

FEATURE

Setting the captives free

FAITH TALK

Simply being there

MY STORY

Trapped in traffick

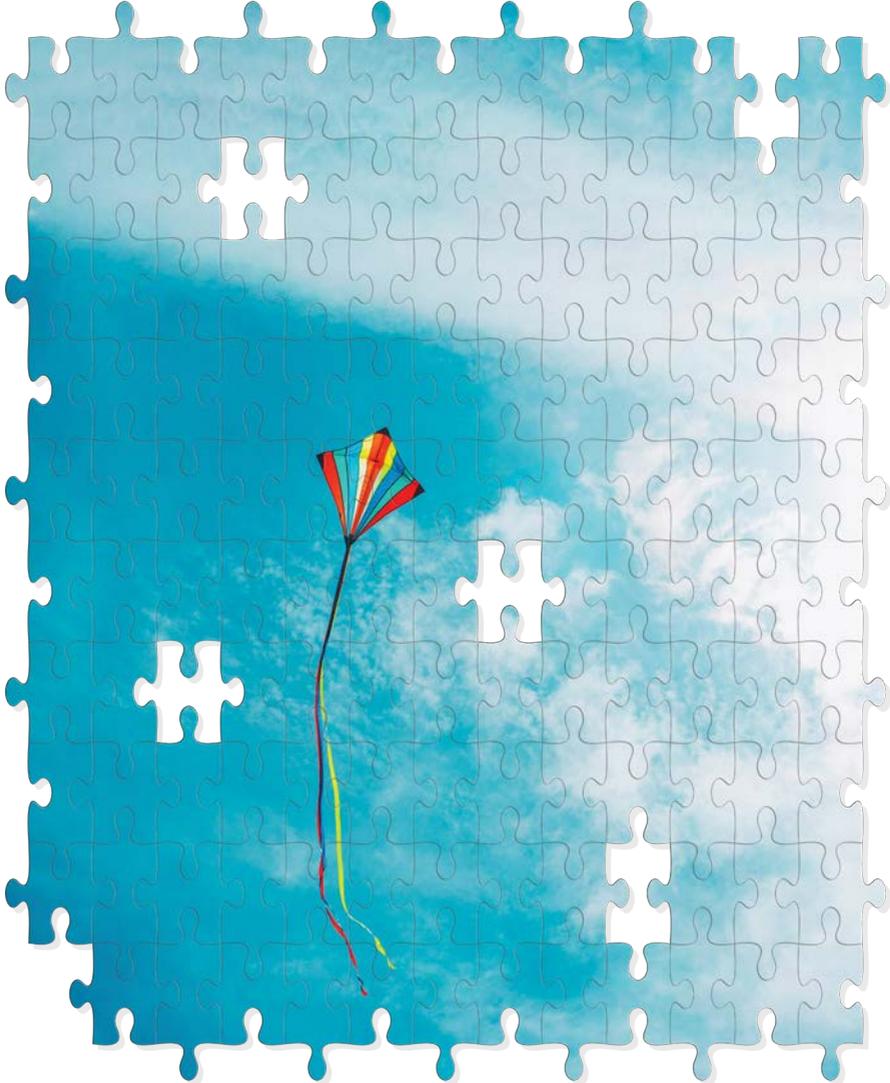
Filling the gaps

Salvos Safe House supports victims of human trafficking



SALVOS

MAGAZINE





"The only thing necessary for
the triumph of evil is for
good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke
Irish statesman
and philosopher



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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Freedom for all

Freedom for all in body, mind and spirit is one of The Salvation Army's active action areas and we have an international positional statement that says why: salvationarmy.org/ihq/ipshumantrafficking

I hope and pray that this issue of *Salvos Magazine* stirs you into action, because slavery of any kind is wrong. It devalues, damages, exploits and kills.

Our positional statement outlines how every one of us is valuable to God (Genesis chapter 1, verse 26 and Psalm 8, verse 5) and that The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting human trafficking however it may be manifested.

