

**FAITH TALK**

Are we there yet?

**NEWS**

Battling veteran homelessness

**MY STORY**

The bigger picture

# Diamond in the rough

Finding friendship and acceptance through Jesus has given James a life he never felt he deserved



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE

Vol. 001 | No. 08  
12 September 2020  
AUD \$1.00  
[salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)





COURAGE DOESN'T ALWAYS ROAR.  
SOMETIMES COURAGE IS THE  
LITTLE VOICE AT THE  
END OF THE DAY THAT SAYS

"I'LL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW."

MARY ANNE RADMACHER  
AUTHOR



## 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

# Salvos Magazine

**Founder** William Booth

**General** Brian Peddle

### Territorial Leaders

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson

### Secretary for Communications

Lieut-Colonel Neil Venables

### Editor-In-Chief

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson

**Assistant Editor** Simone Worthing

**Proofreader** Dawn Volz

**Designer** Ryan Harrison

**Cover photo** Courtesy of Kyabram Free Press

**Editorial ph.** (03) 8541 4562

**Enquiry email** [salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au)

**All other Salvation Army enquiries** 13 72 58

**Press date** 31 August 2020

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by Commissioner Robert Donaldson at Focus Print Group, Rowville, Victoria

**Some photos in this magazine were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**



[salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)



[04]  
Feature

Diamond in the rough

[10]  
Faith talk

Are we there yet?

[12]  
My story

Middle East deployment a journey of discovery

## Reassurance and joy

Genuine friendship and acceptance is something we all want in our lives. Having people who love us unconditionally and who accept us for who we are brings deep reassurance and joy, particularly in challenging times.

In this edition, we take a look at the life of James, who tells the story of a difficult life and then finding real and special friendships at the Salvos – primarily with Jesus – that turned his life around.

'Are we there yet?' shares the frustration we can all feel when waiting for answers to big questions – such as 'When will the pandemic end?' – and the encouragement we can feel by knowing God's timing is perfect.

In 'My Story', Garry talks about his deployment to the Middle East with the Salvos, and how this time gave him a broader and deeper perspective on life and faith.

We hope and pray this edition also brings you some peace and reassurance in whatever you're facing at this time.

Simone Worthing  
**Assistant Editor**

# Diamond in the rough

Finding genuine friendship and acceptance through Jesus has given James a life he never felt he deserved.

## WORDS

BILL SIMPSON



James was raised in what he says was a dysfunctional family. His family moved seven times in his first 15 years. He didn't have time to make friends. Nobody got close to him; he didn't let them. It was his way of dealing with the life forced upon him.

"I don't think I was a bad kid," he says. "I did push the boundaries. I was unsettled. I was no angel. But, somehow, I was able to keep clear of the law, more by good luck than good management."

Early adult life had its 'moments'. James now prefers to dwell on the positives rather than the negatives. By the time he was 32, he was, he

says, a "dry alcoholic", had lost a business and was trying to pay off debts and back taxes.

"I wasn't drinking any more," he says, "but I had all of the alcoholic tendencies and behaviours – anger, lying, cheating, selfishness. I wasn't a nice person when I was drunk and I wasn't a nice person when I was sober, either."

James defines a dry alcoholic as a person who doesn't drink alcohol but displays the behaviours of an alcoholic. A recovering alcoholic, he says, is a person who is recovering physically, mentally and spiritually from alcoholism, but has not yet fully recovered and may never be fully free of the grip of alcoholism.

James has two adult sons and a granddaughter from a previous marriage. During that marriage, a stepdaughter had a sleepover with a friend. The friend attended Sunday school at the Salvos in Queanbeyan, on the NSW-ACT border.

When his stepdaughter returned from the sleepover, she asked her mother if she could go to the Sunday school. Her mother told her to ask her father (James). "I told her that I had never had anything to do with religion and that I didn't care [whether she went or not]," James says.

