

FEATURE

Bali 20 years on

FAITH TALK

A bird's-eye view

MY STORY

Halting the poverty spiral

Faith in the halls of Parliament

Christian parliamentarians working
for others in the nation's capital



SALVOS

MAGAZINE



“Use what talents
you possess;
the woods would
be very silent if no
birds sang there
except those that
sang best.”

– Henry Van Dyke





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



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

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Founders William and Catherine Booth

General Brian Peddle

Territorial Leaders

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson

Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief

Lieut-Colonel Neil Venables

Publications Manager Cheryl Tinker

Assistant Editor Faye Michelson

Graphic Designer Ryan Harrison

Publications phone (03) 8878 4500

Enquiry email salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

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Politics and the PCF

This week journalist Jessica Morris gives us a glimpse of life in the halls of Parliament when she chats to David Smith, Federal Member for the seat of Bean (ACT), and WA Senator Matt O'Sullivan, co-convenors of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship (PCF).

The fellowship – “not something out of Tolkein”, David laughs – brings together those in Christian denominations across Parliament to ensure there is a place for faith in their work.

Jessica also introduces us to Major Paul Hateley, who represents the Salvos in Parliament as National Head of Government Relations. It's a busy role – in the past 12 months The Salvation Army has recorded more than 2100 interactions with Federal, State and Territory Governments, including conversations, emails, letters and formal meetings.

Politics is complicated, but for the Salvos and members of the PCF, loving people is a priority.

For these stories and more, go to salvosmagazine.org.au

Faye Michelson **Assistant Editor**

God is in the House

Across party lines, Christian parliamentarians bring a sense of unity, care and connection to the nation's capital

WORDS Jessica Morris

Christian values certainly aren't the first thing we think of when we see politicians sparring on television. However, the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship (PCF) invites senators, MPs, staff and ambassadors with an interest in the Christian faith to partake in prayer, services and receive guidance. And when it comes to party lines, everyone is invited.

"The Fellowship is not something out of Tolkien," laughs David Smith MP, co-convenor of the PCF. As a member of the Labor Party, he is a federal representative for the people of Bean in the south of the ACT, and Norfolk Island. He is Government Whip in the Lower House and also a practising Catholic.

"The great thing about the Fellowship is that it's a way to bring together those of us in Christian denominations across Parliament to work in the interest of the Parliament, to ensure there is a place for faith across our work."

THE ROLE OF THE PCF

The PCF is responsible for the yearly National Prayer Breakfast; the church service held at the start of each parliamentary sitting year; and the inclusion of the Lord's Prayer when Parliament begins each day. Their last service coincided with the installation of the newly-elected government, where more than 150 people attended, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton and newly

appointed US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy.

However, there is more to the faith of members in the PCF than these rituals. By choice, they seek to live out their faith every day.



Senator Matt O'Sullivan (left), David Smith MP (right).

"Regardless of faith, everyone who comes into Parliament is putting themselves forward because they want to make a difference," says Senator Matt O'Sullivan, co-convenor of the PCF. A member of the Liberal Party, he has been a Senator for Western Australia since 2019. He is currently the Opposition Deputy Whip in the Senate, and the Temporary Chair of Committees.

"There's a lot of commonality in Parliament whether you've got faith or not," he says. "For me, my faith does drive me to live a selfless life, to try to think of others ahead of myself. You don't have to have faith or be a



From left: Marc, David's wife Liesl, David, Stella and Eamonn

Christian to exemplify that, but for me it's very grounding every time we read scripture and pray.

"It's really unfortunate that the public don't get to see the collegiality as much. The reality is there is a lot of work we do together and legislation that gets through that's not controversial. I really value the fact that we can have quite fearsome debates, but when it's morning teatime we are there talking about our families."

WORKING WITH THE SALVOS

When it comes to policy and legislation, The Salvation Army has what Matt terms a "unique and interesting" perspective in Canberra. Major Paul Hateley represents the Salvos in the Halls of Parliament as Head of Government Relations, and spends his days connecting with people from all walks of life. Advocacy, pastoral care and friendship are all on the table, and for many MPs

and senators, this gives them a window into the needs of the community.

