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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



**Finding hope
among the ashes**



Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

US author, lecturer and political activist, and the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.



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

"We know we can survive anything — with a little help along the way," said Iven Martinevic who, with his wife Dianne, found shelter in the Bairnsdale evacuation centre during the recent devastating bushfires in East Gippsland. The Salvation Army was catering at the centre, and their presence brought hope and comfort to this distressed couple. You can read their story on page 7 of this issue of *Warcry*.

Giving help along the way — both in the immediacy of a crisis and the long-term recovery that follows — is just one of the ways The Salvation Army lives out its Vision Statement to come alongside those suffering "hardship or injustice".

This help can be financial, practical, emotional or spiritual, to respond to people's immediate needs in a crisis, and to give them the support and encouragement they need to rebuild their lives after a disaster.

There is hope among the ashes, hope for recovery and healing, one step at a time.

For more information, visit salvationarmy.org.au

Simone Worthing
Assistant Editor

You are not alone

The Salvos offer wide-ranging assistance through the bushfires and beyond

BY LAUREN MARTIN AND SIMONE WORTHING

As we conclude the first month of 2020, the lives of so many Australians have been, and still are being, impacted by the devastating bushfires across the country. We have seen a tragic loss of life, countless homes and buildings destroyed and millions of animals killed. Thousands of people are displaced; firefighters and other emergency services personnel and volunteers are exhausted; and communities are grieving and traumatised.

The nation knows that an extremely challenging period lies ahead, and that the road to healing, restoration and regeneration is a long and complex one.

Despite the heartbreak and destruction, we are also hearing many stories of courage, sacrifice and resilience, of communities uniting to help each other through the crisis and rebuild, of locals volunteering to help wherever they can, and people around the world sending encouragement and donating to disaster appeals.

There is hope, and there is help available in the process of rebuilding lives, livelihoods

PHOTO: TIM PARRY JONES





and communities — one step at a time.

The Salvation Army, along with other organisations, has been active across affected states, working in partnership with local corps (churches) and their community volunteers and supporters, to provide assistance in a range of ways.

Salvation Army officer (minister) Tophér Holland, General Manager Strategic Emergency and Disaster Management, said The Salvation Army was working across two disaster response phases. “The nature of this unprecedented and ongoing disaster means that in some

areas we have moved into our recovery phase and, in other areas, we are still providing emergency response.”

He said the organisation’s response to disasters occurs in several phases, the first being initial Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) activations where personnel and volunteers feed and provide support for first responders such as firefighters and police, and assist with the management and service of evacuation centres where people directly impacted by disasters are sheltering.

Phase two is an initial assessment and ►

provision of emergency financial support to those affected, and phase three is the recovery phase, again providing financial support for those affected, following a more detailed assessment of the individual or family's needs.

MOVING FORWARD

Even as the fires continued to rage around the nation, Salvation Army officer Sue Hopper, Strategic Emergency and Disaster Management Specialist, and her team, were actively working to assist with recovery efforts, and have already begun the assessment and distribution process in several regions, and planning a strategy to move forward and provide further support to those impacted.

“We are providing Salvation Army grants from our public appeal to people who have lost their homes, as well as offering a listening ear, support and hope,” said Sue.

“What we're doing is immediate help and gives people a bit of hope — something to move forward with one step at a time.”

Additional Salvation Army services such as Moneycare (financial counselling), Salvos Stores, and Doorways (emergency relief and holistic case management with referral to internal and external support services), will also be available over the coming weeks, months and years, and combine with the care, compassion, understanding, social connections and ongoing support from local corps.

“We want to let people know they are not alone,” said Salvation Army officer Leanne Hardaker. “We also want people to know that we are there and available for them as The Salvation Army.”

PHOTO: CAROLYN HIDE



Finding hope in East Gippsland's flames

BY JESSICA MORRIS

When Iven Martinovic and Dianne Avdullah entered the Bairnsdale evacuation centre in Victoria's East Gippsland on New Year's Eve, they feared the life they knew would soon go up in smoke.

Bushfires had grown to a threatening level and they were evacuated from their unit by police. The only possessions in hand were their beloved budgie, named Ned Kelly, a few bags and the clothes they were wearing (pictured bottom right).

They were relieved when they saw a familiar (Salvation Army) red shield at the evacuation centre — the Salvos were here.

"The Salvos have been fantastic to everyone here," said Dianne. "Everyone has gone above and beyond."

