

**LEAD STORY**

Fatherhood  
the second  
time around

**FEATURE**

Everyday heroes

**FAITH TALK**

Lessons from  
my dad

# Dads and daughters - building new lives

Salvos embrace single fathers  
as they escape challenging pasts



# SALVOS

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## 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

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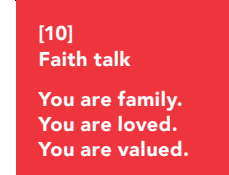


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You are loved.  
You are valued.



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Dads and daughters – building new lives



## Father's Day feelings

Welcome to the Father's Day edition.

I had a fantastic dad. Despite this, we didn't always see eye to eye. He was 51 when I was born, and I was wanted and much loved.

But this caused one significant drawback growing up. Dad always wanted to protect me and worried immensely about my safety, even when I was an adult and married.

On Father's Day, and every day, I remember him with love and thankfulness.

This, however, is not everyone's experience. Terribly, some fathers are the safety issue. Father's Day, for children who have grown up with cruel dads, is not a day of love, joy or celebration. Sadly, they only have hurt and grief.

As we honour decent, caring fathers, may we also provide spiritual, emotional and physical support to those who can't. And just maybe, as we pray and help, the healing of forgiveness will flow.

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson

**Editor-in-Chief**

Even the strongest hands can lose  
their grip, the greatest of minds can  
become cloudy, and the biggest of  
hearts can break.  
So be kind.  
Just always, be kind.

Author unknown



## Fatherhood the second time around

The tension between delight and sadness as a grandfather takes parental role

### WORDS

SIMONE WORTHING

"It's the most wonderful experience to have a 'second bite at the cherry' and to enjoy being a dad to Noelle," says Len, a recently retired Salvation Army officer (pastor), who has full-time care of his 10-year-old granddaughter, Noelle.

"She is her own little person, mature in many ways, argues her own point of view and is a very good negotiator!

"One of the saddest things, though, is that our circumstances immediately say that something is wrong. This is not as a family situation normally would or should be.

"For me, it's a wonderful tension between absolute delight and incredible sadness."

Len came from a happy family and grew up in Victoria. His dad was a self-employed drainer and his mum stayed at home and looked after Len and his older and younger brothers.

"I don't think I have too many hang-ups from being the middle child," he jokes. "Dad worked hard but was able to take us on some great holidays, and Mum was the 'mumma bear' who protected and cared for her boys."

Len met his wife Marney when he was 16 and she was 14. They were married at 21 and 18, in 1975. Their son Corey came along in 1978.

In 1986, Len and Marney adopted a little girl, Carmen, who was born in South Korea. ▶

"Carmen was only four months old when she joined us and we were so in love with her," says Len. "She just folded into our family so easily."

Fast forward a couple of decades and, after some intense life challenges, Carmen had her own little girl Noelle, born in 2010.

At that time, Len and Marney were also grandparents to Corey and his wife Simone's three young children.

### TRAGIC TIMES

"Carmen loves Noelle and she was such a caring mother," explains Len quietly. "In 2014, though, circumstances were such that Marney and I became full-time parents and grandparents to Noelle.

Tragically, Marney passed away in 2016.

"These were traumatic times," shares Len. "We'd been married 40 years and life changed dramatically.

"Looking at the 'glass half full', though, it was a wonderful thing that I had Noelle. She brought a measure of normality back into a fairly broken existence at that point and made me keep going with our daily routines.

"There was room for grief, but sometimes I just had to suck it up and get on with life – washing clothes and cooking meals – as a little life was depending on me. She was and is such a blessing and a wonderful little girl. ▶



Len and Noelle enjoying some time out together.





"Our family, friends, church, school and local community rallied. The school supplied us with two meals a week for the first year after Marney passed away, and once a week the following year, which, given my culinary skills at the time, was a great help."

### DAD MODE

Len admits that, in 2014, he did feel a little "miffed" that he couldn't really be a grandfather to Noelle.

"I wanted the fun of filling her up with candy and giving her back to her mum to deal with the sugar hit, but that wasn't going to happen," he explains with a slight smile.

"I had to go into 'father mode' – including getting her to clean her room! I definitely see her more as a daughter than a granddaughter, and I'm constantly in father mode now. It's wonderful, though, and keeps me sane – worn out, but sane.

"Noelle also calls me 'Dad', unless she's cranky, and then it's 'grandfather'."

Len explains that they resolved the 'Dad' name with Noelle's biological father, with whom they now meet up every month or six weeks.

"Noelle and I weathered some storms together and some really tough times, but we've had a lot of good times too. I know that there are some interesting times ahead, and I'm looking forward to those.

