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WARCRY

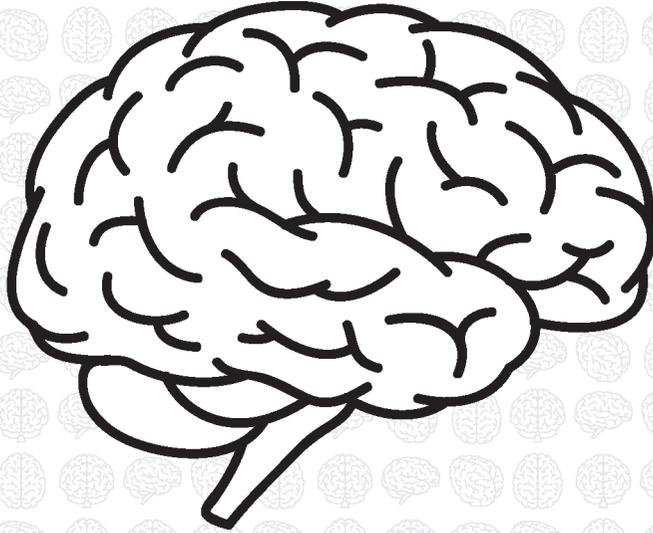
CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY

WELCOME

欢迎

Learning for life

How English
classes transform lives



Tell me and I forget.

Teach me and I may remember.

Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

US author, political theorist, politician, scientist,
inventor, civic activist, statesman, diplomat



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

Isn't it confronting when we can't understand what someone is saying, or we look at words and they mean nothing to us?

Legal documents and government forms are examples that come to mind; sometimes I feel they may as well be written in another language.

Imagine, then, how isolating it must be to live in a community where you don't speak the dominant language. In this week's *Warcry* we share the uplifting story of how dedicated teams of Salvation Army volunteers transform lives through weekly English classes.

Over the years thousands of people have come to these Salvo centres to learn English. They have received far more than language lessons there; they have found friendship, confidence to participate in their wider community and often a connection with The Salvation Army.

Being connected into caring community transforms lives. If you would like to connect with The Salvation Army, you can find your nearest corps (church) at salvationarmy.org.au/locations

Faye Michelson **Assistant Editor**

Learning from the heart

More than vocabulary and grammar are shared in the English classes taken by Salvo volunteer teachers.

BY FAYE MICHELSON

Going to an English class is a big step for many of those who attend the weekly sessions at Salvation Army centres. Most speak and understand little of the language and because of that find themselves isolated and unable to manage even simple everyday tasks such as shopping or appointments.

Melissa Winnell, Sydney Streetlevel Mission's engagement coordinator, acknowledges the courage it takes to even walk through their doors.

"Many of our students have been in Australia a long time, but don't feel comfortable to go out much because they aren't confident to speak or understand English," she says.

"These classes are important because not only do they help our students build skills in English, they address, in a small way,



Sydney Streetlevel English Class

the issue of social isolation. They learn English and they make new friends."

Salvation Army officer (minister) Esther Ong of Perth Chinese Corps (church) agrees that English classes have far-reaching benefits. The church has offered their classes for nearly 20 years and currently holds five weekly sessions for about 60 students.

"Many of our students feel helpless and isolated because they are unable to communicate in the dominant language [English]," she observes.

"Learning English makes them feel more confident so that when they are out and about they can manage basic communication with people in public places."

Chinese-speaking volunteers teach simple conversational English during the



two-hour classes, explaining vocabulary and grammar in Mandarin — a great help to their students who are from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

“Many would otherwise struggle to understand as they do not have enough basic English to comprehend the lessons,” Esther says.

The various ‘classrooms’, set up in rooms or halls, aren’t high-tech or elaborate. There are tables for students to sit around and maybe a whiteboard and computer screen or two. But in all of them the atmosphere is warm, there’s a cuppa and something tasty to eat during the mid-class break and there’s plenty of friendly conversation.

Margaret Poore, Parramatta Salvation Army (NSW) ministries coordinator, says the warm, inclusive nature of their

classes gives students the confidence to “have a go”.

“We’ve been holding English Conversation Groups at Parramatta since 1992,” she says.

“About 20 people come each Thursday and at present we have participants from Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Vietnam.”

Margaret works with a “wonderful volunteer crew of six helpers”. Most are retired teachers, who work from a lesson manual they have developed. After class finishes, students are invited to attend a Bible study conducted in easy-to-understand English.

“Students are also invited to other events happening within the church. From this Thursday class, a group meets for worship on Sunday mornings in an English as a Second Language setting and a Chinese discipleship group meets monthly on Saturday mornings,” Margaret says.

