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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



The road to recovery

Salvos play active role in bushfire relief



THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.
THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.



PHIL JACKSON
FORMER PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER, COACH, AND EXECUTIVE IN THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (USA).





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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[04]
Feature

Communities
unite to rebuild
shattered lives

[08]
Review

A beautiful
day in the
neighbourhood

[10]
Faith talk

Every piece
counts

From the editor

Mateship. It's what Aussies are all about — isn't it? We support, help, carry, care and determinedly work through troubles together — don't we? Or has our society changed and now we only look after 'me' and don't care about others? The resounding answer is "No"!

The generosity of multitudes of Australians to each other in response to the horrific, terrifying and devastating bushfires is a huge shout-out that mateship is alive and well. Praise God.

As you read in *Warcry* about Salvos — and others — unreservedly giving of finances, time, skill, love, care and prayer I hope, like me, you are massively moved to thankfulness and determination. It is determination to ensure that mateship remains at the heart of who we Aussies are every day — not just in major disasters.

"Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness" (Galatians 5:16, *The Message* translation of the Bible).

Laurie Robertson, Lieut-Colonel

Editor-in-Chief

Communities unite to rebuild shattered lives

Salvation Army staff and volunteers stand alongside others on the road to recovery.

BY LAUREN MARTIN AND SIMONE WORTHING

Children baking cakes and cookies to raise money for bushfire fundraisers; farmers trucking hay to fire-affected areas; local individuals, families, clubs and charities raising funds and donating goods and services; and people around the country and the world adding millions of dollars to disaster appeals — in so many places, people of all ages, stages of life and backgrounds are uniting to assist those impacted by the devastating Australian bushfires.

In many affected communities, people who had lost their homes and possessions became part of The Salvation Army volunteer catering teams, keen to assist others, even in the midst of their own losses.

There were reports of neighbours holding farewell parties for burned out homes, before helping each other step out on the long road to rebuilding and recovery; locals offering evacuees and those stranded a bed for the night; and

restaurant staff showing up at evacuation centres with food.

And, of course, the selfless courage and tireless efforts of first responders — firefighters in particular — who have worked around the clock for months to fight fires and relieve suffering, will long be remembered and praised.

Despite the tragedy, or perhaps because of it, there were, and continue to be, extraordinary acts of kindness, caring and courage carried out by a variety of individuals and groups — most of whom will never be recognised, or even known.

In the face of such a large-scale disaster, people are responding to the pain and loss of others with empathy, caring and community, wanting to help and support those who are directly impacted and relieve their pain and suffering.

As we look at the destruction, loss and challenging road to recovery ahead, the



PHOTO: BRAD WATSON

Salvation Army volunteers collect donations at the Taste of Tasmania food and wine festival with all funds going to the Salvos bushfire disaster appeal.

kindness shown by so many can be an encouraging and motivating symbol of all that is good about humanity, and what we can do to care for and help others in the midst of a tragedy — and hopefully beyond.

OPERATION RECOVERY

The Salvation Army, along with other agencies, continues to provide immediate, ongoing emergency support, as well as long-term support for people affected by the fires.

General manager of The Salvation Army Strategic and Disaster Management, Topher Holland, said recovery support was well underway in some areas, while in other places assessment is still being undertaken on the needs of the communities and how best The Salvation Army can partner with them to stand alongside people affected.

“We will be there for the long haul,”

Topher said. “The Salvation Army has an existing presence in most of these areas, and it’s a privilege for us to work with the community and the government in looking at the recovery needs of these communities.”

Debbie Bartlett, from the Upper Blue Mountains Salvos, said she had come alongside many people who had been affected by the loss of a home or other damage to their property.

“A lot of people don’t want to take assistance but I’ve said, ‘Look, when a disaster happens in Australia, Australians want to give and want to help ... think of it as a mate helping a mate; you just don’t know them personally.’”

Prime Minister Scott Morrison also recently announced an additional \$40 million in emergency relief funding for communities directly impacted by fire, which will be administered by The Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul Society. ▶

PHOTO: BRUCE HARMER



Volunteers from a range of different community organisations are working together to meet the needs of those impacted by the bushfires.