"We have pretty good communication going – we talk a fair bit about life and the problems of life. There aren't too many subjects we haven't touched upon. This will be a saving grace as she matures, and I hope the teenage years won't be as torrid as they could be."

### NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Len is closely connected with his son and family, and, in non-COVID-19 times, they meet each week over a meal.

"As a fellow pastor, Corey and I can talk and download with each other and we share a real companionship," says Len.

The school community also continues to support Len and Noelle, as does their Salvos church family. "There are people I can call on," says Len. "I am not without a network. I also occasionally tap into a support group for grandparents in similar situations to mine and they are a safety net too.

"I've attended a few meetings at this group and heard the stories of others, which has normalised our situation for me. I know what I am experiencing is not uncommon and I am not alone."

Len shared that he and Noelle have also "spoken seriously" about what would occur



Len and Marney celebrate Noelle's sixth birthday together.

if something happened to him. "She had to call the ambulance for me once when I had a kidney stone attack," said Len. "She coped with it, but I also have a structure to call upon when needed."

### FAITH JOURNEY

Len overlays his life's journey with a belief in the presence of God, and an assurance that Jesus doesn't make mistakes.

"Despite the pain and sadness here, God is still a good God and works to bring what is disjointed, together," shares Len. "I take great solace in knowing that I am not doing this journey on my own. I am constantly in communion with God and praying about being a father to Noelle in the here and now.

"I gave up asking the 'why' question. It doesn't have an answer. I choose to trust God and that keeps me in a place where I keep perspective.

"When our daughter left and Marney died I told God at various times that I didn't understand. I know, though, that God is there and I hang on to that. It's a sad situation but not a bad one. I fall often, but I keep getting back up.

"A lovely farming lady once told me that when a horse throws you off, you just get right back on. This is a good philosophy in life. All the 'what ifs' can't make a different story. I can't go back and change anything now, but I can keep getting up and back on that horse!"



Scan here for more on finding meaning.



# Everyday heroes

A personal perspective on fatherhood

## WORDS

LIEUT-COLONEL DAVID GODKIN

It's early May 1984, and I am sitting in a rocking chair at 2.30am in my lounge room trying to get my newborn daughter to settle so her mother can get a few hours' sleep before the next feed. I have, cradled in my arms, a perfect three-day-old baby who is completely dependent on her parents for every need and nurture that will shape her life physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

There were so many thoughts going through my mind in that moment as a new father. I had completely fallen in love with this precious life and was overwhelmed with the responsibility to care, nurture and influence her as a father should. I remember thinking to myself, "I've had no training to be a father; I hope I get this right." The greatest blessing was partnering in parenthood with my wife Sandra, who is such a wonderful mother.

I then realised that for the previous 24 years of my life I had received training, teaching, coaching and mentoring on how to be a father ... from my father. There was no seminar, conference or lecture, just the reality of everyday life. I wanted my daughter to grow up knowing she was loved, valued and could trust her father to protect her and that who she was had far more value in life than anything she would ever achieve.

Fast forward to Father's Day 2019, and I received a card from Amanda, now 36. She wrote these words: "I've always been proud of you Dad. You taught me to see life was

filled with possibilities, you wiped away the tears of disappointment, you listened with your heart and brought such comfort to me in those challenging times when you could have so easily said 'I told you so'. Your love has been a priceless gift to me. Your faith in me gave me the courage to pursue my dreams so confidently. I just want you to know I will always be ... 'Daddy's Girl!'"

I have achieved quite a few things in my life – my office wall has recognition of most of them hanging up in frames – but none of them give me as much satisfaction and contentment as the affirmation of a child that



David with his dad, John, 83, who attends Parramatta Salvos in Sydney.



David (centre) with his children, (from left), Amanda, Josh, Bethany and Matt.

she/he values the love and nurture of their father. We have four children and 14 grandchildren, and last year at my 60th birthday party, surrounded by them all, I said, "I'm the richest man in the world!"

I didn't have a lot of material wealth growing up; more than some I'm sure, but there were many things we went without. Life for us, however, was filled with an abundance of love, nurture, faith and adventure.

Many people refer to their fathers as their 'hero'. I've never called Dad my hero, mainly because of the concept I had of a hero. For me, a hero was a supernatural, untouchable being who only turned up in a crisis; they rescued the person, then flew off to save someone else.

My father was so much more than that. He

certainly rescued me from crises, but he was always present in my life. He was a constant rock and reminder that I was loved and valued. He taught me to swim, play footy, hit a cricket ball, drive, invest, forgive and so much more. He was an example of a loving and caring husband and a faithful follower of Christ. Mum died last year and I watched Dad lovingly care for her through the dementia she battled for almost five years. It changed my perspective on Dad – he really was my 'hero'.