“We interact with our participants ‘one on one’. New friendships are developed, we laugh together, cry together as well as learn together. Our helpers love sharing conversation and experiences and feel that they, too, learn a lot from the time spent together. Certainly they appreciate the opportunity to expand their worldview through such interactions.”

Esther’s volunteer teachers also find the friendships forged in their classrooms rewarding.

“We have had students whose lives have been transformed through prayer and other help given, such as counselling, ▶

with opportunities to become a trusted person who can invite them on a journey of faith,” Esther says.

Melissa and her team at Sydney Streetlevel Mission believe a huge benefit is the sense of community that develops among the students, currently from China, Vietnam, Fiji, Korea, Russia, Albania and Brazil.

“They really look out for each other. One example of this is when a younger member of the class baked a cake and took it to an older member on Mother’s Day, knowing she wouldn’t see her family,” Melissa says.

“It is so rewarding to see people who would not have spoken when they first arrived, become confident enough to share in class. Also it’s rewarding to hear how people feel they can engage in Streetlevel and the wider community because they feel more confident in listening, speaking and understanding English.

“We see isolation and disconnection as a hardship or injustice. Our English class transforms lives. They find a sense of belonging, safety and value through the love shown towards them from volunteers, other students and our wider Streetlevel community.”



Sleeping rough to tackle homelessness

BY JESSICA MORRIS

Salvos, business leaders and local politicians took to the streets of Hobart last month to sleep rough in a bid to curb Tasmania's homelessness crisis.

More than 55 people from the state government, corporate sponsors and Salvo staff and clients braved the cold with nothing more than a lofty fundraising goal and a sleeping bag for the 10th annual Salvos SleepOut for Homelessness.

To date, close to \$50,000 has been raised for The Salvation Army Street 2 Home program.

"Street 2 Home is the only primary outreach service that operates out of hours and meets rough sleepers where they are in our state. It is entirely funded by The Salvation Army through the funds we raise at events like the SleepOut or mission support funding," said Major Brad Watson, Salvation Army public relations secretary. Participants were taken on a tour around Hobart streets.

"This program is a key public face of our movement to those experiencing extreme hardship and injustice on the streets, showing Jesus' love and helping them to access the services that they need."

Participants were taken on a tour of the inner-city, where they were exposed to

stories from locals about what it means to sleep rough. Coming together around a fire, state manager of Homelessness and Housing Services, Dr Jed Donoghue, hosted a panel of key politicians, Housing and Homelessness Services staff and clients.

The event gave members of parliament and corporate sponsors first-hand insight into the stories of Salvos clients across the region.

"Just before bed the participants were given 'midnight snacks' cooked by the clients of McCombe House, one of our family violence refuges, and their chaplain Major Angela Watson.

These snacks had stories included in the pack that described the situations of some of the ladies who found their way into our refuge and how they had their lives transformed," said Brad.

"Then everyone tried to get to sleep in very icy conditions. The overnight minimum was two degrees, but on the Hobart waterfront it felt much colder!"

Some of the businesses that helped raise funds by providing participants included Premium Business Solutions, Woolworths and Knight Frank. Key sponsors included Weeding Hire, Scene Change, the Hotel Grand Chancellor and Veolia.

Little women return to the big screen

Louisa May Alcott's beloved girls are given a modern makeover in this new adaptation.

BY MARK HADLEY

For some, remaking the film *Little Women* is like repainting the Sistine Chapel. Sure, you could do it, but once you've seen the definitive 1994 version starring Winona Ryder, why bother? For others, the argument goes deeper. Can a two-hour film really convey the longing and burgeoning womanhood captured by Louisa May Alcott's original novel?

Each medium has its own advantages, and each adaptation can bring to light a new joy that an old fan has yet to appreciate. The same can be said for the 2019 version of this much-loved tale. There are losses and gains, but the little women who emerge can still inspire a new generation.

Alcott's story centres on four teenage girls living with their mother in a state of

financial stress. The father of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy is away at the war. Their mother, 'Marmee' March, is doing her best to make ends meet, while raising her children in as loving an environment as possible.

Each daughter is distinctly different — Meg, a gentle-hearted beauty; Jo, a passionate, would-be writer; Beth, a contemplative, quiet soul; and precocious and socially-motivated Amy. *Little Women* is the story of their coming of age as they confront the tests of character that life brings. The story has been adapted many times over the past 150 years, and this latest version by Clare Niederpruem continues that tradition by translating it into the present day.

In this version, Marmee's daughters are the same women, struggling with the same ambitions and setbacks, but living in a modern American city. Their father is a US army surgeon on deployment in the Middle East. Jo's passion for story-telling centres on a fantasy novel she is desperate for the world to appreciate, and her love interest 'Freddy' Bhaer is a professor at Columbia University.