A joint media release from the offices of the Prime Minister and Minister for Families and Social Services has announced that:

“For communities directly affected by fire, emergency relief funding will be increased by \$40 million. These extra funds can be used for food vouchers or used to pay for a broad range of basics including utility bills, clothing and petrol.

“The funding will be primarily administered by The Salvation Army Property Trust and the St Vincent de Paul Society who collectively provide services across all affected areas and who will be working with locally-based organisations to ensure access for communities in need.”

An additional \$10 million will be allocated to financial counselling. “Ten million dollars for expanded financial counselling is a good outcome and will help the long-term recovery of people who are impacted by the fires,” said Neil Venables, The Salvation Army’s Secretary for Communications.

More than \$40 million has been raised in the months since The Salvation Army launched its National Disaster Appeal on 9 November, and in excess of \$5 million in relief and support aid has been delivered to affected communities across Australia so far.

“We are so grateful to our partners and donors for their generosity and we will allocate funds carefully to ensure the best outcomes,” said Robert Donaldson, leader of the Salvation Army in Australia.

The Salvos’ Community Engagement and Emergency Services teams are now working with federal, state and local partners in disaster response and recovery plans to map out the steps ahead.

“With our experience in previous disasters, we anticipate a three- to four-year recovery process,” said Neil. “We are here for the long term and it is our commitment to journey with people throughout Australia towards the recovery road ahead.”

Talking about crises with your kids

BY JESSICA MORRIS

National disasters and alarming events have always impacted our mental wellbeing. And for kids, there is often another level of fear and terror when they hear — or experience — events like Australia's current bushfires.

Below are six ways you can talk about crises with your kids, that will keep them informed, but also help protect them from anxiety and panic.

1. BE HONEST

If your child asks a question or appears curious, be honest with them. You know best how much information is too much or too little for them.

2. SPEAK AGE-APPROPRIATELY

Kids of different ages will understand crises and tragedy differently. Alter your explanation of the events, depending on their age. It could be as simple as saying, "There are bushfires and the firefighters are working hard to stop them."

3. EMPHASISE THEIR SAFETY

Your child's primary concern will be their safety, and the safety of their loved ones, friends and home. When you tell them that something is wrong, highlight that

you will always keep them safe. Where the crisis is close to home, or you are taking action to protect yourself, explain that while you are together, you are safe.

4. FOCUS ON THE HELPERS

When your child asks about crises, focus on the helpers. In a natural disaster, this would be the firefighters, the charities and volunteers, and the people saving wildlife or rebuilding.

5. ASK THEM HOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO HELP

A crisis makes a child feel out of control and unsafe. By empowering them to step up and help out, you assist them to regain their sense of safety and security. If your child shows an interest in helping out, you can help them volunteer, donate, or do a craft project that supports the survivors or victims.

6. MONITOR MEDIA CONSUMPTION

Your child is consuming news in any number of ways which can take a big toll on their mental health and sense of safety.

The best way you can monitor this is to limit screen time. When they do consume the news, create a space to talk about what they have seen and heard, and answer any questions they have.

For more information, go to www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/disasters-and-emergencies/natural-disasters-advice-for-kids/

For additional resources for children and adults, go to lifeline.org.au and kidshelpline.com.au

A beautiful day in the neighbourhood

What happens when love and light shine in the darkness.

BY MARK HADLEY

Mr Rogers will only be a childhood name for the Americans amongst us. But by the time this film is finished, you're going to wish you'd grown up with him too.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood stars Tom Hanks as the legendary children's television presenter, Fred Rogers, better known as 'Mr Rogers' to millions around the world. Award-winning *Esquire* journalist Lloyd Vogel is given the job of writing a 400-word profile on Rogers as a sort of 'time out' by his editor. Vogel has been so successful revealing unflattering truths about people that no one wants to be interviewed by him any more. When the writer arrives in Pittsburgh to meet the real Mr Rogers, he is determined to find the man beneath the mask. Yet he is profoundly disturbed by the gentleman waiting to meet him.