"Anyway, I started dropping her off and picking her up at Sunday school. Next thing, I also took a second stepdaughter and my



James (left) and his wife Taryn assisted last year in raising money for the Salvos' Red Shield Appeal.

son, who were then both pre-school age. Someone at the Salvos said it was okay for me to take them, but that I would have to stay to help look after them. So, there I was, sitting up the back in Sunday school looking after my little kids.

"After a few months of doing this, the Sunday school teacher asked the children if they would like to invite Jesus to come into their life and be their special friend. Well, I thought, 'Gee I could do with a special friend.'

"I had never had a 'special friend'. I had had a few friends but wasn't really close to anybody in particular. My life was pretty rubbish. So, I prayed the prayer of accepting Jesus as my special friend with all of the other kids, unbeknown to the Sunday school teacher.

"A few weeks later, one of the women at church – a nice, little, traditional Salvo lady in full uniform – asked me where I was up to in my walk with Jesus. Because I was a very rough bloke at the time, I probably used a

“

**I have always had a heart for the marginalised in society. They are the people the Salvos look out for. It's who I am.**

”

few swear words enquiring about what she meant by my 'walk with Jesus'.

"I told her that I had prayed the prayer to accept Jesus as my friend, but that I must have got it wrong. She asked me why I had thought I got it wrong. I told her that I thought that because nothing had changed."

The "nice, little, traditional Salvo lady" took on the job of helping James understand what 'walking with Jesus' is really all about. ▶



James and Taryn (left) with Kyabram District Health Services CEO Anne McEvoy during a Christmas toy drive.

“She taught me about Jesus, showed me how to read the Bible and how to pray. She told me that I was actually saved. She taught me the absolute basics of being a Christian and the fact that, actually, somebody really, really loved and cared for me.”

From there, James got involved with the church and found the acceptance and friendships he hadn't known growing up and didn't feel he deserved.

A few years ago, at Moonee Valley Salvos in Melbourne, he found another friend – Salvation Army officer (pastor) Lieutenant Taryn Castles. Taryn says she was initially attracted to James when she discovered that he was willing to surrender a good career in Canberra to move to Melbourne so that one of his sons could study at the National Institute of Circus Art. “James is a character – a character with integrity,” she says.

They married three years ago. James is also now a Salvation Army officer at Kyabram Salvos, in northern Victoria. Taryn is a Project Officer at the Salvos' Australian headquarters in Melbourne, researching the impact of COVID-19 on Salvation Army social programs.

And James now has more friends than he ever imagined.

“No, I'm not surprised, in a way, that I am where I am today,” he says. “Yes, I had a tough life and I was a tough person. But I have always had a heart for the marginalised in society. They are the people the Salvos look out for. It's who I am.”



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

## Ongoing drought assistance brings relief in tough times

Throughout years of crippling drought across the country, Salvation Army rural chaplains, disaster recovery specialists, pastors and support workers have stood alongside those impacted most, including farmers, local townspeople, remote communities and their families.

The Salvos' tireless work and ongoing assistance – in many large and seemingly smaller ways – have helped to change the lives of thousands of people, as the personal testimonies below so powerfully illustrate.

And the work continues today.

### EMOTIONAL IMPACT

"The assistance provided by you helped enormously financially, but more than that, I think it helped mentally as well. To be able to pay some bills was a great relief off my mind."

"We received help just before Christmas, which was just so timely. It enabled our family to have some relief from the financial stresses, just forget about things for a while and enjoy some happiness together."

"The assistance was very gratefully accepted. Even though we are still doing it very tough it was a great feeling to know someone cared enough to give us the assistance."