"Human trafficking is contrary to the principles of freedom and dignity. The exploitation of human beings dehumanises the individuals who are trafficked, rewards the inhumanity of the traffickers, and weakens the moral and social fabric of society at large."

As we fight trafficking, may we also seek God's help to defeat any personal body and mind slaveries caused by addiction and abuse. Our *Salvos Magazine* website salvosmagazine.org.au can help you with this.

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson

Editor-in-Chief

Setting the captives free

Trevor Russell helps lead Australia's fight against modern slavery

WORDS

SIMONE WORTHING

"I like to think that policing is a calling for me as part of my faith," said Detective Sergeant Trevor Russell, who oversees the Human Trafficking Team for the Southern Command of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

"Supporting the vulnerable and giving back to society are certainly compatible with Christianity and strike a definite chord with the Salvos."

Trevor, who attends the Salvos in Melbourne with his parents and two daughters – when work allows – also sees these values in his colleagues, irrespective of their personal beliefs.

"We welcome people from all walks of life and protect those who are at their lowest ebb," he said. "Our team aims to make a positive contribution to society and help those in difficulty."

“

Human trafficking is a horrendous global crime that exploits and enslaves millions of people.

”

GLOBAL CRIME

There are an estimated 21 million to 45 million people trapped in some form of slavery today. It's sometimes called 'modern-day slavery' and sometimes 'human trafficking'. At all times it is slavery at its core.

Human trafficking is a horrendous global crime that exploits and enslaves millions of people around the world and it exists in every country of the world – including Australia.

Trevor and his highly skilled team work across Victoria and Tasmania as part of the National Human Trafficking Taskforce. They are responsible for raising awareness of human trafficking, making sure victims in extremely vulnerable situations receive the assistance they need, and working with AFP and state police colleagues around the country investigating this Commonwealth offence (Divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code).

Many of these investigative operations extend internationally – building relationships with other police agencies and governments around the world to work on crimes including drug offences and money laundering, as well as human trafficking.

"Modern-day slavery undertakes many forms and can include forced marriage, domestic servitude, sexual servitude, child labour, debt bondage and organ trafficking," Trevor explained.



PHOTO COURTESY AFP.GOV.AU

Disruption and prevention of offences is a focus area for the National Human Trafficking Taskforce.

“Human trafficking is, though, different from people smuggling. In trafficking, people profit from the forced exploitation of people; in smuggling, they profit from their movement.”

The AFP also maintains close working relationships with professional bodies, charity groups and non-government organisations, including the Salvos, who run Australia’s only safe house for victims of human trafficking in Sydney.

The Australian Red Cross is contracted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to run the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) – which responds to the needs of victims of this crime. These include housing, daily living needs, legal assistance, immigration support, medical care and general welfare.

“The most common type of human trafficking reports we have been seeing over

the past few years are those of forced marriage,” said Trevor. “In the AFP reports from 2018-2019, they represent around 42 per cent of referrals.

“We are open to receiving reports from any area of human trafficking and believe that there is a gross under-reporting of these offences.

“For example, we don’t get a lot of reports around sexual servitude and slavery. We know victims are vulnerable, can be fearful, concerned about engaging with police and often lack full understanding of their rights and the support available to them. If people are feeling threatened, coerced, deceived or unable to leave, the potential is that an offence has occurred.

“There are many reasons these crimes are under-reported, with one of the major ones ►

being the power imbalance between perpetrator and victims.”

Trevor emphasised that, although a police organisation traditionally stands for prosecutions, in human trafficking, disruption and prevention of offences is a focus area for the taskforce.

“We are still keen, though, to hold people to account who are committing these offences,” he explained. “We are hugely reliant on victims of crime to come forward and make complaints so we can take action, break the cycle and get help for victims.” (See box, below, on where to get help.)

A police officer for almost 20 years, Trevor finds his role in fighting human trafficking challenging but incredibly rewarding.