Tom Hanks portrays a television host who is unearthly and attractive at the same time. He is amazingly patient as he addresses his pre-school audience, clear in his affection for every little thing that

makes them who they are, and profoundly helpful in the advice he offers:

"There is always something you can do with the mad you feel."

"I can stop, stop, stop any time I want."

"Forgiveness. It's a decision we make to release a person from the feelings of anger we have at them."

It's this last piece of wisdom that forms the moral backbone for the film. *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* is the true story of how Rogers' patience with Vogel led to the journalist reconciling with his father. Yet this film contains much more to consider than just a single storyline.

Vogel meets a man who is intensely interested in whoever the day has placed before him. "So, you know what is the most important thing to me right now?" he asks the cynical journalist. "Talking on the telephone to Lloyd Vogel." It's a gentle challenge to a digital generation



used to dividing its attention six different ways. Rogers is also a man who uses self-discipline to subdue his darker side. He swims every day; lives frugally; visibly thinks before he answers, then uses his words precisely and carefully.

Again, his habit of self-denial contrasts starkly with a world used to expressing every feeling and indulging every desire. Most importantly, though, Rogers loves people. We may live in a world that mouths the importance of every human being, but Rogers stops to listen — really listen — to children. He asks parents to remember what it was like to be their age. And he asks the film’s angry antagonist to take one minute’s silence to think of all the people who loved him into being. Then *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* does it — in real time.

In one scene Vogel meets with Rogers’ wife, Joanne, and asks her what it’s like to be married to a living saint. She responds, “I’m not fond of that term. It makes his whole way of living sound so unobtainable. He is a normal person. He has a temper. He has to work at it.”

The film does show Rogers working at it, but it’s also clear he doesn’t work alone.

Mr Rogers’ determination to treat everyone he meets as a much-loved neighbour finds its roots in a faith that has largely fallen out of favour in the Western world. Rogers was a committed Christian who saw Jesus’ call to “Love your neighbour as yourself” as more than just an aphorism. He made it his life’s goal — he reads the Bible every day, prays for people by name every night — but his peace doesn’t come from himself. “There is no life free of pain,” he assures Vogel.

And so, the film shows him turning to God for the strength to do what he knows he cannot do on his own. What emerges is a picture of Christianity’s most powerful argument: the life of its founder, shining through dedicated men and women into a dark world. Watch *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* and you’ll see the truth of Jesus’ words, millennia before we ever turned on a TV set: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John chapter 13, verse 35).

Every piece counts

From a messy pile of pieces, a beautiful picture can emerge.

BY ANGELA EYLES

A valuable lesson to take into the new year came to me on a busy morning while clearing all the extra bits and pieces in a drawer of a desk that I had inherited. Even though I had cleaned the drawers before, somehow one little piece of something had managed to wedge itself in a corner.

It was a simple jigsaw puzzle piece, among all the usual pens and items found in any office drawer, but on this day the lone piece caught my attention.

“I found a puzzle piece,” I called out to the others in the office. “Now all we need is the other 999 pieces and we have a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle”. As others laughed, I continued, “But without the picture on the box, how will we know what it should look like?”

The piece was set aside while we continued with the clean-up, and was all but forgotten until I saw the partially completed puzzle on my coffee table.

Doing puzzles is a recent hobby and it has taught me a simple truth; that I have all the pieces I need to complete the

