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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



Unplugged

Leaving ourselves
to our own devices



Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, "It will be happier."

Alfred Lord Tennyson
(1809–1892)
British poet

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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From the editor

January is a time to unwind. The Christmas festivities and New Year's celebrations are over and many of us have precious weeks away from work, school and the usual routine.

It's a time we give ourselves permission to slow down and recharge our batteries for the year ahead.

Did you head to the bush, the sea or an exotic overseas location? Enjoying a beautiful environment with no demands on our time is a delight, although we don't have to leave home to appreciate the wonder of a star-studded sky or bask in the warmth of a summer's day.

It's a time to look at the beauty around us, acknowledging the God who created it and perhaps regain perspective on life.

"From the beginning of the world, people could see what God is like through the things he has made. This shows his power that lasts forever. It shows that he is God" (Romans chapter 1, verse 20).

Faye Michelson
Assistant Editor

Switch off to switch on

These holidays, try some unplugged entertainment to regain your perspective.

BY MARK HADLEY

This is not the article I expected to write. I should be writing to you about what I normally do at this time of year — the great things worth watching these holidays. But then my car stereo broke ...

It's hard to underestimate the importance of my car stereo. Firstly, it connects me to my mobile phone. As a producer, I have meetings on my phone while I'm driving between meetings. As a writer, I also listen to a multitude of podcasts from experts in politics, history, ethics and religion, and as a film and TV reviewer, my phone+stereo allows me to 'read' the books so many productions are based on. But that break-down dropped me into a world of silence.

It was a gradual descent. First the audio connection became intermittent. I struggled along, listening to every second word and managing to make every other call. Then the volume stopped working. Then the pause button. Soon I was listening to everything at full volume. Eventually (it took longer than you think) I chose silence. Incredibly uncomfortable silence. I was finally alone with me, sometimes for as long as 10 or even 20 minutes.

I began to panic. My tasks were piling up in some unseen wasteland of missed opportunity, threatening to crush me should I ever manage to gain access to them again. This was not FOMO. This was Fear of Falling Behind. Let's face it, no one is going to make an acronym out of FOFB, yet it has become one of the defining characteristics of the connected life.

So much of our lives is organised around getting as much done as possible, as quickly as possible. In *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman compared George Orwell with Aldous Huxley. Orwell had written the terrifying *1984* which illustrated the dangers of an authoritarian culture. Huxley, however, wrote *Brave New World*, where there was no need for a Big Brother to deprive you of your freedom. People would come to worship the very technologies that undid their capacity to think. Postman writes:



"Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture."

What Postman identified was the danger of passivity. However, there are two paths to the trivial culture.

We are discovering the danger of activity. We read our books while we run. We watch our thoughtful dramas, inspirational films and thrilling events on treadmills, the train or while we eat. We digest other worldviews — certainly! — we binge on them.

We have made a virtue out of speed. Faster is synonymous with better. 'Slow' is a swear word. When a greyer head says, "Slow and steady wins the race", we just smile knowingly, but of course, we couldn't slow down, even if we wanted to. Time is a precious commodity and there's so much to fit in. We have to-do lists to tick off, emails to answer, threads to read, comments to post. We rarely stop talking; we never stop listening.

Socially speaking, the Western world is becoming what the fictional demon Screwtape in C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters* described as the devil's ultimate goal:

"Ever since our Father entered Hell … all has been occupied by Noise — Noise, the grand dynamism, the audible expression of all that is exultant, ruthless, and virile — Noise which alone defends us from silly qualms, despairing scruples, and impossible desires. We will make the whole universe a noise in the end."

When the stereo broke, it made me wonder what I'd lost in the rush to stay 'up to date'. So, instead of proposing TV shows to gorge on these holidays, let me suggest four alternatives. None require a charger or a Wi-Fi connection.

PLAY 'UNPLUGGED' GAMES

Take a lead from *Jumanji*. Play a non-electronic game — with someone else. ▶



The Kominsky Method

A couple of years back my family started buying the 'holiday game'. My youngest son's favourite is *Exploding Kittens*. That card game has generated more shared laughter than all the TV I've watched with my boys in a year. Unplugged games require you to create space for another person. And here's the real trick: let the youngest person teach you how to play. If you can enjoy that, you've already learnt the point of the game.

