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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY

Ready for action

Salvos on call for emergencies



I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can
do something.
And I will not let what I cannot
do interfere with what I can do.

Edward Everett Hale (1822–1909)
US author, historian and clergyman





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

It's been a devastating start to the bushfire season, with blazes in multiple locations across the country cutting a swathe of destruction through communities.

Homes and land have been destroyed and, tragically, lives have been lost. At times, the demand on our emergency services — firefighters, police and other first responders — has been unprecedented.

It's in this environment, at this time of the year, that The Salvation Army does some of its finest work. Its own emergency services teams — Salvation Army Emergency Services — swing into action, providing crucial support to those on the front line of disaster response and to victims.

Most of the team members are trained volunteers — thousands of them, in fact — who work alongside professionals.

In this issue of *Warcry*, you can read about this remarkable and dedicated group of people, who through their selfless service are living out the first line of The Salvation Army's Vision Statement, that "wherever there is hardship or injustice" that's where Salvos will be.

Scott Simpson **Assistant Editor-In-Chief**

On call to help at the front line

Salvation Army Emergency Services teams are responding to unprecedented demand as bushfires rage around the nation.

BY FAYE MICHELSON, SIMONE WORTHING

Catastrophic weather conditions have seen devastating bushfire emergencies around the nation over the past few months. There has been tragic loss of life, property and land destroyed, and lives traumatised. As we move into summer, communities brace for the worst.

While firefighters, police and other first responders are ready to battle the unimaginable to preserve lives and property, another emergency service is also on standby to answer the call to serve as soon as it's requested.

The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) relief teams have supported crews on the front line for more than 40 years. Trained SAES teams are based in most Salvo corps (churches) personnel and centres around Australia, on call 24-hours, seven days a week to respond to emergencies in their area.

Salvation Army officer Topher Holland, General Manager Strategic Emergency





and Disaster Management, says several thousand trained volunteers make up the SAES, distributing tens of thousands of meals at incidents and disasters each year.

Teams are on the ground supporting those on the emergency front lines, whether it's a natural disaster such as a cyclone, flood, bushfire or earthquake, or an incident such as a transport accident, structure fire or missing person search. SAES teams attend an emergency at least once every day of the year.

The past few months have seen multiple SAES teams activated in unparalleled demand. In early November, Topher said SAES teams were operating in six evacuation centres in NSW.

"For our Salvo emergency services to be active at these many locations providing meals to evacuees and front-line responders at one time in one region is unprecedented," Topher told Salvation Army online magazine *Others*.

The SAES has a wide range of equipment to carry out its large-scale on-site support, including catering and supply trucks and trailers, mobile cool rooms, and four-wheel drive vehicles including support units. The SAES teams work closely with agencies on the ground. When teams arrive at an incident, refreshments are made available immediately while the first meal is being prepared. This is served within an hour of arrival.

In the first weeks of November, with more than 35 fires burning across Queensland, Adam Cole, The Salvation Army Queensland State Coordinator for Strategic Emergency and Disaster Management, said SAES teams were quickly on the scene of numerous fire front lines and evacuation centres.

By 14 November, 80 fires were burning and Adam told *Others* that SAES teams and Salvation Army corps (churches) were stationed at multiple sites to support emergency services personnel and people ►



who had been evacuated. All southern Queensland teams were on standby, with all Queensland teams on alert.

“At the moment, we are serving around 800 meals per day,” he said at the time.

But once fires are contained and evacuation centres closed, the work of The Salvation Army continues. Topher said the Salvos assist people beyond the initial disaster, drawing on its vast network of community services to help them rebuild their lives. The focus is not just on the reconstruction of physical infrastructure but also on the restoration of physical, emotional, spiritual, environmental and economic well-being.

Salvation Army Strategic Emergency and Disaster Management Specialist

Sue Hopper said the Queensland Government invited the Salvos to work with other agencies in the Community Recovery Hub after 2500 people from hundreds of homes were evacuated from Cooroibah in the Noosa Shire.