"We caught up recently about the Voice to Parliament and Paul was able to facilitate a good discussion where I was able to explore some ideas and concerns with him," says Matt.

"I find it really useful when organisations take the time to engage with the backbench, because ultimately, we are in the rooms when the decisions are being made."

For David, the presence of the Salvos in Canberra is doubly useful. As a local member, he is also able to talk to Major Wendy Hateley, the Salvos PR Officer for ACT, to find out about the needs of the electorate.

WORKING ON REFORM

Life as a politician involves long days, high pressure and, for some, isolation. In the ▶

wake of the findings of Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkin's *Set the Standard* report, which found 51 per cent of Members of Parliament experienced some form of bullying and sexual harassment, the PCF are more aware than ever that they have a responsibility to live with integrity. As whips, David and Matt take this a step further. In addition, David is on the committee to enact some of these reforms.

“

The Fellowship is ... a way to bring together those of us in Christian denominations.

”

“A lot of this is about individual responsibility,” he says. “But as whips we have a responsibility, and if there’s some concerning behaviour that is occurring we have to make sure that’s acted upon and dealt with in an efficient and effective way.”

Politics is complicated, but for members of the PCF, loving people is a priority. Despite differences of opinion around legislation, the reminder that they have the same end goal is what helps politicians with a Christian faith to better embody Christ as they do their work.

“In most cases we are actually driven by the same common good and want to achieve a lot of similar outcomes for our community. The difference will be how we get there,” reflects David. “If you understand that it’s worth talking to your colleagues, they may actually come up with better ways of getting there.”



Wife Montanique, Matt and children Amy and Sam.

The National Prayer Breakfast is held at Parliament House on Monday 28 November, with keynote speaker Peter ‘Chicka’ Gibbs. You can register now at nationalprayerbreakfast.org.

Please note: Efforts were made to reflect the voices of all parties and independents involved in the PCF in this article. The Salvation Army Australia is politically impartial and does not align with any party.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

A day in the life of ...

Meet Major Paul Hateley, National Head of Government Relations for The Salvation Army in Australia. Based in Canberra, he is frequently seen in the halls of Parliament House and provides pastoral care to MPs and staff, while also advocating for changes in social justice policy.

Can you give us an overview of your job?

The Head of Government Relations exists to ensure that The Salvation Army has 'one voice' to Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. I manage the relationship between MPs and The Salvation Army and attend meetings with Federal MPs to reinforce that relationship, as well as strengthening the trust and respect built over many decades. The Salvation Army's Public Relations Secretaries fulfil this responsibility at a State and Territory level.

What does a normal day look like for you?

A typical day includes responding to emails (approximately 150 per day) and letters that range from transcripts and media releases from politicians, to meeting requests and clarifications around policy positions. Most days include either formal meetings or conversations with MPs or their staff. We also spend time facilitating policy statements between The Salvation Army and Government.

What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

There is an expectation that no Salvation Army personnel approach an MP for a meeting without first liaising with our Government Relations Department. If



From left: Major Paul Hateley, Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson and former prime minister Scott Morrison at the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal 2021.

this does not happen, The Salvation Army representative's message may be inconsistent with our otherwise stated position, which may erode trust with MPs and diminish our 'one voice' to Government.

What would surprise people the most about your work?

The volume of connection that The Salvation Army has with MPs, primarily with the purpose of discussing policy and advocating for social justice. Over the past 12 months we have recorded over 2100 interactions with Federal, State and Territory Governments, including conversations, emails, letters and formal meetings.

What does it mean to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Parliament House?

I always attend Parliament House wearing my Salvation Army uniform. The uniform speaks of availability, credibility, trust, and it also speaks of our faith ministry. Opportunities arise to be an encourager to MPs and staff and there are times when it is appropriate to share a prayer or a pastoral word with the MP.