TALK TO AN OLDER PERSON

In a world where now and the future are most significant, the past is often ignored. Talking to someone older, though, has significant benefits. Firstly, if you really listen from *The Kominsky Method's* generation, it's like a history podcast about a whole new world — with more ability to investigate than any technology can provide. It also takes the emphasis off you and puts it on someone else. It values their life, beginning with the fact they've seen much more of it than you.

Finally, it's often time-consuming, but it's also time-redeeming. Instead of seeing talking with someone older as something to endure, you can spend your time on them. There's no easier gift, or more significant way of showing love.

WALK NOWHERE

Step 1: Walk out your door. Step 2: Resist the need to set a direction. Step 3: Take turns at random. Step 4: Walk until you've lost that feeling you're 'going for a walk'.

Going for a walk can be exercise or an opportunity to talk. However only walking nowhere can set your mind as free as your body. Like in *Toy Story 4*, when your world falls away, you start to become aware of where you are in life.

SIT FOR 30 MINUTES

Be on your own for a while. You'll soon discover it's not as easy as it sounds. There are reasons we use screens to distract ourselves — there are questions we always seem too busy for. Let them rise to the surface. "Where is my life taking me?" "Am I happy?" "If not, why not?"

There's a line in the Bible that is possibly the most misused in all of that best-selling book. It's the Creator speaking to his creation: "Be still and know that I am God." It sounds like God saying, "Just let it go. Don't worry. I've got this." It's actually a message to a world that's lost all perspective.

God's "Be still!" is a big, red stop sign. It's directed at people who need to sit down and realise who they should really be listening to:

"Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth'" (Psalm 46, verses 8–10).



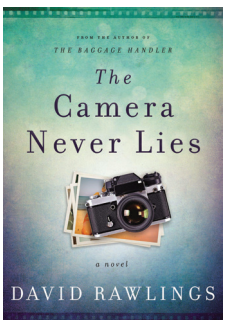
Toy Story 4

Turn the page

Ready to immerse yourself in a book? Here's some holiday reading that will entertain as well as give you something to think about.

REVIEWED BY JESSICA MORRIS

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES BY DAVID RAWLINGS



After the success of his debut novel *The Baggage Handler*, Australian author David Rawlings has reeled out *The Camera Never Lies*.

It is a story in the same universe as his notorious baggage handler but explores another fundamental part of human existence — this time with the assistance of a film developer.

In the latest offering, the Christ-like figure is a kooky camera shop owner who never seems to age and refuses to photoshop clients' photos. While it's unconventional, the narrative works.

While Rawlings formerly introduced us to the idea of dealing with our emotional baggage, in this follow-up he vividly highlights the consequences of what living with untruths does to a family.

Our protagonist is therapist and best-selling author Daniel Whitley. A father, boss and husband, you can't help but feel he represents all of humanity. After bringing a flagging counselling practice back from the edge of bankruptcy since the release of his book *No Secrets*, everything appears to be perfect in his life.

But, of course, this is not the case. And after receiving a magical (yes, magical) camera from his deceased grandfather, he realises he can no longer hide from the truth. As the shopkeeper develops Daniel's ancient film, he is confronted with the truth about his failing marriage, his suicidal daughter and the cause of all his success.

The fantastical elements of this novel make

the darkness of it bearable, mainly because the issues are so real to life. Infidelity, lust and lies are all on display, but we learn that honesty, loyalty and truth can also be doled out in equal measure.

As a fictitious book, this is a riveting and enjoyable read. But to truly embrace the message that Rawlings is trying to communicate, you need to read this with some discomfort. After all, we all rely on Jesus to bring our immorality out of hiding so our hearts can be sanctified each day. This is a clever depiction of what sanctification looks like, albeit with a little bit of magic involved.

Available from Koorong, Amazon and all major booksellers.

#METOO: STORIES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MOVEMENT EDITED BY, NATALIE KON-YU, CHRISTIE NIEMAN, MAGGIE SCOTT AND MIRIAM SVED



The #MeToo saga went viral in 2018 after celebrities opened up about sexual assault in Hollywood.