Dad – thank you for everything you taught me about life, love and my Eternal Father.

Amanda, Josh, Matt and Bethany – thanks for making me the richest man in the world!

*David Godkin oversees The Salvation Army in Queensland.*



# You are family. You are loved. You are valued.

The most important lessons  
a father can teach

## WORDS

MAJOR DEAN CLARKE

I'm blessed because I had a great dad. He loved me, cared about me, and he told me so. My dad taught me how to be a dad. I don't mean that he sat me down and gave me instructions. There was no PowerPoint presentation and I'm too old for a YouTube instructional video or even a 'Top 10 tips to being a top dad'. My dad gave me lessons on fatherhood by being my dad.

I learnt about the importance of family because my dad was there for the family and for me. He came home at nights and hung around on the weekends. We did things together as a family. When I was a toddler, we migrated to Australia and had no extended family here. Some of my earliest memories are of my family going to parks and playing on swings with my dad pushing us kids or him watching us come down the slide.

My dad taught me to drive. He was patient with my gear-crunching and then firm against my youthful over-confidence. He taught me to believe in myself because he believed in me.

When I became a dad, I put into practice Dad's fatherhood lessons. My young family moved away from extended family and Dad's teaching on 'being there' became vital for me to practise. I didn't always get it right

– occasionally my wife had to remind me to come home from work and play with the kids. My dad didn't always get it right either.

I played soccer growing up and Dad often came and watched. I remember being the goalkeeper in one game and it was pouring rain. As the ball was always down the other end of the field, Dad brought out the umbrella and stood next to the goals with the umbrella up, protecting me from the rain. As I got older, my dad came less often. I probably told him not to bother, but on reflection, I wished he had. So when my kids started to play sports, I did my best to not miss any games and then kept on watching them even as adults.



"Men at work". Dean (left) with his late dad, Douglas Clarke.

My dad was of the vintage where actions spoke louder than words. The thinking was that showing love should be enough and saying it is not required. As we both got older, we learnt the power of saying "I love you" as men and I'm forever thankful that my dad not only showed me but also told me about his love. This lesson on being a dad I learnt from another father.

Before Jesus gave any teaching or performed any of his miracles, he was baptised. As he came up out of the water "... a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased'" (Luke chapter 3,



PHOTO BY SABINE VAN STRAATEN ON IINSPLASH

verse 22). God the Father declares: You belong in my family. You are loved. Before you have done anything, you are valued.

What makes these statements especially powerful is that God calls me his child and says these things to me. You are family. You are loved. You are valued.

Today I'm a dad and a grandad – a Papa actually. Of all my dad lessons, the most valuable is in the words of my Father in heaven. Words

I want all my children to hear and know: You belong in our family. You are loved. You are valued for being you.

*Dean Clarke is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia.*



Scan here for more  
on finding meaning.



# Dads and daughters – building new lives

Gawler Salvos embrace single fathers as they escape challenging pasts

## WORDS

BILL SIMPSON

### MARK – A GOOD MAN

As we sat at the back of the church hall after a pre-COVID-19 Sunday morning service, Mark told me he had a string of convictions for illegal activity. He was now 56. "But I am not a bad man," he said. "Please don't think that I am a bad man."



Mark Stanley with his daughter Patricia. Photo Duan Kereru.

There were tears, even at this early stage of our conversation. "I'm sorry," he said, "but it's been tough." The word 'tough' turned out to be an understatement.

Mark Stanley was born and raised in a brothel environment. His mother was a brothel madam. Brothel life is what he knew growing up. He didn't know his father. He didn't know real love. Nobody had ever told him that he was loved.

He moved easily into a life of crime. He was married and divorced. He and a girlfriend had a baby girl 11 years ago. The day his daughter

was born, his girlfriend asked him to help her do something illegal. He pleaded with God to protect his little girl. He recalls hearing a voice that he believed to be God saying that his daughter would need a lot of protection.

He did his best, he says, but due to wrong and difficult decisions, he lost custody of his daughter several times. Four years ago, there was a series of unpleasant events, he says, that convinced him the world was against him. He decided to end his life. "I didn't want to live any longer," he says. At the last minute, he remembered he had an appointment with The Salvation Army. He set aside his suicide attempt and went to the appointment, just in case there was something better.

“

**I am a good man, and I just needed a chance to show it.**

”

It was at Gawler, 50km north-west of Adelaide. Gawler Salvos officer (pastor) Major Darren Cox walked into the room. "Darren said that he had been waiting for me. He just hugged me," Mark told me. Mark needed time to compose himself before our conversation could continue.

