

FEATURE

Salvos support
Voice to Parliament

NEWS

Sharing the love
on Father's Day

FAITH TALK

Leaving sparkles
wherever you go

Walking together to a better future

Forging ahead on a shared path to reconciliation



SALVOS

MAGAZINE

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*"How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world."*

*- William Shakespeare,
The Merchant of Venice*





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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Feature [4]
Walking together to a better future

Faith Talk [10]
Leave a little sparkle wherever you go

My Story [12]
Victor thanks God for the Salvos

Reimagining our future

In our feature story, Australian journalist and television presenter, Stan Grant, writes about all Australians sharing the journey of reconciliation. This includes empathy, hope, love and standing with the afflicted. It's about forgiveness and understanding. As with the Uluru Statement of the Heart, it's not about politics – it's about reimagining our country to be a place of truth and justice where everyone can flourish, regardless of race, gender, culture or background.

For this to happen, we all need to walk together towards a shared future for ourselves, our children and the generations to come. This is not simple, easy or quick. We can each have a role to play though, individually and collectively, to help bring this about. It's up to us.

Belinda Davis also writes about this theme, in a light-hearted way, in Faith Talk. She focuses on leaving a "little sparkle" everywhere she goes. It can sound minor, but spreading joy, practising empathy, and bringing a different perspective to challenging situations can help produce understanding, goodwill and an openness to working through differences for a reimagined future for us all.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Walking together to a better future

A powerful and passionate advocate for Indigenous Australians, Stan Grant is forging ahead on a shared path to reconciliation

WORDS Stan Grant

Proud Wiradjuri man Stan Grant needs no introduction. An award-winning journalist and best-selling author with more than 30 years of experience in television news and current affairs, he is also Charles Sturt University's chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging. Stan was one of the featured speakers when more than 600 participants logged in to a Salvation Army webinar during National Reconciliation Week 2022. He speaks from the heart as he recalls his early life and being part of a new awakening.

The theme of National Reconciliation Week - 'Be Brave. Make Change' - is a challenge to all Australians to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia, valuing First Nations history, cultures and achievements, and encouraging each other to seek unity and equity.

A BRAVE HERITAGE

When I think about bravery, I think about the little old wooden church on the mission I attended as a young boy, near the Three Ways Bridge Reserve outside of Griffith, where my uncle was the pastor. We would go there, including people who had survived the full onslaught of colonisation and the brutality of invasion. We banded together to heal and strengthen our families, and the church was central to that.

That was the change our people made – in the face of brutality, exclusion and segregation, to stand up and show love, kindness, forgiveness and strength while never losing sight of justice and our rightful place in the world.

When my father, Stan Grant Snr, was a young boy, his grandfather called out to him one day in our Wiradjuri language, saying, "Hurry up and come home." When a policeman overheard him [it was forbidden to use Aboriginal languages in public], he was arrested and charged with offensive language and taken to jail.

My father then made it his mission to keep our language and the memory of my great-grandfather alive. He worked with others to write the first Wiradjuri dictionary, receiving an Order of Australia Medal, and has taught non-Aboriginal people to speak our language. When I asked him about that, he said, "Son, language doesn't tell you who you are. It tells you where you are, and this is the language of this place. If these people are on our country, no matter what they've done, we have to show them Wiradjuri love, respect, kindness and forgiveness. That is our duty."

That's what inspires me – the lessons I got in that little church, the lessons of Wiradjuri respect, lessons of love and kindness and forgiveness, but with a strength as well that never loses sight of justice. I return to those lessons time and time again in my life.

FAITH AND HOPE

Mine has been an ongoing journey, part of which was to try to make sense of my place in the world. As a young boy, I knew that we were on the margins. My dad was an itinerant



Stan Grant with his father, Stan Grant Snr.

labourer, and we moved around constantly from town to town. I changed schools about 14 or 15 times before I went to high school and was never allowed to believe that I was worth something, or I was smart. When I was 15 years old, I was called up to the principal's office at Griffith High School with some of my cousins and friends and indirectly told that we would amount to nothing, so it would be better if we left school.

In many respects, I wanted to escape. I wanted to be free of where history had put us. I wanted to be free of Australia. I've lived outside Australia for almost two decades and reported on some of the worst conflicts on earth. However, at the same time, I always saw the power of humility and simplicity of faith when the forsaken return to the idea of love that reconnects them with Christ.

I have read a lot about the cold scientific idea that we are reduced to some atomised

existence in the world with no transcendence and no thought of the role of God, but I found in the lessons I got as a young boy the strength to be able to see hope in the face of overwhelming tragedy, devastation and destruction.

STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

I respect the process that led to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, as I was part of that for some time with the Referendum Council. The Uluru Statement is the voice of the mother of our earth that speaks to this country, calling for a referendum on the establishment of a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution.

I think we get the Uluru Statement wrong when we see it as a political document. The republic referendum was a divisive, politicised process, and the danger for the Uluru Statement is if politicians turn it into a political process. The voices of the Australian people will carry that, not the voices of politicians. ►



The Statement asks us to reimagine our country; it asks us to change the way we see ourselves in Australia. It's not about race; it's not about politics; it is about reimagining our country with justice and truth and a voice for our people in a Constitution that has so long rendered us voiceless.

A FAITH DOCUMENT

The Statement from the Heart is a powerful faith document. It has a liturgical power for our nation – in the same way that when we recite the Ode during Anzac Day, there is a liturgical power to that. Anzac Day is a secular liturgy for many people.

The Uluru Statement is an invitation and a gift of love. It offers us a way of being right with God in this land by being right with the people of this land. The message of Christ is that he stands with the afflicted – the church of the forsaken.

There are practical things to do to show your support for the Uluru Statement, to petition your politicians, to make your voices heard. But it's also an invitation to stop and imagine if this was you, your family or if these were

your people. I think sometimes empathy is the hardest thing.

In 2022, the First Peoples of this land remain the most impoverished and imprisoned in the country. They die 10 years younger and have the highest youth suicide rates in the world. We cannot allow this to go on and ignore it. The people who have paid the greatest price for this country's success and prosperity are still too often the people who are ignored and whose voices are not heard.

We talk about what happens in Aboriginal communities as if it exists in a foreign country. People die young in Aboriginal communities – there is chronic overcrowding, lack of housing and inadequate healthcare or schools and other educational outcomes. Are we as a nation comfortable with that? Sadly, I think far too often the answer is yes. Ask yourself, what if it was you?

“

The message of Christ is that he stands with the afflicted – the church of the forsaken.

”

In the same way that the 1967 referendum, the tent embassy and the Mabo High Court decision were part of the reconciliation journey, the next step – the Uluru Statement from the Heart – is an invitation for all Australians to walk together to a better future.



Scan here for more on the need for community.



SALVATION ARMY SUPPORTS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Australia can benefit from our Parliament having access to the advice, wisdom and lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our country.

The Salvation Army welcomes the further detail provided by the Prime Minister about the wording and pathway to establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

This is a critical nation-building initiative, and The Salvation Army commends the government for its commitment to giving the Australian people the opportunity to have their say.

The Salvation Army sees first-hand the social injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia across the breadth of its services. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will

provide an opportunity to correct existing structural issues and ensure that future legislation does not create or perpetuate disadvantage and injustice.

Australia can benefit from our Parliament having access to the advice, wisdom and lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our country. The Salvation Army has accepted the gracious invitation contained in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and we want to be part of delivering on the promise contained within it. A constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament is an important first step.

The Salvation Army remains committed to serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout our network of more than 2000 services across the country.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are part of the oldest living culture in the world, but they are also amongst the most disadvantaged Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experience lower life expectancy and poorer health outcomes while encountering higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, family and domestic violence, suicide and incarceration.

There are historical and current contributors to this disadvantage. The experience of colonialism and suppression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has an ongoing negative effect on people from these cultures. Many of the drivers of disadvantage are systemic and structural. This means that, as well as addressing disadvantage as it's experienced, we also need to address the underlying structures that lead to discrimination and hardship.

In Australia, successive governments have committed to 'closing the gap' between outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those enjoyed by non-Indigenous Australians. The most recent report from the Australian Government showed that much more work is needed to close the gap by 2030.

Indigenous people have shared a pathway with us to address this social justice issue – now we need to walk along it.



Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults make up around two per cent of the national population, they constitute **27 per cent** of the **national prison population**.



Indigenous youth are **22 times** more likely to be in juvenile detention than non-Indigenous youth.



Rates of out-of-home care for Indigenous children have almost **tripled in the past 15 years**.

What can we do?

AS A NATION

» **We can implement the recommendations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.** This involves creating a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice to the Parliament and Makarrata Commission. On a very practical level, we can also increase cooperation and cross-sectoral funding for the full implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

AS A STATE OR TERRITORY

» **We can address laws, policies and systems that perpetuate disadvantage.** This is most urgently needed in the criminal justice system (such as raising the age of criminal responsibility), but we can also ensure that services, such as health and educational resources, are culturally appropriate, accessible and fit for purpose for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

AS A COMMUNITY

» **We can be respectful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and wisdom.** We can include Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country in our gatherings and ensure that our events and activities are actively welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and delivered in a culturally safe way.