The ramifications of this movement were huge, and thousands of people across the world shared their stories of sexual assault using the hashtag #MeToo on social media. Naturally, the conversation reached Australia and it brought to light the systemic issue our society has with violence against women.

#MeToo: Stories from the Australian Movement is a collection of essays, stories and poetry from female contributors across the country. Spearheaded by journalists Miriam Sved, Christie Nieman, Maggie Scott and Natalie Kon-yu, people from a variety of professions came forward with pivotal and enlightening content, revealing how harassment and mistreatment of women can occur in any industry, workplace, online forum or home.

It was not an easy read — there were moments when I was winded, and rightfully so given the accounts of abuse, survival, prejudice and harassment that were shared. However, it is a necessary read. It is not just for feminists, not just for females, and not just for more progressive Christians.

#MeToo contains the real-life stories of everyday people and, in many cases, it reflects our own experiences too. It is critical reading for anyone who wants to better relate to, understand and advocate for others in and out of the church building.

Many of these accounts are not written with a Christian worldview. You will meet people with a variety of values, belief systems and backgrounds in these pages. However, the underlying factor that each has experienced injustice should be enough for all of us to sit up and listen to their voices.

#MeToo is available online and at bookstores across Australia.

Letting the dust settle

The littlest things can build up to make a big impact.

BY BELINDA DAVIS



"Today in the north there will be periods of raised dust."

This particular phrase has become the most dreaded part of the weather report for me. What they are actually saying is, "With today's high winds, giant clouds of dust will wash over your community and cover everything you own with a layer of red. You will be able to see it, feel it, smell it and taste it. And there is no point cleaning it up, because in two to three days' time it will happen all over again."

I was warned that where we now live is a dusty area. We back onto the desert so it is to be expected. This year, however, the frequency of these 'raised dust' episodes has increased dramatically. In the past, we might have had two or three per year, but we are now at two to three per week. And they're larger and more noticeable, so much so that they often make national news bulletins. This is a result of the drought we are experiencing and is a constant reminder of the situation our farmers are facing.

I really dislike dust now. I wasn't much

of a fan before, truth be told, but I really don't like it now. It settles everywhere and requires a diligent clean because as soon as you miss a spot, you can see it. When you move an item on a table or shelf, you can see where it was.

I have been thinking about the fact that individual dust particles are teeny tiny. In isolation you would think that they would have little or no impact on their surroundings. And yet, when they get together with their fellow dust friends, what an impact they can have.



In the most recent dust storm — sorry, periods of raised dust — fire alarms went off in a number of buildings because the smoke detectors couldn't distinguish between the dust en masse and a smoke cloud. People were admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties and car wash proprietors were run off their feet.

This line of thought has caused me to think again about the impact of small things, and that they can have a positive or negative twist.

Sometimes we figure that what we think, say and do won't matter in the larger scheme of things. We think they will go unnoticed or not have any impact, but when they are grouped together their significance is unmistakable. They could be detrimental things, such a sarcastic remark, criticism or nastiness, or they could be uplifting things such as compliments, encouragement and kindness.

These things matter. They may seem small in isolation — insignificant even — but they still count. It is all too easy to dismiss them as inconsequential, but when banded together they can have a good, or bad, impact on others.

I have been quite challenged by this as I take the time to ponder dust and its physical effect on my life. As a result, my prayer is that my thoughts, words and actions will bring about a positive impact on people, that I will let my "light shine before others, that they may see my good deeds and glorify my Father in heaven" (Matthew chapter 5, verse 16). It may seem like a small thought, but it has the power to change my interactions with those I encounter, and that's pretty big.

Vegie frittata



Serves 6

Ingredients

Cooking spray, 8 large egg whites, 4 large eggs, 1⅓ cups milk powder, 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, 2 cups sliced mushrooms, ½ cup finely chopped red capsicum, 2 medium sliced spring onions, ½ tsp salt, ½ tsp ground black pepper

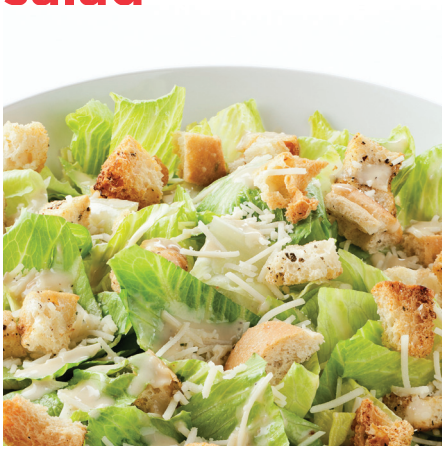
Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Spray oven-proof skillet with cooking spray.