“We’re helping those who’ve lost everything,” she said. “That’s why we are here — to really help people at their point of genuine hardship and need, both now and for the long term.”

If you or someone you know is affected by a disaster, the Salvos are ready to support and help. We provide medium- and long-term disaster assistance after significant natural or man-made disasters.

The Salvation Army offers a range of services and assistance measures to

help people who have been impacted by bushfires. These include chaplains and support workers, immediate assistance with cash grants and goods, and financial counselling.

For enquiries, The Salvation Army Disasters Assistance team can be contacted by emailing sal.disasters@salvationarmy.org.au or by calling 1300 662 217

To assist The Salvation Army to support Australian communities during natural disasters, as well as during the long recovery periods afterwards, go to salvationarmy.org.au/donate

Also, buying packs of S.T.A.N.D. bottled water from Salvos disaster corporate partner Woolworths provides \$1 per pack to the fund.

**Salvos
Radio)))**

Listen to Chris Elliott interview Topher Holland on Salvos Radio Light and Life program www.salvationarmy.org.au/radio/light-and-life/

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Outback truck of hope

Salvo officers Denis and Kathleen White have driven their truck, packed with supplies, to help remote communities.

BY JESSICA MORRIS

Every few weeks, over the past eight years, Adelaide-based Salvation Army officers (ministers) Denis and Kathleen White have climbed into a 16-tonne truck they have packed with quality second-hand furniture and clothing and set off for the Australian outback.

Their destination is several remote Aboriginal communities across the top of South Australia and the south-western desert of the Northern Territory. Here they 'set up shop' in small communities and sell the furniture and clothing at a reasonable price.

In 2011, the Whites were appointed as Divisional APY Lands Coordinators. APY stands for Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, a region about one and a half times the size of Tasmania.

"The Aboriginal people in Central Australia are the last, the least and the

forgotten," Denis says. "People have no idea of the condition of things there in Central Australia."

More than a decade ago, the South Australian Government began funding the construction of dozens of houses in each Aboriginal community in the APY Lands. But a major problem arose — the houses stayed empty.

Without furniture, Denis says, people are sleeping on the floor, sitting on the floor and eating their food off the floor, which in turn creates health problems. There are no furniture or electrical stores in these communities. They are so remote that having beds, fridges and washing machines delivered is crippling expensive. This is where the Whites and their truck come in. Denis says on one early trip he sold everything in the first couple of hours in one town alone, with people pleading for more.

Since being commissioned as Salvation Army officers three decades ago, Denis and Kathleen have served in churches in Victoria, as missionaries in Papua New Guinea and court chaplains in South Australia, but their time in the APY Lands is their most challenging and rewarding appointment yet.

The Whites leave their family behind for nine weeks every year, covering thousands of kilometres each trip. This sounds like a challenge in itself, but the Whites admit the most complex aspect of their ministry isn't the time spent in the outback's sweltering heat— it's the process between each journey. This is when the couple source high-quality, second-hand furniture, clothes and reasonably priced electronics for their next trip.



The Salvation Army's work in the APY Lands began in 2008 when Salvo officer Henk Fernee (now retired) spoke to South Australian Housing Authority and the elders of these remote communities and learned about the desperate need for basic furniture.

Henk began the process of sourcing goods in Adelaide and delivering them to these communities. When the Whites took on the role eight years ago, they added a spiritual component.

"We spoke to the elders and on each trip we involve them to do announcements, pray in language and explain that The Salvation Army is a Christian organisation," Denis says.

"It's opened doors up for us to pray with people. The loveliest thing is working with the Bible translation [through the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress] and seeing it transform lives."

The Whites work closely with the elders

of each community, who indicate specific needs. They also say that giving people the opportunity to pay for, or pay off, items through a Centrepay plan, gives the Indigenous people a sense of ownership in the items they purchase.

But no matter how tightly the Whites pack their truck, there are always people needing more. And that is the most challenging part of the ministry.