The weight of memories

Salvation Army officer Neil Venables recalls the horror of the aftermath of the Bali bombings.

WORDS Barry Gittins

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 2002 Bali bombings. Around 11pm on 12 October 2002, three bombs were detonated, two in popular nightspots in Kuta – the Sari Club and Paddy’s Bar – and one in front of the American Consulate in nearby Denpasar. The explosions killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, and hundreds more were injured.

Salvation Army officer (pastor) Neil Venables travelled to Bali in the weeks after the bombings as part of the Salvos emergency relief response. He was there to provide medical supplies and support to the relief efforts and connect with the local Denpasar Salvation Army corps (church) personnel who were providing practical and emotional support at the local hospital.

Initially, Neil thought he would “think twice about going back” to Bali – “not because of any fear of danger, but because of the weight of memories” – but he has returned several times since.

On the first anniversary of the tragedy, he spoke to Barry Gittins about his experiences, which were published under the heading of ‘The Night Innocence Died’ in The Salvation Army’s *War Cry* (now *Salvos Magazine*) 11 October 2003 issue. Neil’s recollections of that time are as confronting today as they were 20 years ago.

Salvation Army officer Captain Neil Venables had not yet heard of the events in Bali as he sat in a church service at Morley (WA) on that Sunday morning.

“People were praying for the victims in Bali; my wife, Lisa, and I looked at each other and said, ‘What’s happening in Bali?’

“The reason the news shocked us so much was that our family had holidayed in Bali in January 2002; we’ve been there a couple of times and are familiar with Bali and its people.”

“

**Oh my God –
Father, forgive them.**

”

All the Westerners injured by the bombings had already been airlifted back to hospital burns units in Perth and Adelaide, but the Balinese victims were still contending with a hospital system in crisis.

So, the Salvos, recognising the extraordinary efforts already in motion to assist the Aussies and fellow Westerners, joined a network of private and corporate citizens to provide medical supplies, clothing etc. for the Balinese.

Venables, who went to Bali in ‘business mode’ to ensure safe delivery of donated



Bali Memorial Kuta

JEFF YUNIKSON BEEH, CC BY-SA 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

supplies, says a chance encounter while he was there still causes him to experience dread whenever he sees an ice-cream van.

"I was calling [a colleague in Australia] to touch base and I was standing right next to a van, much like a Peters ice-cream van – those big, refrigerated vehicles.

"It was hot, and I was trying to get some shade, and so I had my elbow up resting on the van as I was talking on the phone. All of a sudden there was this realisation – in that van were victims' bodies. My whole demeanour changed."

His spiritual watershed experience came during meeting people and seeing the conditions.

"I was escorted into the mortuary and turned around and was faced with about 20 news cameras; they weren't on air, but they were positioned. To the left of the cameras there were 50 to 60 coffins.

"It hit me as I walked up the corridor. I'd been talking to a journalist in Australia and I had to stop the call – these

weren't coffins like we have, they were just stacks of boxes.

"All the bodies, in body bags, were lying on the footpath stacked next to each other."

Venables had seen dead bodies as part of his service as a Salvation Army officer, but never, never like this.

Surrounded by the evidence of cruelty and destruction, Venables cried out silently to God.

"Oh my God," he recalls thinking. "Father, forgive them!"

The Australian Government hosted a memorial service at Parliament House in Canberra to mark the anniversary on 12 October. A ceremony was also held at the Australian Consulate-General in Bali.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Disaster and Emergency Services

A bird's-eye view

Counting birds reminds us to count our blessings

WORDS Faye Michelson

It is a bit of a misnomer to call the strip of land at the back of our place a yard – it's only six metres wide and 20 metres long. When we moved in eight years ago the house had just been built and the 'garden' was dirt. Over the next year, the bare earth was replaced with vigorous weeds that flourished unchecked until one of our daughters wanted to have her engagement party at our house.

