etiquette. We are providing our workplaces with hand sanitiser and disinfectant to facilitate a hygienic work environment and are supporting all personnel with cold-like symptoms to seek medical assistance and perform duties remotely wherever possible.

PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY AND PERSONNEL

Our work with the community, particularly its vulnerable members, means that we take all potential risks seriously.

We have a team of senior leaders meeting regularly to discuss our ongoing response and ensure we closely follow all advice received from Australian medical authorities, as well as the World Health Organisation (WHO), regarding precautions that are needed to minimise risks associated with COVID-19.

Together with Salvos across the country, we hope and pray for the health and safety of all Australians during this time.

New hope in a galaxy not so far away?

Disney+ TV series a one-stop portal for everything Star Wars.

BY MARK HADLEY

The latest force to join the galaxy of streaming options for Australian audiences is Disney+. It's the one-stop portal for everything Star Wars, but the 11 films of the Jedi universe are not the centre of Mickey's strategy. Disney+ now fields a *Star Wars* television series for every age group that could hope to swing a light sabre...

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

The award-winning animation returns and the real heroes are its clone troopers. Genetically identical, they still find ways to express themselves individually. Aimed at kidults, its creators have selected that determination to be as distinct as the trademark byline that launches the final season: "Embrace others for their differences, for that makes you whole."

STAR WARS: REBELS

The teen-focused backstory to the ragtag assemblage of fighters who will one day take down the Empire's first Death Star. In particular, this animation chooses as its heroes two non-conformist Jedi — Kanan, a half-trained padawan, and Ezra his apprentice, who discovers whole realms of the Force on his own.

THE MANDALORIAN

An adult western in space set some time after *Return of the Jedi*. Our sympathies are drawn towards a lone Mandalorian gunman, feared by all, and a 'baby Yoda' who everyone wants dead. Outsiders are increasingly finding their meaning in each other as they travel across the galaxy.

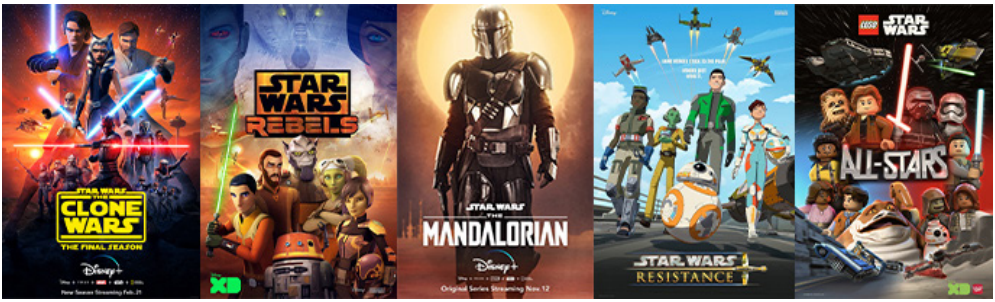
STAR WARS: RESISTANCE

A prequel series to *The Force Awakens*, aimed at primary and early high school viewers, with a style that mimics pace-setter *Iron Man: Armoured Adventures*. In it we meet teen characters Caz and Niku, the alien optimist whose greatest faith is reserved for his friend.

LEGO STAR WARS: ALL STARS

A timeless Star Wars universe which presents all of the series' greatest characters in Lego form, hanging out and going on adventures together. This universe is so at peace with itself that a former Separatist battle droid is now part of Han Solo's crew.

Disney+ has done an incredible job of



fracturing the Star Wars universe into bite-size chunks for every age group. The real beauty of this system, though, lies in the consistent Star Wars worldview.

Our worldview is the viewfinder through which we interpret our day-to-day reality. We read news reports about bank corruption, and our worldview suggests the cause. We see people sleeping on the streets and our worldview tells us why they're there. It's our underlying explanation for what's wrong with our world.

The Star Wars 'galaxyview' is no exception. The franchise believes in a world where people are free to follow the path of their dreams and discover their true selves. The problem is always a repressive counter-culture — Sith, Empire or First Order — that stands in the way. And the solution? A Republic, a Rebellion, a Resistance dedicated to overturning centralised control in the name of individual freedom. But this isn't actually a 'New Hope', just an old one flying an X-wing.