Combine egg whites, eggs and milk powder in medium bowl and mix thoroughly. Stir in cheese, mushrooms, capsicum, spring onions, salt and black pepper. Pour mixture into skillet.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until set in centre. Cool on wire rack for 5 minutes before cutting into wedges.

Easy Caesar salad



Serves 6

Ingredients

1 head cos lettuce, torn; 1 cup croutons; 1 cup walnuts; ¼ cup sliced spring onions; ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Dressing

⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil; 2 tbsp lemon juice; 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce; 1 clove garlic, crushed; salt and pepper

Method

Combine lettuce, croutons, nuts, spring onions and cheese in large bowl.

Combine oil, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, salt and pepper in small bowl and mix well.

Pour dressing over salad and toss well before serving.

Camping Word Search

R N T M W O T B Q P W O G G V H S N E T
I I A A T H P X A O M A S V C R A A O R
D P T V A C P K L C S A N D E A M T N E
U E S T A I C L F T K M C V N O N U A E
R H X W C R A S A V I P I N U R V R C S
N K R N I M A B J R E R A N R X O E A D
F T I G H M E C B L X K T C R E M M U S
K C T S R O O D T U O A G U K U E K P X
V D R C I O L T E R I G N B M E R I M Q
Z A N H C N O Z N N N Q I S T A R S K G
M H O H D B S J T M B E H E P H D M X S
E Q F G T A R E Q V C H S U B I H O I S
K K F M A O D N C P A M I L T I W S U V
X W R R E W R G P T S R F Z Y A W Q J H
H A C M K Y I C R J R D O E W W N U V R
T C L S I M A X H Z W P H R K F T I L C
P P A F H U R C S U N S C R E E N T M X
R E L E R R R S B D Q B P D C N Y O F W
S A D R B M F K R P X J W Z G F D Y D R
C A M E R A N S N M G K A O S A J Z E U

BACKPACK
BEACH
BOTTLE
BUSH
CAMERA
CAMP
CANOE
CARAVAN
FISHING
HAT
HIKE
INSECT
MAP
MARSHMALLOW
MOSQUITO
MOUNTAIN
NATURE
OUTDOORS
PARK
PICNIC
RIVER
SAND
STARS
SUMMER
SUNSCREEN
SWIM
TENT
TORCH
TREES
WATER

Have a laugh

A farmer is driving his tractor along a country lane when he spots his neighbour standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls over and watches his neighbour just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

He gets off his tractor and walks over to the farmer. “Mate, what are you doing?”

The farmer replies, “I’m trying to win a Nobel Prize.”

“How?” asks the other farmer, puzzled.

“I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field.”



Can you decipher this rebus?

Cluck Cluck

Quack Quack

Gobble Gobble

A. Fowl language

Riddles

Why did the cow ring computer tech support?

There was a farmer in the Dell.

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

Because they lactose.

What did the mother cow say to the baby cow?

“It’s pasture bedtime.”



Tip for the race of life

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”
Isaiah chapter 40, verse 8

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

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. Plant health 2. 80 per cent 3. Pests and diseases 3. 40 per cent 5. An enemy sowed weeds among the wheat
Tum-Tum: is peeking out from behind a mountain on page 13.

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

Quick quiz



1. 2020 is the United Nations International year of what?
2. Plants provide what percentage of the world's food?
3. What are the greatest threats to plant health, according to the UN?
4. Up to what percentage of global food crops are lost to plant pests and diseases every year?
5. In Jesus' parable about man who sowed good seed in his field, what happened when everyone was sleeping? (Matthew chapter 13, verse 25)

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☐ I have already included The Salvation Army in my Will

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