AS INDIVIDUALS

» **We can commit to learning more about the shared history of this land – even when that history is challenging or painful.** We can then use that knowledge to show support and respect, such as using Indigenous place names or supporting Indigenous organisations, businesses and events.

THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM THE SALVOS SOCIAL JUSTICE STOCKTAKE REPORT. TO SEE THE FULL REPORT, GO TO SALVONATIONARMY.ORG.AU/SOCIALJUSTICESTOCKTAKE

Sharing the love on Father's Day



Purchases made at Salvos Stores for dads on Father's Day also contribute to community projects around the country.

Save your money, delight your dad and help those in need by buying a gift at Salvos Stores.

Australians spend over \$800 million yearly on Father's Day gifts. With the cost of living on the rise, wouldn't it be great if we could celebrate the father figures in our lives in a way that was a little less hard on our wallets?

This Father's Day (4 September), Salvos Stores are encouraging Australians to give gifts that keep on giving by checking out their range of affordable, dad-friendly gift items. Focusing your Father's Day gift hunt at your local Salvos Store means you'll avoid extravagant prices and direct your dollars toward a great cause.

In addition to a range of pre-loved pieces that will make great one-of-a-kind Father's Day gifts, this year Salvos Stores are stocking additional items that have been curated especially with dads in mind, including travel mugs, lollies, cologne, water bottles and, of course, socks – because nothing says Father's Day like novelty socks!

Most of these items are priced at less than \$10, making them perfect for showing appreciation

to your loved one without sacrificing your budget or compromising on quality. If you really want to spoil your dad, there are more expensive items, of course, and some amazing treasures to be discovered in Salvos Stores.

Switching your Father's Day shop to your local Salvos Store ensures that your gift keeps on giving by supporting community initiatives funded and run by The Salvation Army. Every purchase made at Salvos Stores contributes directly to community programs and organisations that provide services to vulnerable Australians, including those struggling with addiction, financial hardship, disability/illness, unemployment, homelessness or family violence.

Salvos Stores are committed to making it easy, rewarding and affordable to put your share of Australia's annual Father's Day spend towards a great cause. This year, give Dad a gift that represents what matters most.

– Sarah Keogh

Find your closest Salvos Store or shop at Salvos online at salvosstores.com.au

Leave a little sparkle wherever you go

Reflecting God's light by bringing joy to others

WORDS Belinda Davis

Are you a sparkly person? Someone whose presence brightens the space they inhabit or helps make the world a little brighter wherever they go. Does that describe you or someone you know?

When I think of this concept, several of my friends spring to mind. Some people have also described me as being sparkly. I tend to smile and laugh a lot. I used to wear a sparkly work lanyard, and I also possess not one but two pairs of light-up, sparkly runners (a distinct advantage of having small feet).

“

In the darkness, even the smallest light brings relief.

”

AUTHENTICITY

This description, while sounding good, can also be a bit of a burden. There are times in my life when I don't quite feel like bringing a bit of brightness into a situation. It may not be anything super significant – I may be tired or run down or missing my dad – but the number of comments I receive about me not being 'quite like myself' almost compels me to pretend to be sparkly. This can have quite a damaging effect on my wellbeing. It takes significant energy to shine when you don't feel like shining, all because others expect it of you.



PHOTO: STOCKGETTY IMAGES



PHOTO BY TAMARA WONG ON UNsplash

I also used to believe that being the joy bringer in a situation was a negative trait – that it spoke of a lack of maturity and silliness. I worried about what people thought of my intelligence. For this reason, I fell into the trap of ‘dialling down’ my brightness in certain situations to try to accommodate what I believed to be for the comfort of others. Again, this is another drain on emotional resources. The cost of spending any time being inauthentic is huge.

Generally, though, I like to be the positive one in the situation, the ‘glass-half-full’ kind of person. This is not something I conjure up or manufacture; it just seems to bubble up from within.

A SMALL SPARK

Jesus spoke about not hiding your light under a basket but shining it brightly for all to see (Luke chapter 8, verse 16). In the darkness, even the smallest light brings relief.

Over the years, I have had various signs on my office desk to remind me of sparkling. These have included, ‘You were born to sparkle’, ‘Never dull your own sparkle’ and ‘Be happy, be bright, be you.’ My favourite is

‘Leave a little sparkle wherever you go’. God made me a sparkly person, so I need to lean into that aspect of who I am created to be and to shine well.

The gifted poet, Maya Angelou, put it like this: “Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” It doesn’t take much to bring some joy and light to another. Not frivolous and disrespectful, but light and caring and sensitive. I like to think of it as leaving someone better than when you found them.

Our world needs more sparkly people, so why don’t you aim to shine well with those you spend time with this week? Leave a little sparkle wherever you go. Or if you prefer – be a rainbow.