Iven and Dianne were just two of the 150 people living on the Bairnsdale football oval — the makeshift evacuation centre for the small town where The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) were catering to evacuees, firefighters and police.

Joined by the Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul, the Sikh community, local council members and a police presence, they were part of a collaborative effort to give the people of Bairnsdale hope. And even

though Iven and Dianne didn't know when or what they would return to, this hope has been transformational.

"We've got our lives — we are simple people, we make do, and I don't want to take Dianne back until they say it's safe," said Iven. "She is my Aboriginal rock — my little Uluru. That's what I call her."

When Dianne first moved from interstate to Bairnsdale, she soon found a connection with the Aboriginal Aunties at the local Salvos Store and church. Now, it is the norm to receive chocolate cakes from the volunteers on her birthday.

During Australia's worst bushfire season in history, the Salvos have come through for the couple again — and they know their 'red shield' friends will stay long after the fires are extinguished.

"The Salvos have always been there ... we can't thank everyone enough," said Iven. "We know we can survive anything — especially when we have a little help along the way."



PHOTO: BRUCE HARMER

God's love in action

Salvo reporter Lauren Martin shares her recent experience in the NSW fire zone and her admiration for Salvation Army personnel involved in relief efforts.

BY LAUREN MARTIN

As a writer for The Salvation Army, I have spent many years reporting on the work that we do during emergencies and disasters.

I have visited fire-staging areas and evacuation centres and interviewed Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) crews feeding emergency services personnel and members of the public affected by floods, fires and other catastrophes. I could talk with ease and confidence about how our people serve in times of crisis.

Now, having been personally impacted by the bushfire crisis on the South Coast of New South Wales, I can say my awe and respect for our people who serve in these situations has grown exponentially.

On New Year's Eve, my two children and I were staying at my parents' home in

Batemans Bay. I woke in the early hours of the morning to the sound of howling winds and sticks and tree branches hitting the roof of their home. A quick look at the Rural Fire Service 'Fires Near Me' app revealed a huge increase in fire activity that had pushed the blaze across the highway at Mogo to the south. Immediately, images of houses owned by friends in that area sprang to mind and a little knot of dread began to form in the base of my stomach.

Things escalated quickly. The sound of the fire and the high-pitched whistle of the wind was unnerving. Sirens, lots of sirens, and in every direction. Water-bombing aircraft and the constant calling and beeping of every mobile phone and device in the house. We decided to leave for a safer location.

Apart from the noise, the mental chatter was also deafening — thoughts twitching every which way, as erratic as the wind on a fireground. What do I need to pack? I wonder how so-and-so is going. How much food will we need to take? Gosh, those sirens sound close. Should we take bedding, or will we be back?

The noise seemed intolerable, but the silence that followed was more unnerving. The wind stopped, then started to shift and do funny things. We saw a column of smoke charge across the Clyde River, like a wave. Phones were no longer going off. The streets became deserted, except for fire trucks with lights and sirens blaring. The sky started turning a strange colour. We saw water bombers intensify their efforts, the sky turned red ... and then black. Black as night. My kids were scared.

PHOTO: LAUREN MARTIN



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian (right) visits Salvo volunteers at the Batemans Bay evacuation centre.

What seemed like hours lasted only minutes and the sky began to clear again. Later that morning, convinced of my family's safety, I got in my car and drove to the Batemans Bay evacuation centre to offer my assistance as a Salvation Army volunteer.

The evacuation centre was overflowing with tension, heartache, but above all, goodwill. Ambulance personnel treated people, the Red Cross and government agencies were hard at work and the SAES volunteers were serving lunch. There was so much going on it could easily have seemed overwhelming but with four simple words — I'm here to help — I was soon given a task which moved me out of a state of confusion and into action.

I unloaded boxes of water, buttered bread, and listened to people's stories

of how the day had unfolded for them. Over the following two days I watched the seasoned veterans of this Salvation Army Emergency Services team respond to left-of-field queries and arrange meals for hundreds of people in a centre that at one stage had no power. I have been overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of what our people juggle in such testing circumstances. And they do it with smiles, compassion and a heck of a lot of grace.

The community support kept rolling in. Different churches united in the relief efforts. Individuals and businesses emptied their freezers and donated meat. Chefs offered assistance and, at one stage, a man was handing out free ice-creams to all the kids.