In the space of two weekends, the little yard went from disaster to delightful – the joys of having a really, really small garden.

“

What a delightful reason to sit in the sun, focus on the birds in your neighbourhood and marvel at what exquisite creatures they are!

”

Over those weekends, while my husband pulled out knee-high weeds and levelled the uneven ground, I went to the garden centre. I wanted colour, I wanted greenery, but most of all I wanted birds in my strip of garden.

I'd read lots of articles on how to attract birdlife. They all promised that if you planted native bushes and trees, the

birds would come. So we planted a two-metre-high red callistemon and two pink grevilleas.



I didn't really expect a couple of small shrubs to do much. I thought maybe one or two feathered friends might call in on their way to the lake and reserve down the road. But those three bushes, now way higher than the back fence, have been magnets to our local birdlife.

I've sat quietly on our deck, flanked by two aged cats, and watched noisy miners (native honeyeaters, not to be confused with the aggressive and introduced common myna) feasting in the grevilleas and callistemons. I've knelt beneath the shrubs to pull out weeds and looked up into branches heavy with pink and red flowers to see tiny wrens hopping from twig to twig.

From the kitchen window I often see flashes of the brilliant green and blue of rainbow lorikeets, and once a huge racket outside heralded a flock of yellow-tailed black cockatoos. They



descended onto the callistemon and virtually stripped it bare; it took two years to recover.

This year I'll be taking part in the annual Aussie Bird Count, held 17-23 October. It's simple to do. You just spend 20 minutes in one spot, note down the birds you see and submit your information to be compiled. It's a citizen science project coordinated by BirdLife Australia to provide a snapshot of Australian birds at the same time each year. Last year 4,936,509 birds, comprising 623 species, were counted!

What a delightful reason to sit in the sun, focus on the birds in your neighbourhood and marvel at what exquisite

creatures they are! How often do we take 20 minutes out of our busy lives to appreciate God's creation? Not often enough, I reckon.

"Even birds and animals have much they could teach you; ask the creatures of earth and sea for their wisdom. All of them know that the Lord's hand made them" (Job chapter 12, verses 7-9 GNT).

For more information on the Aussie Bird Count, visit aussiebirdcount.org.au.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Halting the poverty spiral

Speaking from experience, a Doorways emergency relief case worker shares the importance of reaching out for help to find hope in tough times.

WORDS Naomi Singlehurst

Salvation Army Doorways case worker Hop understands all too well that anyone's circumstances can change in the blink of an eye. It is an understanding, he says, that gives him extra passion in his work of assisting people to regain control of their finances.

More than 30 years ago, Hop was chosen for the Australian national badminton squad. He had also been offered sponsorship deals and was headed for a professional sporting career. Then his life changed forever.

"I was hit by a drunk driver," he explains, "and after coming out of the coma, was told I was an amputee among many other injuries. The physical side wasn't as bad as the emotional. It took around 18 months to recover physically but I didn't deal with anything emotionally for many years."

With no counselling or support offered, Hop soon escaped into substance abuse.

HELP FROM THE SALVOS

After the accident, Hop finished a double apprenticeship as a furniture maker/upholsterer and cabinetmaker. Over the years, he bought a home, married and had five children.

Hop says, "Sadly, drinking and drug-ging and risky behaviour became my way of dealing with emotions for many, many years."

His marriage inevitably broke up and eventually Hop entered The Salvation Army's residential recovery service in Brisbane, also known as Moonyah. During this time, he studied counselling at TAFE and went on to work for the Salvos. Hop later graduated from university and undertook a range of additional courses, while raising his five children as a single parent.

He worked with not-for-profit and other organisations, including counselling and support roles for the Queensland Drug and Alcohol court and youth services. Last year Hop returned to work with the Salvos – this time as a Doorways case worker.

DOORWAYS TO HOPE

Doorways was developed in recognition of the fact that provision of emergency relief alone does not address the underlying causes of poverty. Case workers support people to move from welfare dependency, social isolation and disengagement to a stronger position financially, socially and emotionally. Hop also runs the Salvos' Positive Lifestyle Program (PLP), looking at topics including grief, self-esteem, anger, depression and future directions.