“There is not a lot of knowledge in Australia around what human trafficking is, and how it fits with the AFP and other organisations,” he said. “Until I worked in this taskforce, I was not aware of the breadth of offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code.”

WHERE TO GET HELP

In an emergency, call **000** or your local police.

For support services – mybluesky.org.au

COVID-19 IMPACT

The pandemic has impacted different areas of human trafficking in various ways.

“In the area of forced marriage and young girls being taken offshore for this purpose, some of the immediate threats have dissipated due to issues around international flights and travel,” Trevor explained.



A person not being able to access their passport is a key indicator of human trafficking.

“Regarding sexual servitude, it’s definitely still there but has been driven underground due to the closure of legal brothels and adult entertainment venues.

“The exploitation is still happening, just in different locations. New victims also haven’t been brought into the country and others are unable to escape from Australia. Those most vulnerable are struggling.”

FORCED MARRIAGE

After a successful six-month pilot, the AFP will soon be launching Project Skywarp, a partnership with Anti-Slavery Australia (ASA), with the generous support of Sydney Airport.

This project is aimed at reaching passengers at Australia’s busiest airport through custom-designed posters across bathrooms in the domestic and international terminals, as well as on key digital screens, to encourage them to learn more about forced marriage. This includes helping people to

understand that forcing someone into a non-consensual marriage is against the law in Australia. It also informs how to report information to the AFP, and encourages referrals to support services available through Anti-Slavery Australia's My Blue Sky website.

"We expect that this project will be rolled out nationally," said Trevor. "We are also looking into assisting drivers of different companies to become more aware of the signs of human trafficking and how to report possible victims. This kind of training has had successful outcomes in other areas."

REPORTING A CRIME

The AFP website – afp.gov.au

AFP National Hotline – **1800 123 400**

In the case of suspected forced marriage – school counsellors, social workers, teachers



Scan here for more on human trafficking, and family and domestic violence.

Stopped at the border

A school counsellor was recently contacted by a person concerned that a female friend was being forced into marriage.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) met with the girl, identified as a potential victim of human trafficking, who expressed her fears of forced marriage.

This girl was cognitively impaired, and the AFP was concerned that she could be subject to coercion, and also being removed for marriage offshore.

She was offered support under the Support for Trafficked People Program and assured assistance was available regardless of whether or not she made a statement to police.

Her details were put on an airport watch list. An alert went off at an airport when she and a male companion were about to leave Australia. The AFP spoke to her, alone, and she disclosed that she was travelling to a marriage she didn't want.

Her male companion denied any knowledge of the marriage, although a wedding dress and rings were found in his luggage.

The young person was given the option not to travel that day, which she accepted. Ongoing support was provided, which included arranging guardianship that enabled her to be removed from an unsafe situation.

"This is an example of disrupting an offence before it occurs and giving someone in an unbalanced power situation an option," said Detective Sergeant Trevor Russell who leads the Human Trafficking Team, Southern Command.

"There are also times when, with the consent of the young person, we speak to the family and explain that forced marriage is contrary to the laws of Australia – and this is enough for them.

"This puts into context some of the work we do. It doesn't always have to include lights, sirens and handcuffs!"

Filling the gaps

Salvos Safe House supports victims of human trafficking

WORDS

SIMONE WORTHING

Human trafficking and modern slavery are something many Australians think of as happening overseas. Tragically, this is not the case.

The Global Slavery Index 2018 estimated that on any given day (based on research from 2016), around 15,000 people were living in slavery-like conditions in Australia. It is also estimated that, for every victim identified, there are four that go undetected.

Through the country's only Trafficking and Slavery Safe House, The Salvation Army runs a unique support service for people who have experienced human trafficking, slavery, or slave-like offences. This includes those who have experienced, or are at risk of, forced marriage.

The Trafficking and Slavery Safe House provides supported accommodation and case management for single women over 18. Outreach case management support can be provided to women, men, women and men with children, and young people, living in the community.