Yet what successfully crosses the centuries are the tensions involved in a house of five women, the dreams they have for their future happiness and, most of all, their sincerely tested but sincerely felt love for each other. The story also retains much of the emotional connection of the original work, so I advise having a box of tissues nearby.

If the idea of seeing the March girls occupying any setting other than 19th century Massachusetts is anathema to you, this might not be the film for you. In one respect at least, I can agree. Alcott's

Little Women maintained a strong connection with the God of the Bible, which this version overlooks. Some of that relates to the period in which Alcott wrote yet most of that connection with God related to how the author's 'little women' saw themselves.

Alcott's March girls regularly played at being pilgrims on a journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City, a reference to *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. They had dreams they pursued, but they were set inside a larger context. Bunyan's book makes an appearance in this new *Little Women* but only as a good luck talisman. It's a sad disconnect, because it means the modern-day March girls have less to fall back on when dark clouds gather.

The original March sisters regularly quoted Bible verses to each other when trials arose. Literary academic Brandy Anderson notes in *Castles in the Air: Religion in Little Women*, that Alcott's Jo was just as passionate, and was definitely prepared to engage with other world views. However, she was not as adrift

as Niederpruem's heroine. In one part of the novel Jo enjoys a philosophical debate only until, "... it dawned upon her gradually that the world was being picked to pieces, and put together on new and, according to the talkers, on infinitely better principles than before, that religion was in a fair way to be reasoned into nothingness, and intellect was to be the only God."

Alcott's Jo saw the danger that Niederpruem's Jo does not. Our intellects, creativity, even our loves are wonderful things to be pursued and enjoyed. Yet they cannot provide firm foundations for our lives. For that we need a God more powerful and lasting than our passions. Hopefully the little women who come to enjoy this *Little Women* will be wise enough to make the same distinction.

Warcry has 10 double passes to see *Little Women*, courtesy of Heritage Films. The first 10 people to email warcry@aus.salvationarmy.org.au with the name of the film's director by 14 September will receive a double pass. Please include your postal address.



Hidden gifts

Sometimes the finest talents are those you can't perform on a stage.

BY FAYE MICHELSON



I once worked with a guy who was a newspaper sub-editor by day and a stand-up comedian at night. One of my neighbours trained as a concert pianist in London and my daughter worked with a physiotherapist who was an Olympic kayaker. My husband had a boss who'd played keyboards in a band in the '70s that had a top 10 hit on the Aussie music charts.

I love the idea of people having talents, gifts or skills that are unrelated to their 'everyday' life, often unknown to those around them. It's like possessing a secret superpower.

Perhaps that's the appeal of Channel 7's *Australia's Got Talent (AGT)*. In its ninth season, the reality television show is an uplifting smorgasbord of breathtaking, weird, hilarious and beautiful acts performed by everyday Aussies in front of a panel of judges. While they're striving to win the \$100,000 prize money, it's also an opportunity to showcase their talents on national TV.

And what talents they have. Acts have included gifted teenage acrobats, singers and dancers; a mother-of-twins-cum-comedian — not to mention a seven-year-old boy doing stand-up comedy. There are knife throwers, fire twirlers, archers and illusionists. A 76-year-old grandmother bodybuilder took to the stage, as did a man performing amazing tricks with his skipping rope, and a bicycle mechanic whose two-wheeled stunts were astounding.

One of the most powerful performances this season came from the Hummingsong community choir. The Sydney-based network of women's choirs offers members the opportunity to make music and friendships, with performances raising awareness and funds for women and children escaping domestic violence. In a moving pre-performance interview, one of the performers, a survivor of domestic abuse, described how the choir had been a lifeline for her. Three hundred singers filled the stage, their rendition of Keane's *Somewhere Only We Know* bringing the judges and many in the audience to tears.

It's entertaining and often uplifting to watch the eclectic array of abilities on AGT, but there are many life talents,

gifts and skills that can't be taken onto a stage. If they could, these might also inspire awe and move people to tears.

We've all met people who have a talent for saying just the right thing, or who inspire us with their encouragement and deep kindness. Others have wrapped their warm hospitality and generosity around us, and many of us have been brought to tears by acts of compassion or selflessness.

We are born with some gifts and talents, and some we have to work at — empathy, patience, humility, forgiveness, leadership and insight are not easy to achieve.

The writer of the Bible book of Romans, chapter 12, verses 6-8, reminds us that all of us have something special to offer. "In his grace, God has given us different gifts ... if your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

Our gifts don't need to be spotlighted on a stage to shine through to those around us. They just need to be used.