The journalist in me took photos. I posted to Facebook and received numerous comments of support. But I'm just a bit-player in this scenario — the real heroes are the SAES teams that have been hard at it for months now, putting their lives (and sleep) on hold to support people in their darkest hours.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge anyone connected with The Salvation Army who is able-bodied and available: please get trained to be part of our emergency services response. It truly is God's love in action at such a critical time. You won't regret it.

**Salvos
Radio**

Salvos Radio recently interviewed Lauren about her experience. To access the podcast, available from January 26, go to salvationarmy.org.au/radio/light-and-life and click on Talkback Matters.

Hope in the devastation

God's reassurance of a new way forward

BY BELINDA DAVIS

We have been facing a traumatic situation in our very dry nation in recent months, with devastating bushfires burning across our land. We are at the height of our fire season and have had days of high temperatures coupled with strong winds which are bringing catastrophic consequences.

Tragically, lives have been lost. More than six million hectares of land have been burned. Countless homes and buildings have been destroyed and millions of animals killed. Thousands of people have been evacuated, with many still displaced and having no home to return to.

At the height of the catastrophe, the news bulletins seemed to constantly tell us about new locations in the potential path of the fires. Horrific images of blood-red skies, thick smoke and devastation filled our news feeds. Those of us who were still in the safety and comfort of our homes were left wondering how we could help those who were in the heart of this disaster.

I have been a part of The Salvation

Army my whole life and I will remember the Ash Wednesday (1983) and Black Saturday (2009) fires, but also the overflow of generosity from members of the public, all wanting to do something to help. Multiple warehouses and individuals were involved in storing, sorting and delivering the physical goods for many, many months after the tragedies were experienced and almost forgotten.

While this is awesome in theory, the best resource to receive at times like this is money. Cold, hard cash requires no storage or transportation infrastructure. It can be immediately accessed and distributed, and can help to stimulate the local economy that often faces a bleak future.

It means that people who are already reeling from their situation are given the opportunity to purchase things that they need, rather than what others have thought they might need.

This has caused me to reflect on why we want to give so generously at times such as this, and I wonder if it is to combat our feeling of helplessness in the face of such



PHOTO: KIAN WORTHING

tragedy, and the desire to see people get through the crisis and rebuild their lives.

Australians are notorious for pitching in to help in times of need. We band together to support those in crisis and this could be locally, nationally or internationally. We are especially good at the moment of disaster, but the road to rebuilding and recovery is long and hard.

Even as a community is being rebuilt, there is still work to be done to address the emotional recovery from trauma. While every person wrestles with what their new 'normal' looks like — it can seem that the rest of the country, and the world, has moved on to focus on the next emergency, while their lives

are stuck. This is not a deliberate act of insensitivity, it is merely a reality in our fast-paced, information-overloaded society. Let's remember those impacted, long after the current headlines and stories have become yesterday's news.

This whole situation can begin to feel quite bleak and overwhelming, but I am heartened to already see images of hope springing forth in the middle of devastation. Pictures of wildlife returning to blackened areas and green shoots pushing up in fire-ravaged forests are small signs that all is not lost. It is the regenerative nature of the environment, and observing it can help us see a way forward. The Bible reassures us that out of the ashes, beauty can be found (Isaiah 61:3).

If you'd like to consider donating to The Salvation Army's Disaster Appeal, go to [salvationarmy.org.au](https://www.salvationarmy.org.au). Your gift will mean so much to those who are facing some of the worst moments of their lives right now, and in the coming days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Finding a place to belong

How a caring community supported Adam through his battle with addiction and on to faith and fatherhood.

BY ADAM DUNHAM

I was born in Devonport, Tasmania. My mum brought me up as my dad was into bikes and was just never around.

I left home at 14 and moved between Melbourne and Sydney. I was into gangs, drugs and crime and spent time, first in boys' homes, and then prisons, on and off for years. I was an addict and my life was a mess.

A judge first sent me to a Salvos rehabilitation centre when I was 28. I knew something there was different — God was definitely planting a seed in my mind. I started going to the Salvos corps (church) in Bonnells Bay. It didn't last though as I relapsed and went back to jail.

That was the cycle of my life for the next 10 years — drugs and jail. I then started avoiding jail by admitting myself to rehab. It became part of my institutionalisation. My life cycle changed to using drugs, rehab, and relapse. I didn't feel that I belonged, or fitted in, anywhere.