The Star Wars philosophy leans heavily on 20th century psychology. We possess deep desires for pleasure but, according to Al Wolters, they are suppressed by "... the authority figures in society and family". So, all this time, it wasn't just Luke's father behind Darth Vader's mask. Consequently, Sigmund Freud suggested our only solution was realising "... the unrepressed freedom of the individual". And, not surprisingly, every Star Wars storyline ends with the utter destruction of a trade blockade, a Death Star, a weaponised planet, an immense fleet. Yet, the Star Wars universe continues to fight the same battle, against new and greater villains, because it's not really the 'authority figures' that are standing between us and happiness.

By contrast, Christianity's worldview says our greatest happiness lies in a deep, personal relationship with our Creator. But we live unhappy lives because our hearts have rebelled against God — the enemy is inside, not outside. The only solution, Keller says, is for God to graciously remove the sin that comes between us and him.

The Star Wars universe offers a glimpse of the beauty God has created in its myriad faces of individuality. Yet if the Bible's view is correct, we're not going to find ultimate happiness by removing our restrictions, any more than the Millennium Falcon flies better without its pilot. Christianity alone offers a worldview that identifies our problem as one within us. And for that, we'll need a rescue that comes from outside.

Small is beautiful

When the little things are the big things that matter most of all.

BY BELINDA CASSIE

How much do the little things matter to you? Maybe it's an age thing, I don't know, but the little things have come to matter more and more to me. The handwritten letter, the unexpected text, the friend who calls with no agenda other than to find out how you are. Little things. But they matter.

I think it's the little things that tell us, in greater depth than any grand gesture could, how much we matter to someone, because a little thing is often spontaneous, it's the thing that says, "I thought of you just now and I wanted you to know".

Life, if we let it, can become so busy that we don't have time for the little things. And I think we suffer for it. I think our relationships suffer for it, because it seems to me it's in the little things that we find real connection. The shared moments usually appear to be made up of little things. A coffee break conversation. A quick but heartfelt hello. A "How are you?" asked with real intent to stop and listen.

I have a friend who tags me in Facebook memes. It's a little thing that never ceases to make me smile. I have another friend who randomly sends me squirrel pictures, just because it's 'our thing'. And even now as I'm thinking it through, maybe those little things aren't such little things at all. Maybe those are really the big things, the things that matter most of all.

"Jesus wept" is a little verse in the Bible, in John chapter 11, verse 35. Now I know that we could spend a whole sermon unpacking the meaning





behind even those two little words, but what I am going to say is what that little gesture from Jesus has meant to me today. Because I wept today. It was a little thing that happened, but still I wept, because even the little things can affect us in profound ways. And sitting at my desk, chastising myself for crying over something beyond my control, something I don't even know the outcome of yet, this little verse came to mind.

"Jesus wept." I'm mostly a solo runner and I'm mostly very okay with that, but it does mean I tend to have the occasional one-way conversation though, so you need to imagine me sitting at my desk asking — out loud — why am I berating myself for something so human? When something hurts, we cry. When something isn't right, we cry. When we see sorrow around us, we cry. Why would I think that's not okay for me today?

If Jesus, as God in the flesh, was fully divine and fully human, was human enough to shed tears, why the heck would I think that wasn't okay for me? Little things. A little verse cleared some fog today. A little text message made me smile. A little tag in a meme made me laugh out loud. A little caffeine helped too.

More and more I think the best things in life happen to be the little things. And I think those little things are more than worth the moment it takes to set them in motion. Today, and tomorrow, and hopefully the next day too, I'll keep looking out for the little things. And I'll be a little more mindful of the little things I do too.

Perfectly me

Jo shares how making peace with her past, and with God, has enabled her to live authentically.

BY JO CHANT

I was raised in a Christian family, but as a young adult chose to walk away from that family, and my heritage. From there I walked the downhill path into the world of the occult. For the first five years I just dabbled in it, but it ruled my life for the next five. That led to broken relationships and, as I was just about to have my third child, a broken household.

During this upheaval I felt that my children weren't being raised properly and needed to go to Sunday school. I investigated several churches in the area and chose the Salvos because I knew they wouldn't judge me.

My children, Michaela and Emma, started Sunday school just before Christmas. I felt accepted and part of the Salvos, so I went to a night service. The minister invited me to a Bible study just after my baby, James, was born in March.

My life was beginning to fall into place. I loved my Bible study, childcare was provided, and I felt accepted and at peace. The Gold Coast Salvos nurtured our family over the years, and the 'saints' there are like family to me.

Around this time, I really started turning towards God, although it was still definitely on my terms.