From doing nothing, to doing everything!

A chance meeting with Salvation Army officers through her daughter's school began a stirring of hope and joy within Kate.

BY KATE BURKE

My daughter Tahlia was at primary school and she came home, and she said, "Mum, can I go and hang out with the Salvos at school, they are doing gatherings on Tuesday afternoons?" And I was like, "Yeah, why not; off you go."

So, she went and when I had to go and pick her up, I met Bellarine Peninsula Salvation Army officers (ministers), Diane and Peter Hobbs and their two little kids.

They cared about people; they took the time to talk to the parents and get to know them. They wanted to know where you had been and what you'd been doing and how your life was going, and mine was pretty crap.

I lost my mum, and between losing my mum and dad, I had a stillborn baby and I lost my best friend as well. I'd stay at home all the time and basically lie in bed all day. I had no motivation. I just didn't

care. I'd never go anywhere.

Pete and Di just listened and didn't judge me. Pete sort of got me out of the house a bit more to do things. I started volunteering at the Salvation Army op shop. It got me out and about and I met people that I never thought I'd meet. It's quite interesting the people you meet at the op shop.

I also started helping with an open air music program at the primary school. I drive the kids over there on a Tuesday night and then I bring them back to the primary school. I help with youth group too. I help with anything basically — anything and everything!

Being part of The Salvation Army has helped my daughter. We come on Friday nights for youth group and that's helped her a lot. And it's helped me, too. It's brought us a lot closer together. We watch each other grow. She's loved seeing

me being able to get out and about and not just lying at home in bed doing nothing. I've even giving up smoking!

I don't go to 'church', but I come to The Salvation Army brunch every second Sunday. Everyone gathers around and we have breakfast and after that they do a reading from the Bible and we sit there and answer questions. I wouldn't go to a church — no way! But this, I will. It's good. I love it. Everyone gets to be together and enjoy each other's company for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning.

We do Bible study as well and we went to Hillsong (Christian conference in Sydney) last year and this year. It's awesome there; so many people and no-one judges anyone. It's good! And I've been to The Salvation Army commissioning of officers in Melbourne, and to the Salvos' 'Still Others' conference last year as well.

I normally wouldn't do anything but in the past eight years or so The Salvation Army has taken me from doing nothing, to doing everything!

As told to Lauren Martin.



Kate with Salvation Army officer Captain Peter Hobbs

Orange and poppy seed shortbread bars



Ingredients

200g butter, softened, ½ cup icing sugar mixture, 2 tsp grated orange rind, 2 cups plain flour, 1 tbsp poppy seeds, 1 tbsp orange juice

Method

Preheat oven to 160°C. Line a 28cm x 18cm slice tin with baking paper.

Using an electric mixer beat butter, icing sugar and orange rind until light and creamy. Add sifted flour, poppy seeds and orange juice. Mix well.

Press into prepared tin. Mark into squares or fingers. Cook for about 35 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cut through marked squares (or bars) while warm. Cool in tin.

Recipe courtesy of 2 Thumbs Up: A dozen dozen sensational slices by Cathryn Williamson. Available from two.thumbs.up@hotmail.com for \$10, plus postage, with proceeds going to Salvation Army mission projects.

Have a laugh

A teenager came out of her bedroom, rubbing a bump on her head.

“What happened?” asked her mother.

“A book fell on my head!” her daughter complained.

“Well, you’ve only got your shelf to blame,” her mother replied.



Tip for the race of life

“Teach me your ways, Lord;
make them known to me.”
Psalm 25, verse 4

Wordsearch

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

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| BOOKS | INSTRUCTION |
| KNOWLEDGE | TUTOR |
| LEARN | STUDENT |
| TEACHER | ASSIGNMENT |
| LESSON | HOMEWORK |
| MENTOR | ENGLISH |
| READ | DISCIPLINE |
| STUDY | PATIENCE |
| MEMORISE | SCHOOL |
| EDUCATION | CLASS |
| LECTURE | VOCABULARY |

Quick quiz



1. What is bibliosmia?
2. What was first book written using a typewriter?
3. What term is derived from insects that live in and feed on the binding of books?
4. The first book was published in 1453; what was it?
5. What is described as 'alive and active, sharper than any double edged sword' (Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12)?

Tum-Tum



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

Answers: 1. The enjoyment from smelling old books
 2. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
 3. Bookworm 4. The Gutenberg Bible 5. The word of God.
Tum-Tum: Is in a picture frame behind the March girls on page 9.

Want to know more?

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

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- information about The Salvation Army
- a Salvo to contact me

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