Major Belinda Davis is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia. She blogs at a-blessed-life.com



Scan here for more on mental health.

Victor thanks God for the Salvos

Lifesaving help from The Well at St Kilda

WORDS Victor

My name is Victor, and I am writing to share my experience at The Well at St Kilda Chapel, Melbourne, and Salvos officer (pastor) Major Narelle Jacobsen who runs it.

In 2018, I retired from a lengthy career in emergency services, moved to Thailand and started a couple of tourism-related businesses. They were both quite successful, and I had more than 100 employees at one point.

Unfortunately, when COVID-19 hit, the tourists quit coming, and both companies ceased operations. I felt that I was well-prepared for this, and although all of my employees were eventually laid off, I continued to help them financially for a year until funds ran

out. Nobody could have predicted that the pandemic would last as long as it did, and I eventually found myself stuck in a foreign country with no means of financial support.

I also found that I was ineligible for COVID assistance from either the Thai or Australian governments. My only option was to ask the Australian Government to repatriate me, which they did, but at a cost of more than \$5000, including quarantine fees.

Upon release from the two weeks of quarantine, I found myself significantly in debt, penniless and literally living under a bridge. I was also less than a week away from losing everything I owned due to not being able to



After experiencing homelessness, Victor is now employed, housed and paying off his debts.



Victor with Salvos officer Major Narelle Jacobsen. He says the Salvos at The Well at St Kilda Chapel saved his life.

pay to store those things. Everything was to be sold at auction within a few short days.

A friend contacted Major Jacobsen, who met with me one day, listened to my story with patience and compassion, ensured I was fed, and took me to a Salvation Army facility where I could shower, do laundry and sleep indoors. She was also instrumental in dealing with the storage facility and keeping my possessions from being sold.

These were the first critical steps in my recovery from the situation I genuinely believed would kill me. Before meeting her, I had given up and simply accepted the fact that I'd likely be found dead under that bridge one day. Later, additional steps were taken to find me a sustainable place to live, medical treatment and so on.

Although things took almost a year in total, I now once again have my own unit to live in,

have full-time employment, am currently on top of my bills and paying off my debts to the government.

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for Major Jacobsen and her team at The Well, in addition to the other Salvo employees and volunteers. Although I am not a Christian, the phrase "Thank God for the Salvos" seems quite appropriate in this instance. Major Jacobsen and the others are truly lifesavers in the most literal way.

My sincerest thanks to her and all the others too numerous to name individually.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army homelessness support and services.

Golden syrup dumplings



PHOTO COURTESY/KELY POWELL

Ingredients

DUMPLINGS: 1½ cups self-raising flour, 500g butter, ½ cup milk, 1 egg, 1 tsp vanilla extract.

SAUCE: 2 cups water, ½ cup golden syrup, ½ cup brown sugar, 30g butter, 1 tsp lemon juice.

Method

- Sift the flour into a mixing bowl. Add the butter and, using your fingertips, rub it into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Beat the milk, egg and vanilla together and pour onto the dry ingredients. Mix gently to form dough.
- To make the sauce, put the water, golden syrup, brown sugar, butter and lemon juice in a frypan. Cook on medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Increase heat to high, bring to the boil and reduce the heat to low.
- Roll the dough, a tablespoon at a time, into balls. Gently drop the balls into the boiling syrup. Cover the frypan with a lid and cook for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Place the dumplings into serving bowls, top with some of the golden syrup sauce and serve with cream or ice cream. Yummy!

HAVE A LAUGH



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

A man asked his pet centipede to go outside and bring in the newspaper. Half an hour later he went outside to see why the centipede was taking so long.

**"I had to put on my shoes,"
the centipede said.**

**Why did the fly never land on the computer?
It was afraid of the worldwide web.**

**Why wouldn't they let the
butterfly into the dance?
Because it was a mothball.**

SIGNING IN



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

Sudoku

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

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

Tum-Tum

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



Bible byte

"Take a lesson from the ants ... Learn from their ways and be wise!"
Proverbs chapter 6, verse 6
 Living Bible translation

Quiz answers: 1. Africa 2. Two months 3. 10 days.
 4. Spanish 5. Female mosquitoes' saliva.
 Tum-Tum: is hiding behind a tin on page 9.



Quick quiz

1. Where are the most cases of malaria found?
2. Approximately how long do female mosquitoes live?
3. Approximately how long do male mosquitoes live?
4. Mosquito means 'little fly' in which language?
5. What causes the itchy bump when a mosquito 'bites'?

PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?

20 August is World Mosquito Day.

On this day in 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered that female mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite.

There were 241 million cases of malaria globally in 2020 including 627,000 deaths.

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



PHOTO BY STEVEN WEI ON UNSPLASH