The intensive case management support model covers nine key areas: physical health, mental health, legal services, education and training, employment, housing and tenancy, social support and living skills, human rights and self-advocacy, and spirituality.

"The Safe House team makes any necessary referrals to other services for support in

these areas, and we support clients to be able to engage independently with these services," said Rosie, Program Manager at the Safe House.

The team at the Safe House can also provide confidential information and advice to other services and community members. (For signs of human trafficking, see back cover.)

The Safe House accommodates up to 10 women and works with around 15 outreach clients at any one time.

"Our clients have experienced a range of different trafficking and slavery offences," explained Rosie. "Broadly speaking, approximately one-third have experienced a form of servitude, one-third have experienced or are at risk of forced marriage, and one-third have experienced other forms of trafficking and slavery, including sex trafficking and exit trafficking [taking someone from Australia overseas with no means of return]."

Forced marriage is a growing issue in Australia. Many referrals to the Safe House for those potentially at risk of forced marriage are made through teachers and school counsellors.



The Safe House provides a comfortable and supportive environment for its residents.

“Other referrals to the Safe House come from other service providers who have recognised the indicators of human trafficking and modern slavery. We can also take self-referrals.”

Referrals to the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House and the Australian Freedom Fund (see below) can be taken from across Australia.

LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

Through its flexible and holistic service, the Safe House can help fill the gaps for survivors of trafficking, modern slavery and forced marriage by offering services not available elsewhere.

“Timeframes needed for support are different for different people, with some requiring longer periods of support than they could access through other services,” explained Rosie. “Also, many of the people we’re supporting are not eligible for government-funded support.”

To help reduce the crisis support period in some cases, the Safe House is piloting an innovative housing program for survivors of modern slavery in partnership with Salvos Housing and the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

A first for Australia, the program seeks to deliver long-term housing options for survivors based on a new model aimed at transitioning people to independent living (see Karim’s story page 12).

The Safe House will provide case management support to participants, Salvos Housing will locate suitable properties and provide tenancy support and the Sisters of Charity Foundation will fund the program.

Properties will be leased on behalf of the participant, who will contribute 25 per cent of



Safe House residents are able to grow some of their own food.

their income towards the cost. After a six- to 12-month period of support, the aim is that the participant will take over the lease.

The Safe House also partners with the Salvos’ inner-city women’s and children’s services, to assist those who need help but are unable to be accommodated at the Safe House.

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM FUND

The Australian Freedom Fund supports survivors to access basic necessities when no other support is available.

Three types of grants can be applied for: emergency relief, independent living or family reunification. A grant request that falls outside these three categories can be assessed based on necessity and the need not being able to be met through another source.

To make a referral or discuss matters of concern, for information about the Australian Freedom Fund, or donate to the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House, call **1300 473 560**.



Scan here for more on human trafficking, and family and domestic violence.

A ray of light in the darkness

It's as simple as being there for someone

WORDS

BRYCE DAVIES

When I was a child, I was quite fearful about being in the dark and alone in the middle of the night. I imagined evil forces lurking under the bed or in the wardrobe. I always wanted the light on if I needed to move about and was quite genuinely afraid of two irrational, but very powerful, ideas in my young mind.

Firstly, when I was about 11, I snuck into an M-rated movie with a mate and watched *Jaws*. This was a bit too much for my urban, land-based experience of the world to absorb, and I became afraid of anything to do with water. I was afraid of swimming pools and felt like a shark was always after me. I would even check the toilet!

My most intense fear, of course, was the ocean, and I was afraid for years – even into my 20s. I preferred to stay in the shallows, as I imagined a shark attack waiting at every turn.

My other intense fear came from watching the supernatural horror movie *Poltergeist* in 1982 when I was 18. In this movie, the guy would always wake up at 3.14am, start wandering about the creepy house and discover his little daughter in front the TV screen, communicating through the static with the evil poltergeist. It never ended well. From then on, if I woke up at 3.14am or even near this time, I would get the creeps and have to deal with my fears.