I ended up flying from Queensland to Canberra, as it was the only rehab that had a bed for me. I was doing well for four months, but then I relapsed and moved in with my girlfriend and she fell pregnant.

She told me soon afterwards that she had lost the baby, so I went back to Sydney, and then Tasmania, in a very bad state. I then found out that she hadn't lost the baby and that was a changing point for me.

I went back to rehab in Canberra, and the Salvos there. I thought I'd experienced

“

I didn't feel that I belonged, or fitted in, anywhere.

”

God before but, for the first time, I really surrendered to him and my life changed.

My daughter was born and we called her Yindi, which means 'the sun in the sky' in a Northern Territory Aboriginal language.

A close mate of mine took his own life and, while it really hit me hard, I knew that, with God and Yindi in my life, I had no need to return to drugs to cope. Instead, my burning desire to help others, especially the ones society rejects, just increased.

I had completed rehab but soon afterwards Yindi came into my care full-time — so I am now a single dad. The Salvos helped us get housed and we are living in our own place.

There are many challenges to being a single dad, but I am learning so much



“

My burning desire to help others, especially the ones society rejects, is increasing.

”

from Yindi and being a dad is the best thing I have ever done in my life.

I miss my family in Brisbane, but the Canberra City Salvos is an amazing church and they have become my family too. I am a member there, Yindi was dedicated (christened) there and everyone has been so loving and supportive.

I have never experienced support like this before and I am blessed to be part of this close and caring community.

In the future, I would like to work with vulnerable people, especially youth on the streets. This is my long-term goal. I already have some opportunities to work with others, and with the street talks our corps is doing, which is great.

I am pressing in, praying, that God will help me to be who I really am in him. Yindi was a driving factor behind my recovery, but it's for me too. God helped me to see that, because of who I am in him, I am worthy in myself.

I am grateful for the Salvos and all they have done for me. I don't know where we would be without them.

Blueberry muffins



PHOTO: LENA POBJIE

Ingredients

2½ cups self-raising flour, 1 cup sugar, ¾ cup milk, 1 egg lightly whisked, ½ cup vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon vanilla essence, 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, sugar, for sprinkling

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Combine the flour and sugar in a bowl.

Make a well in the centre. Add milk, egg, oil and vanilla essence, then mix until just combined.

Add the blueberries and mix to combine.

Spoon the mixture into 12 standard-size paper-lined muffin cups.

Sprinkle the tops with sugar.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until muffin springs back when lightly touched.

Remove from tin and cool on a wire rack.

The Corryong wonder dog

The story of Patsy, the kelpie border collie who quickly and calmly rounded up her flock of sheep and moved them to safety as devastating bushfires moved in, was a rare and welcome piece of heart-warming news in a tough time for the nation.



© ABBY DINHAM/SBS NEWS

In the early hours of New Year's Eve, as the fires closed in on the tiny Victorian town of Corryong, Patsy instinctively sprang into action and collected her 900 sheep, herding them into a safe paddock away from the moving fire front.

In the hot, dark and smoky conditions, Patsy's owner, Stephen Hill, said that she could see better than he could in the light being thrown off by the fires.

While the property lost several sheds, only a handful of sheep were killed.

"Patsy rides in the front of the ute from now on; she never has to worry about being in the back again!" said Stephen.

Tip for the race of life

"For there is hope for a tree — if it's cut down, it sprouts again and grows tender, new branches."

Job chapter 14, verse 7
(The Living Bible)

Wordsearch

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| LEAVES | TRUNK |
| BRANCHES | SAPLING |
| BARK | SEEDLING |
| PHOTOSYNTHESIS | TIMBER |
| EUCALYPTUS | RESILIENCE |
| SHADE | REGENERATE |
| OXYGEN | SEEDS |
| CARBON DIOXIDE | ROOTS |
| FORESTS | CONIFER |
| BUSHFIRES | EVERGREEN |
| REGROWTH | GUM |

Quick quiz



1. What two main substances do trees need to live?
2. What is one of the by-products of photosynthesis?
3. What are trees sometimes called in relation to air?
4. What percentage of the world's original forests have disappeared?
5. What does the Bible say about trees that are cut down? (Job 14:7)

Tum-Tum



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

Answers: 1. Carbon dioxide and water 2. Oxygen 3. The lungs of the world. 4. Fifty per cent (half). 5. There is always hope.
Tum-Tum: is soaking in the teacup on page 14.

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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- to learn more about who Jesus is
- information about The Salvation Army
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