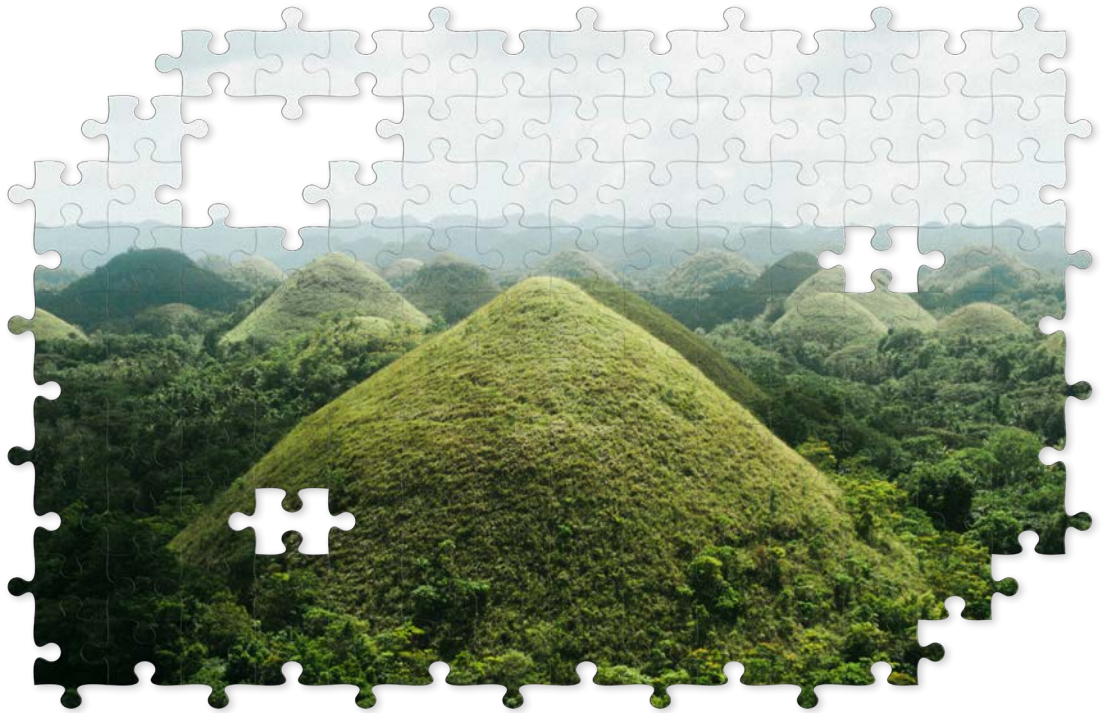
puzzle, I just need to be patient and trust the creator of the puzzles.

There were times when I was convinced that I would never complete the monster and yet, as if by something beyond my understanding, those stubborn pieces would just incredibly come together.

I've learnt some amazing lessons from the humble jigsaw puzzle — the importance of each piece, the importance of patience and the importance of trusting the creator. And let's not forget the importance of following the picture supplied as my guide.

Can you imagine even trying to complete a puzzle without the picture to guide you? We need that oh-so-important picture on the box. I know there are some jigsaw puzzles that don't give you the picture, but that is another story and I do not want go there! Every piece is important. None are insignificant.

And then I realised that I had been holding the one missing piece for what seemed like an eternity. In reality, it was just a moment, a moment that caused me



to reflect on my year and the changes that so many others had experienced.

In that moment I considered the times that I had been fearful, stressed and troubled and yet the peace of God, which is beyond all human understanding, was available to me.

The puzzle piece was a gentle reminder that God has given me all that I need. No matter how messy the initial pile of all the pieces appears, with patience and perseverance the puzzle, and our life, will come together.

God revealed to me yet again the importance of me trusting him, being patient, and persevering through difficulty, remembering that he gives peace beyond human understanding and asks us to give our concerns to him instead of being anxious.

As I journey through 2020, putting into action the truths of the Bible, I am confident that the peace of God will continue to uphold and strengthen me

Angela Eyles is a Salvation Army officer in Melbourne, serving as a resource writer.

Genuine love and care a ‘game-changer’ for Steve

Steve Whiteaker came from a culture where relationships come at a cost. His life changed dramatically when he realised the Salvos were there for him and wanted nothing back.

BY LAUREN MARTIN AND SIMONE WORTHING

Late last year (26 October), *Warcry* featured a story on Jason McDonald, a man who had been in and out of prison since he was 17, lived a life of addiction, crime and homelessness, and arrived at The Salvation Army deeply hurt and broken.

Through the love and care of a Christian couple who invited Jason and others into their home to mentor and support them, and The Salvation Army across the road in Rockingham, Western Australia, Jason’s life was dramatically changed.

He has become a Christian, is volunteering three days a week with the Salvos, studies theology, and is also one of two ‘lead tenants’ at Discipleship House — a new accommodation outreach at Rockingham Salvos.

The idea behind the outreach is to have two mature Christians rent rooms in a secure home and commit to living alongside one or two other tenants



Jason and Steve

invited into the home, mentoring and supporting them and sharing their faith.