PHOTO BY BEWAKOOF.COM OFFICIAL ON UNSPLASH

I guess we all have scary experiences that are hard to accommodate in our minds. Many are not just fears of the imagination, like the ones I have described, but very real life experiences that were, in fact, traumatic. The feelings from these experiences can be triggered in ways that can bring the fear back in random and disturbing ways.

A big part of any recovery journey these days is a concept called 'trauma-informed care'. It



invites people to consider deeply the impact past trauma has had on a person and to avoid simplistic responses to how people behave and respond in the here and now.

I am no psychologist, and if you have experienced trauma, professional help is obviously a great idea. It seems to me, though, that like so many other challenges we face, it is often helpful to have friends we can trust who will not judge us but rather offer us

what the professionals call 'unconditional positive regard'.

This does not mean we need to sit down and discuss the deep meaning of life or try to make sense of complex behaviours. What it does mean is that we continue to find ways to be in community with people who are struggling, and to help them feel safe. Check in with a phone call or send a text. (In COVID-19 safe ways) maybe share a meal or go for a walk. Go to the movies and catch up for coffee. Basic acceptance and friendship are so important for healthy wellbeing.

Let's do what we can to make sure our friends don't have to add loneliness to the problems they are facing.

In the Bible it says in 1 John chapter 4, verse 18, "Perfect love drives out fear", so it seems to me we have a role to play as we team up with God to spread the love and maybe calm some of the fear.

The love of God is not just a fuzzy sentiment; this love needs our hands and feet as active partners.

We cannot provide perfect love and often what we have to offer seems inadequate, but we may be able to offer a reminder that it is real.

You never know, you might be the little ray of light and hope that breaks into the darkness, just when someone needs it most.

Major Bryce Davies is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Sydney.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Trapped in traffick

Salvos free Karim from 'diplomatic prison'

Karim* came to Australia after being offered a well-paid role in Canberra as the private driver for a diplomat from his home country.

He agreed to take the job for 12 months, even though this meant leaving behind his family and new fiancée. It would be a lucrative way, he thought, to send money home to prepare for his wedding and married life.

However, when Karim arrived, he was surprised to learn that the job was not as a driver, but as the household help for the diplomat and his family. In fact, Karim was not allowed to use the car, or even go outside the grounds of the diplomatic compound, unless he was accompanied by the diplomat's wife to complete shopping tasks.

Karim was given a storage room as his bedroom and instructed to work long days as a cleaner, kitchen hand and general assistant. Even if he was sick, he was expected to work until after the household went to sleep, and worked long nights whenever the diplomat hosted events at his home. Karim was also surprised to learn that he was not to receive his pay directly, but instead a small amount would be transferred into his family's account overseas. His passport and travel papers were confiscated, and he was not allowed to spend time on the phone with his family or fiancée.

After a year, Karim asked his employer when he would be able to return home, but these questions were dismissed, and he was threatened. Without his ID and travel



PHOTO BY TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION ON UNSPLASH



documents, speaking no English and with no understanding of Australian laws and systems, Karim felt trapped.

After 18 months, and suffering from a workplace injury, Karim was allowed to attend hospital for treatment. Fortunately, while at the hospital, he met a worker who spoke his language, who informed him that his employer's treatment was not only abnormal, but illegal in Australia. Karim was able to contact a legal service, which referred him to The Salvation Army Trafficking and Slavery Safe House for support. Karim gained assistance to leave Canberra, relocated and engaged with the Australian Federal Police to report his conditions of servitude.

Without his passport and in fear of repercussions from the diplomat in his home country, Karim was unable to leave Australia. He was eventually offered a permanent visa to remain in Australia in acknowledgment of his work with law enforcement and because of the danger he faced if he returned home. Karim struggled to complete educational qualifications due to his low literacy, but

learnt English and gained work as a kitchen hand and delivery driver. He eventually saved enough money to bring his fiancée to Australia, where they were finally married after several years apart.