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

"Three thousand dollars to some might seem like a big handout to people in the city, but to farmers, this is not the case. At the time

**Drought Community Support Initiative update**  
23 August 2020

- \$60.1 million distributed to assist 20,325 individuals and families since Nov 2019
- 84 households assisted on average every day
- Assessed applications for support across 89 LGAs including Inverell (NSW), Scenic Rim (QLD), Glamorgan Spring Bay (TAS), East Gippsland (VIC) and Lake Grace (WA)

Grants continue to be distributed.  
Visit [salvationarmy.org.au/drought](http://salvationarmy.org.au/drought) or call 1300 551 030

I received this money, I had \$6500 worth of bills coming up due to be paid, with \$2500 in my account ... The \$3000 paid all of my urgent bills, and then I was able to ask for extensions to the remainder and I made it work. At the time the \$3000 really saved me."

"The financial assistance allowed my husband to have some essential dental work done that we would have otherwise not been able to afford. This was having an impact on his general health, so was greatly appreciated."

"It was great, as we were wondering where the money would come from for tractor and work ute repairs. Thanks to you we were able to use the tractor for a lot of chores."

"We have received some rain in the last few weeks and things are looking up, but we would not have got the stock through the Christmas/New Year without your help – we were able to hang on that extra month and that made all the difference."



Scan here for more on disasters and emergencies.

## Youth refuges staying positive as lockdown hits hard

Melbourne's second COVID-19 lockdown is taking a mental and physical toll on everyone, but it has become an especially tough time for vulnerable young people in the city.

Young people at The Salvation Army's youth refuges in Melbourne are experiencing multiple challenges, but staff are prioritising their wellbeing and future with cooking classes, a community garden, and 'boredom buster' and 'care' packages.

The situation is now bigger than face masks and social distancing for these young people – it's beginning to threaten their future housing and employment opportunities, according to Claire Edmanson, who manages the Salvos' two youth refuges in the city – in Fitzroy and St Kilda.

"Having been through the first lockdown, we have the benefit of knowing the challenges and the additional supports young people require," said Claire. "But the difference this time around is that, emotionally, it's having a bigger impact on the young people accessing our service, which mirrors the experience of the general population."



The two centres are supporting 22 young people on-site and up to 70 off-site. Claire and her team have kept the young people's welfare a priority during this challenging time, especially with many of them being forced to stay inside for longer periods.

Deemed an essential service, these youth refuges have remained open 24/7, but social-distancing restrictions mean only a third of the rotating staff can serve at a time. Thankfully, their commitment has made the transition easier.

"There is, of course, a constant risk of COVID-19 within residential services, but we've had nothing but positive feedback and commitment from staff," said Claire. "We just have really tried to make sure whenever possible that young people remain the focus of the work we do."

The teams continue to take life one day at a time. The future is full of uncertainty for the youth they connect with, but they are committed to supporting them for the long haul. So, when COVID-19 restrictions lift, each of them will have the hope and future they deserve. – **Jessica Morris**



## Salvos in the trenches to battle veteran homelessness

The Salvos are at the front line of a fight against increasing homelessness among veterans of Australia's defence forces through their Veteran Support Program (VSP) in Queensland.

Johnathon Dyer, the Salvos' Veteran Support Worker in Queensland, said the program not only worked with the client to find them a home but that help continued once they and their families had a house, to ensure "the right supports" were in place, such as links with medical and social networks.



The program, which has been going for three years, began after a report released by RSL Queensland recommended it go into partnership with a specialist homelessness service to meet the needs of homeless veterans, Johnathon said.

RSL Queensland approached The Salvation Army, which is recognised as one of Australia's largest homelessness service providers, to create the bond recommended by the report.

The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services across the country work with Australian Defence Force personnel while they are still within the services. Programs such as the VSP help when they are discharged.

The Salvos ramped up their commitment on the issue during National Homelessness Week in August, pledging to end veterans' homelessness.

Livia Carusi, The Salvation Army General Manager of Homelessness Services, said the Salvos were committed to converting into reality their message that no veteran should be homeless.

"We want to focus not only on service provision for those currently in homelessness but also on prevention for those most at risk. Our veterans deserve better," Livia said. "No veteran should experience homelessness."

The Salvos believed veterans were among "the most vulnerable populations within Australian society" to experience homelessness, due to the high proportion of mental health issues, such as the strong prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, relationship breakdowns, and alcohol and other substances abuse.