Then, in August 1990, I had an experience that changed my life forever. It was cold, we were all inside, and the kids wanted me to read to them. I grabbed the big children's Bible and opened it to an account of the death and resurrection of Jesus. As I was reading, I became overwhelmed with what I read, and was just hit with Jesus telling me that I didn't have to suffer, he had already suffered for me.

It was like my life flashed before my eyes. I saw the blood of Jesus covering all that was bad and ugly, and it was, in the true sense of the word, awesome. It was as if Jesus had appeared to us in that room.

My life changed instantly. I wanted the Holy Spirit to fill me. I didn't want to smoke or drink any more — my life had

been decluttered and all my junk taken to the tip!

For several years I volunteered with the Salvos and was happy doing that. I then felt a burning within me to become a Salvation Army officer (minister). I applied, was accepted, completed my training and was ordained at the end of 2003.

To me, being a minister of God is about being real, genuine, honest and approachable. I minister in the grey, not in what is black and white, and I minister to broken people. To do that I have had to learn to be myself, to be authentic and real.

The process of living authentically has not been an easy one and it often gets me into trouble! I can live with my authentic self and God knows me for who I am, but so many of us, including me, have been so busy trying to hide our authentic self from each other that it's hard to be real. Now, I just fit the mould that God made for me.



I hope to be the best chaplain The Salvation Army has. I was asked what that would look like, and I could happily answer, "Me"!

To reach this goal, I have completed a Master of Arts degree, specialising in chaplaincy and pastoral care, through the Sydney College of Divinity, as well as other certificates and training.

To continue my journey, I had to make peace with my past and all that has happened, to make peace with my God, and with myself. I strongly believe that God has enabled me to do just that. This has allowed me to help others to find peace with their past, with God, and with themselves.

I want to be perfect — perfectly me — and God in his graciousness is with me every step of the way. He reminds me of this in Joshua chapter one, verse 9: "Be strong and courageous. Never be afraid or discouraged because I am your God … and I will remain with you wherever you go" (*The Voice* Bible translation).

My journey continues.

Jo is a Salvation Army chaplain working in courts and prisons in Queensland.

Energy bites



Ingredients
⅓ cup quinoa, 1 cup rolled oats, ½ cup shredded coconut, ¼ cup sunflower seeds, ¼ cup flaxseed meal, 2 tbsp chia seeds, ⅓ cup maple syrup, ½ cup dried apricots, ¼ cup raisins

Method
Preheat oven to 180°C. Rinse quinoa then add to a small saucepan with ⅔ cup water and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 8-10 minutes or until tender. Drain well.
In a food processor, blend oats, quinoa, coconut, sunflower seeds, flaxseed meal and chia seeds. Add maple syrup and continue to blend. Lastly, add the apricots and raisins and blend some more.
Grease or line mini muffin pans. Spoon mixture into each pan. Press down the mixture well.
Bake for 10-12 minutes. Let cool before removing from muffin pans.

Tip for the race of life

Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."
Matthew chapter 17, verse 20 (Bible, *New Living Translation*).

Did you know?



- Honey bees fly at a speed of around 25km per hour and beat their wings 200 times per second.
- Queen bees can live up to five years. They are busiest in the summer months when they can lay up to 2500 eggs a day.
- An individual bee will only make about one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its entire lifetime. Luckily, a single colony usually contains between 20,000 and 60,000 bees and honey is a very high-energy food.
- Honey contains natural preservatives, meaning that, if stored properly, it will never go bad.
- A single strand of spider silk is finer than a human hair, but also five times stronger than steel of the same width.
- A teaspoonful of neutron star would weigh six billion tons.
- Our DNA encodes the entire blue-print for our bodies using a set of only four characters (amino acids).
- The planet Saturn could float on water.
- Your femur (thigh bone) is stronger than concrete.
- A few of the thousand species of bamboo can grow up to 88cm in a day.

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

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. 28 March 2020, 8.30pm AEST. 2. Stronger and immediate action on climate change. 3. A voice in the climate change debate. 4. One hour. 5. Look after and care for it. **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the flower on page 2

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

Quick quiz



1. When is Earth Hour 2020?
2. What does Earth Hour promote?
3. What does Earth Hour give participants?
4. How long do we turn our lights off for?
5. What does God tell us to do with the environment?

Want to know more?

Visit **warcry.org.au/want-to-know-more** or return the coupon to **Warcry, PO Box 479, Blackburn VIC 3130.**

I would like:

- ☐ to learn more about who Jesus is
- ☐ information about The Salvation Army
- ☐ a Salvo to contact me

Name _____

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