Karim has now bought his own car and is finally working as a driver as he had planned. He and his wife are expecting a baby, and have moved out of a share house and into their own affordable two-bedroom property thanks to the Modern Slavery Transitional Housing Program – a joint project between The Salvation Army Trafficking and Slavery Housing, Salvos Housing and the Sisters of Charity Foundation (see story page 8).

*Name has been changed to protect privacy

*As told to Rosie, Program Manager,
Trafficking and Slavery Safe House*



Scan here for more on human trafficking, and family and domestic violence.

Cloud meringues



Ingredients

4 egg whites (at room temperature), pinch of salt, 1 cup caster sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla essence

Method

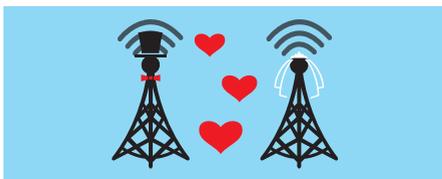
Preheat oven to 120°C (no fan). Line two baking trays with baking paper.

Whisk egg whites and salt until soft peaks form. Add a tbs of sugar at a time, whisking well between each addition until sugar dissolves. After all the sugar has been added, add vanilla essence and whisk for another three minutes.

Use two tablespoons to spoon meringue onto lined trays. To create each cloud, spoon 3 dollops close together in a rough triangular shape. Then, using the back of a spoon, smooth and gently swirl the dollops into each other, while maintaining a puffy, cumulus cloud-style shape.

Reduce oven temperature to 90°C and bake meringues for around one hour. Turn oven off and, without removing, leave meringues to cool for at least an hour – preferably let them cool completely which may take several hours.

Have a laugh



Two antennas decided to get married. The ceremony was pretty boring, but the reception was great!



The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.



The world tongue-twister champion just got arrested. I hear they're gonna give him a really tough sentence.

Bible byte

"He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord!"

Isaiah chapter 26, verse 3
The *Living Bible* translation

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

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?



Page 11.
Tum-Tum: is behind the picture on

Answers: 1. 28 September - 4 October
2. 2,500 3. Over \$500,000,000 4. 76,000
5. 530,000 6. Salvos Stores

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

Quick quiz



1. When is National Op Shop Week 2020?
2. How many charity-operated op shops are there across Australia?
3. What is the amount of gross national retail sales from charity op shops?
4. Approximately many people volunteer at op shops in Australia?
5. Approximately how many tonnes of clothing and other items do op shops prevent from going into landfill?
6. What is the name of The Salvation Army's op shops?

Did you know?

- 315 entries in the Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.
- The average lead pencil can be used to write a line about 56km long or around 50,000 English words.
- The eye of an ostrich is bigger than its brain.

Signs a person may be a victim of trafficking

The following points may indicate that a person is a victim of human trafficking, slavery or slavery-like practices:

- the person appears to be servicing a large debt to their employer or a third party;
- the person does not possess their passport or travel/identity documents, which are with their employer or a third party, and the person is unable to access these documents when they wish to do so;
- the person does not have a labour or employment contract/agreement, or they do not understand the terms or conditions of their employment;
- the person is unable to terminate their employment at any time;
- the person is subject to different or less favourable working conditions than other employees because he/she comes from overseas;
- the person never or rarely leaves their accommodation for non-work reasons;
- the person is living at the place of work or another place owned or controlled by their employer;
- the person has little or no money or no access to their earnings;
- the person has physical injuries which may have resulted from assault, harsh treatment or unsafe work practices;
- the person is always in the presence of their employer, who does not want or allow the worker to socialise with others;
- the person works excessively long hours and has few, if any, days off;
- the person regularly travels between different workplaces, including interstate.

For more information, go to
[afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/human-trafficking](https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/human-trafficking)