Johnathon said the Salvos' support of veterans experiencing homelessness stretched back as far as World War One. He said that, throughout the life of the VSP, the Salvos and RSL Queensland had helped secure housing for about 250 homeless veterans and in the past six months had successfully helped 85 per cent of those looking for support.

– **Darryl Whitecross**



Scan here for more on homelessness.

# Are we there yet?

Learning to wait on God's perfect timing

**WORDS**

JANINE DONALDSON



Those of you who have children will understand something of the agony of a long family road trip. It usually commences with feelings of excitement, anticipation, expectation – until reality hits! That is when you hear the cries of “Are we there yet?” coming from tired, frustrated, bored children in the back seat (and sometimes partners in the passenger seat!). Believe me, no amount of reasoning or assurance that the waiting will be worth it at our journey’s end seems to appease weary travellers – or satisfies their questions of how long that will take.

We live in a time like no other we have known, where the whole world has been put into a ‘holding pattern’. We all believe, or at least live in hope, that a vaccine will be developed to bring an end to this pandemic that has changed our lives, but waiting for this is anything but easy. Like my children used to do, I keep asking the question: “Are we there yet? How long do I have to wait?”

I certainly do not hold a master’s degree in ‘waiting’, and I confess that patience is not one of my finer virtues, but one thing I have come to realise is that waiting is an important part of life. As I look back over many circumstances in my own journey, while I did not appreciate it at the time, I am now so thankful for those times I was made to wait, rather than rush ahead.

We all want to make the most of every opportunity and we want good things to happen in our lives, but too often we want it all now, not later.

“Are we there yet?” might be the anxious cry of your heart right now. You just want to know that everything will turn out for the good; you want to know that your financial future is secure; you want answers concerning health issues; you want some assurance that your

family will be okay; you want that broken relationship to be restored; you want that abuse to end; you want to be free of that addiction. Waiting can be painfully difficult, especially when you cannot see beyond the present.

The Bible gives the assurance and promise that, no matter what you might be facing, “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you” (Deuteronomy chapter 31, verse 8).

You are not alone. Waiting is not ‘forever’ and God’s timing is perfect. So, in our waiting, let’s turn to God and wait on him.

As difficult as it may seem, we need to trust God. He is in control, he has our backs, and we must guard against jumping ahead of him. Waiting on the Lord is not always easy, but we can never go wrong by patiently letting him lead us according to his timing – and not ours. When we step ahead of him, trouble awaits us, but if we trust his guidance, he will lead us into his will and accomplish more than we had in mind.

“But God’s not finished. He’s waiting around to be gracious to you. He’s gathering strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right – everything! Those who wait around for him are the lucky ones” (Isaiah chapter 30, verse 18 – *The Message Bible translation*).

*Commissioner Janine Donaldson oversees Women’s Ministries and Gender Equity for The Salvation Army in Australia and, with her husband Robert, leads the organisation across the country.*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Middle East deployment a journey of discovery

Seeing the bigger picture in an ancient land

## WORDS

GARRY JOHNSON



Garry Johnson outside his home in Townsville. His house, and Salvo truck, were extensively damaged in the 2019 floods.

In October 2019, I was deployed as the 'Sallyman' (a representative of The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services) to support Australian Defence Force personnel on various operations in the Middle East. This gave me the opportunity to discover more about myself and about God.

I was in a country where faith is an important part of everyday life, affecting all interactions with the local community and promoted by all government departments.

Being woken by the call to prayer each morning before sunrise and having mosques at service stations and in shopping centres

made me think about my own faith journey and how secular our country had become. Faith is very much an individual thing in Australia. We see that it is tolerated in much of public life but not encouraged.