"The verse where Jesus talks to the disciples and he says, 'You will always have the poor', we see that," Denis says. "We do so much to help, and yet there are still disappointed people at the end of the sale. And as much as we want to help them, we can't. That's the hardest thing."

The Whites' journey with the people of the APY Lands will come to an end early next year when they take up new appointments. The Salvation Army will continue to work with the APY Lands communities to determine an appropriate response going forward.

Heading for a fall

We all fall flat on our faces at some time or another
— it's deciding to get up that matters.

BY BELINDA DAVIS



Every time I head out on my regular 3km run around my neighbourhood I come across a section of footpath that makes me feel a little anxious when I approach it. This is the place where I fell.

The incident happened just six months after we'd moved into town and I was still getting used to our surroundings. I was happy with the circuit I'd chosen for my regular running route because it was well-lit and flat. One day as I was happily coasting along, I stumbled. Then, in a kind of slow-motion, I started to fall.

I could see the ground coming towards me and there was nothing I could do to stop myself. I felt my hand, then my knee, hit the path and then I was lying on my back on the footpath staring up at the morning sky.

Pain washed over me; it was mostly physical but there was also the emotional pain of embarrassment. Had anyone seen me fall? I confess there was a part of me that just wanted to stay put and lie there, but I knew I needed to get up and make my way home.

There didn't seem to be any significant physical damage, so I continued on. It was only when I arrived home and relayed my tragic tale to my husband that I noticed a hole in the knee of my favourite running pants. Then I discovered that underneath this hole was a fairly large wound.

It was bloody and swollen, and it stung terribly when I showered. It took weeks for my knee to fully heal and I still have the shadow of a scar.

I am proud that despite falling I got

up and finished my run. But I carry reminders of that fall with me — I am now more cautious of my footing when I'm running, and I still have the physical damage on my knee and my pants (which I can't bear to part with!).

I have always said God doesn't mind so much if we 'fall' in our journey with him, so long as we get up again and continue.

In the past I realise I've tended to focus more on getting up and going on my way, rather than acknowledging the consequences of a stumble. Often when we 'fall', however, there is some sort of damage done and we might need to be more observant about the injuries we receive — or cause. These painful and sometimes long-lasting consequences can help us be more aware of the pitfalls we might face and help us to be more cautious.

The Psalms have some great encouragement for runners (and those who don't run).

Psalm 119, verse 105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." All of us can do with some solid direction and a clear view of where we are going. And if we fall on our life's run with God, another Psalm assures us he's there alongside us. "The Lord directs the steps of the godly ... though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand" (Psalm 37, verses 23–24). It's a great motivation to keep running the good race.

Belinda Davis serves as a Salvation Army officer in regional Victoria. Her blog can be found at www.ablessedlife2017.wordpress.com.

Caring through times of disaster

Chris Roby, who heads up the Coffs Harbour Salvation Army Emergency Services team, knows the importance of a helping hand – 10 years ago God, through the Salvos, saved his life.

BY CHRIS ROBY

My mum was an alcoholic and sadly died an alcoholic and over the years I also became a burnt-out drunk. I was hopeless. I just had to drink.

I didn't work for more than 20 years and my life was consumed with alcohol. In my mind, money was just a voucher to get more alcohol and I didn't care what it was, as long as it had alcohol in it. I drank metho. I was also on anti-psychotic medication. I was dying but I couldn't stop drinking.

The only reason I turned up to the Salvos at Coffs Harbour (NSW) was because I was living on the street and they told me you could get a free feed there on Wednesday nights. I was drunk and living in my car.

I met (now retired) Salvation Army Major Steve there. He's a knockabout kind of bloke and I knew he was telling me the truth. He was a fighter, worked as a bouncer and he was a drinker who fell in love with a Salvo girl, who became later became his wife and became a great support for me.

His story touched my heart. I just knew it was true.

He challenged me to pour out my grog. I was drunk and I poured out three long-necks of beer and a bottle of rum on the steps of The Salvation Army. I had this massive anxiety attack; I tried every excuse not to do it, but I did.