STEVE'S STORY

The first tenant of the home, 26-year-old Steve Whiteaker, says he was thrilled to be invited. "Since I've been here, honestly, it's been nothing but joy. I'd been praying for the last 10 months just for a safe place, and a grass area for my dog. And I look back in my book and I've got all that plus more now. I'm so very blessed."

Steve has had a long association with The Salvation Army in Rockingham through its crisis care team. His experience with addiction had led him to the point in his relatively short life where he realised he had lost his sense of purpose. "I definitely had no hope and ... I knew that the only way to get out of this hole and to have a purpose and live a good life was through Jesus."

So he started 'rocking up' at Rockingham Salvation Army every Sunday. But shame kept him from walking through the front door. He would stand out the front, have a cigarette, and then leave. This went on for many weeks until one day Salvos member Graham Liddle came out and had a chat and encouraged Steve to "Come in and give it a go".

"I did go in that day," Steve recalls. "But I was very quick to leave [at the end], too!"

ROLE MODEL

Over the next few weeks, Graham and Steve met for coffee and meals to chat. Steve was suspicious. He had come from a culture where relationships came at a cost. "The world is always tit-for-tat,

“

Since I've been here, honestly, it's been nothing but joy.

”

so I was thinking, 'What do you want from me? I've got nothing to give at the moment, I'm broke.'"

But soon the truth started to sink in for Steve: "I finally realised with Graham that he didn't want anything from me, but he wanted to give input into my life and let me know that I am loved. I've never had a good male role model in my life. Ever."

That realisation was a game-changer. Steve became more connected at the church, he attended the Rockingham Salvos Men's Shed, and kick-started his Salvos Positive Lifestyle Program again. Steve also began to pray and write in his journal, believing that God had a plan and a purpose for his life. All this led him to Discipleship House.

The experience of living in a safe, loving home with a focus on being in relationship with God and partnering with him in his work to restore humanity, has already had a huge impact on Steve. "I'm growing every day just by plugging in ... I'm just praying that God will guide me with my decisions and lead me to my purpose. At the moment, I know 110 per cent that I'm supposed to be here."

Bumblebees



Ingredients

170g butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp vanilla essence, 1½ cups chopped dates, 1 egg lightly beaten, 3 cups rice bubbles, desiccated coconut for coating

Method

Place butter, sugar, vanilla essence, dates and egg in saucepan over med/low heat. Boil for three minutes, stirring constantly.

Let mixture cool. Mix in rice bubbles. Roll spoonfuls in coconut. Store in fridge.

Tip for the race of life

“We are one, we are strongest working together in unity. Teamwork is the key to living life in harmony.”
Paraphrased from 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 14

Baking a difference

A regular kid can change the world — just ask nine-year-old Samuel from the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria.



During the recent bushfires, Samuel baked hundreds of cookies to raise funds for The Salvation Army Disaster Appeal and has so far raised \$500.

The young entrepreneur is no stranger to using his mum’s kitchen for fundraising purposes — last year he set up a stall and sold baked goods at Seaford Shopping Centre, raising \$200 for the Salvos’ work in homelessness prevention. This year, he was moved to make a better life for people affected by the bushfires.

“I don’t want them to be affected by the fires any more,” he said. “I want them to still have a good life.”

Samuel’s compassion has inspired his friends as well. Not only have they helped with baking and selling cookies, but some have also set up their own stall to raise money for bushfire relief.

Samuel shows no sign of putting away his apron. He says cookies will keep rolling out of the oven as long as it takes to make a difference. Something he has undoubtedly already done by the trayful.

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

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 *Warcry* is Tum-Tum hiding?



Answers: 1. A month of good health and goodwill. 2. Alcohol, sugar, caffeine, technology. 3. Better health, increased energy. 4. To support disadvantaged young people. 5. Proverbs 31:8-9

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

Quick quiz



1. What is Febfast?
2. What do people typically give up for February?
3. What are some of the benefits of calling time-out on these 'vices'?
4. For those who choose to raise funds, where does the money go?
5. What is one Bible reference to defending the rights of the poor, needy and destitute?

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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