To be in an ancient land where much of the stories in the Bible took place, to see the countryside and the arid desert, I discovered a deeper understanding of much of the cultural significance in the Scriptures – the difficulty of travel and security, and the importance of hospitality and family. God was there and interacted with the people living their everyday life. He lived with them through Jesus, who taught them about the



Living in the arid desert of the Middle East gave Garry a deeper understanding of the importance of culture in the Bible.

Eternal One, who created them and the world, who was rejected but not willing to give up on his creation.

The trip also gave me the opportunity to look beyond the everyday to the bigger picture. Each person on deployment has tasks – many mundane daily tasks – but all are important in achieving the bigger objective. I was there to be able to support people, to see their value and encourage them to a deepening understanding of their own faith journey; to explore the Bible and the deeper questions of life.

“

**God is at work in his world  
and in the lives of all people.**

”

I am not the same person who left Australia. I experienced God in a new way. God is at work in his world and in the lives of all people. Even when we reject him, he does not give up on us. He continues to love us and provide for us.

Since I have come home to the COVID-19

situation – to isolation and social distancing – I am again reminded of how blessed we are in this country. Even with the current situation, we live in a bountiful land where food and security are readily available and we all have the opportunity to consider God in our life journey.

We need to remember and pray for those who are suffering and struggling at this time all around the world, as well as how we can support and encourage our families and friends to take God with them on the journey we are on.

*Major Garry Johnson is a Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services representative at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.*

*\* The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) in Australia provides practical, emotional and spiritual support to members of the Australian Defence Force (primarily the Army) and their families. The ‘Sallymen’ and ‘Sallywomen’ serve on bases and in the field, in Australia and overseas, in peacetime and during hostilities.*



Scan here for more  
on finding meaning.

## Pumpkin cream cheese muffins



### Ingredients

3 cups self-raising flour  
 1 tsp cinnamon  
 1 tsp nutmeg  
 1 tsp ground cloves  
 4 tsp mixed spice  
 1 tsp salt  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 4 eggs  
 2 cups sugar  
 2 cups cooked pumpkin  
 1¼ cups vegetable oil  
 225g block cream cheese  
 Chopped nuts (optional)

### Method

Mix all ingredients together except cream cheese and nuts.

Half fill muffin tins. Put 1-2 tsp cream cheese in the middle, pressing down until mixture covers the cream cheese. Add a little more mixture if needed.

Sprinkle with nuts if desired.

Bake in a moderate oven for 20-25 minutes. Allow cream cheese to cool before eating.

Makes 24 muffins.

## Have a laugh



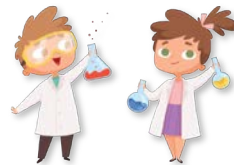
**Why did the birthday girl wrap herself in paper?**

*She wanted to live in the present.*



**What did one ocean say to the other?**

*Nothing, they just waved.*



**Why are chemists great at solving problems?**

*Because they have all of the solutions!*

## Bible byte

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy chapter 31, verse 6  
 New International Version Bible translation

7	4		6	5				
					2			
		5		1		4		9
5	3		2				4	8
							2	3
			9					7
2		1					8	
		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 *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



**Answers:** 1. Wednesday 16 September  
 2. A fragile shield of gas with the chemical formula O3  
 3. Protects the earth from the harmful portion of the sun's rays  
 4. 2030s, 2050s, 2060s  
 5. Yes (Genesis chapter 1, verse 26)

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

# Quick quiz



1. Which day marks International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer?
2. What is the ozone layer?
3. What does the ozone layer do?
4. When is ozone depletion above the Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere and Polar Regions expected to heal?
5. Does God expect us to take care of the world he created?

# Did you know?

- New York was briefly named 'New Orange'.
- Hot water freezes faster than cold water.
- The blob of toothpaste that sits on your toothbrush has a name – 'nurdle'.

# 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.

**For a free copy of our Wills information booklet, contact us on 1800 337 082, email [willsandbequests@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:willsandbequests@salvationarmy.org.au) or complete and return the coupon.**

[salvationarmy.org.au/wills](http://salvationarmy.org.au/wills)