Looking back, I give God the credit for all that has happened.

I couldn't fix my addiction with the same head that created it. I realised I was powerless. Not long after I met Steve, my past caught up with me and I went to prison. It was there that I prayed from the heart and a whole series of amazing, miraculous events happened.

The Salvos got me into a rehab from prison, locally at Adele House, which is now under Salvos management. The Salvos supported me in so many ways.

I began helping out and now I'm a member of a Salvation Army motorcycle club and other Christian motorbike



chaplaincy groups. I drive the truck for the Salvos family store and coordinate the local Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES), who are a great team.

We go to disasters when called, but also take the SAES gear for barbecues at the park and events such as the community carols night. For three years we fed the homeless, about 70 people, every Friday night.

When the fires first hit in spring, we needed heaps more help and so a group of guys from Adele House volunteered. They've done a great job and it has been great for them, too.

At one centre alone, we fed 150 firefighters a night. We also provided them with takeaway meals and snacks. There were people that couldn't go into accommodation, who had pets, and teenagers whose parents were out fighting fires, so we provided them with food, drinks, information and whatever we could to feed the pets. We just made sure we were available for people. At one of the evacuation

centres there were heaps of people who didn't know if they'd lost their houses, as well as those who knew they had.

The boys from the rehab also come to the Salvos for worship and it is a great chance to be a mentor. Some of these kids are coming out of jail and many come from outlaw bike backgrounds, but they see that you can still ride your Harley, you can still have fun and you don't have to drink and do drugs.

Now I understand that, when we get to the end of ourselves, that's when we look to Jesus. We grow in those hard times. My life has never been better, and I see the ripple effect with my family and community.

Even though nothing's changed, everything has changed. I'm still hanging around with addicts and alcoholics, I'm still riding Harleys, I'm still in the middle of tough situations — but now it's all for God and to help others. That's what it's all about.

As told to Naomi Singlehurst

Tim Tam reindeer



Ingredients

A small amount of chocolate, a toothpick, Tim Tam biscuits, red Skittles lollies, lolly eyes, star-shaped pretzels

Method:

Melt a small amount of chocolate in the microwave at 10-20 second intervals until smooth.

Use the toothpick to dot a small amount of chocolate where the nose will be. Stick a red Skittle on top.

Make two dots of melted chocolate where the eyes will be. Stick on the lolly eyes.

Put some melted chocolate on the back of one point of the pretzel. Turn pretzel over and press antler on top of the Tim Tam. Repeat with another pretzel for the second antler.

Place the reindeer in the fridge to let the melted chocolate set (about 10-20 minutes).

Have a laugh

A group of mountaineers were at their base camp, getting their gear together to start their ascent of a steep mountain. They looked up at the sound of raucous laughter and were surprised to see a couple of men laughing uproariously as they descended the slope.

“Why are you laughing?” asked a mountaineer.

“It’s mountains!” chortled one of the men. “They’re hill areas!”



Tip for the race of life

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”
Psalm 121, verses 1-2

Wordsearch

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

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ALP | PEAK |
| BASE | PINNACLE |
| EARTH | PLATEAU |
| ELEVATION | PRECIPICE |
| FOOTHILL | RANGE |
| GORGE | ROCK |
| HEIGHT | SINAI |
| HILL | SUMMIT |
| LAND | TECTONIC |
| MASS | TOR |
| MOUNTAIN | VALLEY |

Quick quiz



1. 'Mountains Matter for Youth' is the theme for which UN international observance day on 11 December?
2. Mountains cover what percentage (approximately) of the Earth's land surface?
3. What is Earth's longest range of mountains?
4. Where did God give Moses the Ten Commandments (Exodus chapter 19)?
5. How many metres above the surrounding area does a land mass need to be before it is termed a mountain?

Tum-Tum



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

Answers: 1. International Mountain Day 2. 22%
 3. It's underwater — the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
 4. Mount Sinai 5. 305 m (1000 ft)
Tum-Tum: Is hiding in the crack in the pavement on page 10.

Want to know more?

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