"Each day is very different," he says. "I work on applications for pensions, NDIS, education, community engagement and life coaching. Referrals can come from anywhere and everywhere, including



Doorways worker Hop, (right) pictured with a local Moneycare financial counsellor, understands anyone's circumstances can quickly change.

our local Salvos Connect (emergency relief), through Moneycare (free financial counselling service), local community agencies and organisations, probation and parole and more."

ONGOING SUPPORT

Hop says essentially his Doorways role is to help stop the poverty cycle from continuing.

"If someone has a continual cycle of seeking financial support, we look at what's behind that," he says. "They might need help with time management; others might mention they are going to court because of drugs or alcohol, so we look at assistance to help them abstain from that, or work on harm minimisation," he adds.

"My advice to those who really want to make changes but are afraid to reach out is to face that fear and you may find you have more courage than you thought you had. If I hadn't spoken up and asked for help, I would have been homeless,

I would have been in poverty, and probably would have died many years ago.

"One of the community members I am journeying with recently said, 'Don't make long-term decisions based on short-term anger.' It made so much sense I laminated it and shared it around."

Hop relishes his role as an opportunity to give back to others after being shown great kindness and support in his most vulnerable times.

"I believe the journey of my life was meant to be the way it was," he says, "so when I did get stable, clean and sober and started to listen and learn, I could then help others to find strength and courage and hope."



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Alcohol and Other Drugs Services

Teriyaki chicken



Ingredients

2 chicken breasts, 1 onion, 2 tbsp cooking oil **Marinade:** 1 tbsp soy sauce, 1 clove minced garlic **Sauce:** ½ cup soy sauce, 2 tbsp brown sugar, ½ tsp ground ginger, ½ cup water, 1 tbsp cornflour

Method

- Make up the marinade by combining soy sauce and garlic in a bowl.
- Slice chicken into thick strips and add them to the marinade. Let sit for at least 20 minutes so the chicken takes in the flavour.
- In a separate bowl mix together the ingredients for the sauce: soy sauce, brown sugar, ginger, water and cornflour. Place to one side.
- Peel onion and cut into slices.
- Put oil into a wok or frypan and heat on medium-high. Add onion and stir-fry for 2 minutes.
- Add marinated chicken to frypan and stir-fry until chicken is cooked.
- Add sauce to the pan. Cook until the sauce thickens. Serve with rice or noodles.

HAVE A LAUGH

Why did the little bird get in trouble at school?
Because he was caught tweeting on a test!

What is a chicken's favourite subject?
Ergonomics!



Why do owls get invited to parties?
Because they're a hoot!

What bird is always out of breath?
A puffin!

SIGNING IN



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

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

Tum-Tum



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

Bible byte

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31

New International Version

Quiz answers: 1. Adalain 2. Foot Loops 3. The dove 4. Parliament 5. Five: Collingwood Magpies, West Coast Eagles, Adelaide Crows, Hawthorn Hawks, Sydney Swans 6. Superb Lyrebird.

Tum-Tum: is hiding in the window on page 13.

Quick quiz



1. Iago, the scarlet macaw parrot, appears in which animated Disney movie?
2. Toucan Sam is the mascot of which Kellogg's cereal?
3. Which bird is mentioned most in the Bible?
4. What is a group of owls called?
5. How many AFL teams have bird mascots?
6. What bird is featured on the Australian 10c coin?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count runs from 17 to 23 October.

King Charles II believed England would fall if there were no ravens at the Tower of London.

The flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down.

Ostriches swallow stones to help them digest their food.

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

Have you taken care of your Will?

A gift in your Will can help
The Salvation Army create a
long-lasting impact in the lives
of those experiencing hardship.

Together, we can give hope where it's
needed most and you can start or
continue your legacy of generosity.

For information or a free
copy of Your Will booklet



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