"Darren understood. He knew what I had been through. He told me that I was a good man. Nobody had told me that before. I am a good man, and I just needed a chance to show it." With Darren's help, Mark was given the chance. He was rescued, not only by Darren, but by the entire Gawler Salvos congregation.

Mark joined Gawler Salvos and they embraced him. He attends regularly with his daughter Patricia, who is also now part of the youth group. Mark has full-time custody of Patricia. "I didn't know what love was until I met Darren and his family," says Mark. "I had a horrible life. Horrible things happened to me for most of my life – until I met Darren and the people at this church. I might have tears right now, but I am the happiest I have ever been."

### CAMERON – RETHINKING CHURCH

I also met Cameron Brewis at the back of the church that day. Cameron is 32. He's been going to Gawler Salvos for over a year. Cameron grew up in a church family. At 21, he walked away from church and into a life of drugs and alcohol, and, like Mark, marriage and separation. Cameron has two daughters, one who lives with him and another of whom he has 50 per cent custody.

Twelve months ago, Cameron ran into Darren, who was doing his Friday night outreach at a local pub. They talked and they kept talking every Friday night at the pub after that, Cameron often giving Darren an earful about what he thought of church and Christians. Darren listened. Sometimes it wasn't pleasant.

Cameron gradually saw Darren as authentic, because he listened. "He was the real deal," Cameron says. "He invited me to his church. When I had to appear in court for some criminal activity, Darren came with me. I hated



Cameron Brewis and his daughter Aubree. Photo Duan Kereru.

church and everything to do with it, but Darren changed my whole idea about church. I gave his church a go."

Now, Cameron plays guitar in the Sunday

“

**I hated church and everything to do with it... but I gave this church a go.**

”

morning worship band. Cameron's daughters – Aubree, 3, and Grace, 7 – attend church with their dad every Sunday.

Cameron has also recently started a youth group at Gawler Salvos and is now a Salvos employee.

*Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for Salvos Magazine.*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.



## Simply delicious, easy brownies



PHOTO BY MICHELLE TSANG ON UNSPLASH

### Ingredients

1 cup butter or margarine, 2 cups sugar, 4 eggs (beating after each addition), 2 tsp vanilla essence, 1½ cups self-raising flour, ½ cup cocoa, 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

### Method

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl, adding the nuts if desired.

Grease a 33cm x 23cm baking pan and spoon in mixture.

Bake at 180-200°C for 25 minutes, and 30 minutes if you like brownies chewy!

Cover with frosting when cool, if desired.

Serve with cream or ice cream.

## Funny things kids say



We showed our four-year-old son the ultra-sound video of the baby girl we were expecting in a few months' time. "Why is it so dark in there?" he asked. "Can we give the poor kid a bit of light?"

From an anonymous seven-year-old: "My name is Liz. Short for lizard. Not Elizabeth."

"It turns out that my auntie is my mum's sister as well," said six-year-old Alex. "It's a really small world!"

"I thought I needed a hug, but it seems like I really just needed pancakes," said nine-year-old Jessie.

"My favourite colour is ice cream," declared five-year-old Jake.

## Bible byte

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

1 John chapter 3, verse 1

New International Version Bible translation

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

## 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 *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



**Answers:** 1. His newborn daughter, Aisha. 2. Winnie the Pooh. 3. \$660 million. 4. A rose – red roses for living fathers, white for those who have passed away. 5. Love, mercy, compassion. **Tum-Tum:** is hiding in the corner of Cameron and Aubree's photo on page 13.

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

## Did you know?

## Quick quiz



1. Who is the Stevie Wonder song, 'Isn't She Lovely' about?
2. What did author A.A. Milne create for his son, Christopher Robin?
3. How much money do Australians spend, on average, on Father's Day gifts?
4. What is the official flower of Father's Day?
5. What are some traits we find in God the Father?

- The average age of a new father in Australia is 33.1 years.
- Australia has around 144,000 stay-at-home dads with dependent children.
- Australia has approximately 156,000 single-parent fathers, looking after 228,000 children.



# Have you taken care of your Will?

Like ripples in a pond, a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army can impact more lives than you could ever imagine

☐ Send me a FREE copy of your Wills information booklet

☐ I am interested in leaving a gift to The Salvation Army

☐ I have included a gift to The Salvation Army in my Will

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call ☐ AM ☐ PM

Send to (no stamp required): The Salvation Army Wills and Bequests, Reply Paid 229, Sydney South NSW 1234

When having your Will made or updated, please consider including a gift to The Salvation Army.

Please contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team to find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.

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