

NEWS

No-interest loans

FAITH TALK

Making simple changes in a complex world

MY STORY

One man, his daughters and his dog

The Salvaging Army

Reducing our impact on the earth



SALVOS

MAGAZINE

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The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.

Rachel Carson

Biologist and author, *Silent Spring* (1962)





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

Salvos Magazine

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Front cover: Salvos volunteer, Michelle, helps at Salvos Stores vintage clothing night. Photo Lauren Martin.

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Our planet

Every three seconds, the world loses enough forest to cover a football pitch and, over the last century, we have destroyed half of our wetlands. These two realities alone are terrifying, and there are plenty more like them. The current and future impacts of climate change cannot be brushed aside, and the global movements demanding action to prevent, halt and reverse the damage done are growing.

For many of us, the size of these challenges and the work that needs to be done can be overwhelming. There are, though, steps we can take in our everyday lives, to play our part. Will it require a change of lifestyle? In certain areas, yes. Will it be more expensive? Possibly. Will it make a difference? It already has.

In light of World Environment Day on 5 June, this edition looks at some of the changes we can make individually and collectively to creatively help restore and care for the world God has given us.

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

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

The Salvaging Army

Exploring the connections between recycling, the Salvos and taking care of the world we all share

WORDS MATT SEAMAN

For much of human history, recycling has been more through necessity rather than aiming to be environmentally friendly or 'green'. For many people around the world, necessity is still the primary reason for recycling.

In Australia, even during the 20th century, economic depression and wars provided significant reasons to 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. It has only been in more recent history that factors such as economic prosperity and planned obsolescence (where items are not designed for long-term use) have removed the apparent need for frugality and recycling. Sadly, this increase in buying lots of 'stuff', combined with reduced levels of responsible stewardship of the resources provided to us, has created large amounts of wasted food, materials and energy. This in turn has increased pollution levels and has had many negative impacts on the earth that we all live within.

HUMANITY'S IMPACTS ON THE EARTH

Throughout human history, people have impacted the earth in many different ways. Yet, it appears that humanity's impacts have, and are, continuing to increase significantly. There have been considerable losses in biodiversity caused by human activities such as habitat destruction, deforestation, desertification and introducing non-native invasive species. There have been decreases in air, water and soil quality and there have also been increases in light and noise pollution. Extensive chemical and nuclear contamination

has occurred both in times of war and peace. Other alarming, human-caused environmental issues include the existence of 'garbage patches' within all major oceans, and the fact that newborn babies can already test positive for harmful chemicals and carcinogens. It is in this context that recycling has taken on new importance for many, including the Salvos.

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Recycling is a fundamental part of the conditions on earth that we live within.

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RECYCLING BRIGADES

Recycling has actually been a part of the Salvos since the early days of the movement. The founders of The Salvation Army, William and Catherine Booth, saw the need for employment and affordable goods, and were concerned about disease, the amount of waste and its impact on the land. One way in which they aimed to bring healing and hope was through 'Household Salvage Brigades'. These recycling brigades were to go from house to house to collect unwanted items that had the potential to be reused.

The recycling centres, otherwise known as



thrift shops, family stores or Salvos Stores in Australia, can trace their history back to the 1880s. The 'Prison Gate Brigade' in Melbourne began a salvaging program to provide work for those who had been released from prison and to provide funds to keep the program financially viable. This was the beginning of Salvos recycling goods in order to help renew and rejuvenate hearts, minds and lives.

The emphases of Salvation Army recycling programs were, and still are, to provide work for those who are currently unemployed, provide cheaper goods, and generate funds with which to financially support the work of the Salvos to bring hope to people. However, the environmental benefits of the significant amount of recycling that takes place in Salvation Army thrift shops worldwide is considerable and inspiring. For example, in 2016, Salvos Stores alone diverted 30,000

tonnes of donated items from landfill. Thrift shops are increasingly seen as a great way to respond to the social and environmental challenges that we face today in caring for the health and wellbeing of God's earth.

BIBLICAL AND NATURAL PRINCIPLES

There are excellent principles within the Bible that can help remind us to look after what we have. For example, there is a helpful emphasis on the links between living God-centred lives in community and living in safety and abundance in the land (Leviticus chapter 25, verses 17-19). There is a great recommendation in Deuteronomy chapter 20, verses 19-20 to "not waste or destroy", which can help remind us to use only as much of a resource as we need, and not needlessly destroy any resources we have been given. Substantial issues and problems arise in the ►



biblical stories when people ignore or do not consider their connection with God, with other people, and with the land. This fact is still of great significance to us today.

The story of Jesus feeding five thousand people in John chapter 6, verse 12, fits in with these principles and gives us insights, such as: God is not wasteful; God expects us to be prudent and frugal in our use of resources; wasteful use of resources is contrary to a biblical way of life; all resources are precious, not to be thrown away without thought for tomorrow or for the needs of others; and we are to handle excess resources wisely and carefully, even if they are waste.

One final thought is that recycling is also a fundamental part of the conditions on earth that we live within, where trees, plants, living creatures and humanity all are nourished by and, in the end, return, to the natural cycles on the earth.

There are so many great reasons to recycle and reuse – it's natural, smart, helpful and biblical!

With World Environment Day, biblical principles and Salvo aims in mind, it's a great time to consider how we can all more effectively reduce, reuse and recycle the resources that God has blessed us with in order to reduce our impact on the earth.

Dr Matt Seaman is an environmental advocate, academic and member of the Salvos.

For useful information on effective recycling in your area, go to recyclingnearyou.com.au



Scan here for more on the need for community

The Chosen

A nuanced look at the life and times of Jesus



Watching a film about the life of Christ is a great idea – but after years of seeing European actors give a less-than nuanced shot at telling the story of Jesus’ time on earth, I was ready to throw in the towel.

That was until I watched *The Chosen*, the first multi-season show about Christ of its kind. Not only does this revolutionary TV series take the time to tell the cultural, societal and religious backstory of Ancient Israel, but it also gives us an insight into the beauty and power of Jesus and his followers.

The Chosen TV series began after film-maker Dallas Jenkins created a Nativity-based short film for his church. The video gained so much traction online that it became clear people were thirsty for high-quality, authentic storytelling about the life of Christ.

So, instead of just wrapping the Gospels into a 90-minute movie, Jenkins and his growing team decided to raise \$10 million to film one season, to chronicle the life of Christ and the early Church over seven seasons. And it worked – because season one became the

highest-ever crowdfunded movie or TV series and has been translated into 50 languages.

In season one, we are introduced to Mary Magdalene, Mary Mother of Jesus, James, John, Matthew, Thomas and the ever-passionate (yet still endearing) Peter and Simon. Christ – a brilliantly warm and all-encompassing Jonathan Roumie, is the link between these diverse characters – and we see how they are each called to follow him and what they must give up to do so.

Come season two, and we see the ministry of Jesus take shape. As his disciples mature and his miracles become widespread, so does his awareness that he is journeying towards death.

The Chosen is truly heart-warming and spirit-provoking. It is yet to be seen how these film-makers will handle the crucifixion and resurrection – but you can’t help but trust this cast with the tremendous responsibility.

The Chosen is available to stream free online and is also available for free on *The Chosen* app for phones and tablets. – **Jessica Morris**

Salvos Loans get violence survivors back on their feet

Supporting women in times of crisis, and beyond

WORDS LAUREN MARTIN

The Salvation Army Moneycare financial counselling service has added to its range of programs a new support initiative to assist women impacted by domestic and family violence (DFV).

The initiative, called Salvos Loans, which is supported by Westpac, will give women the opportunity to take out a no-interest loan of up to \$5000 to relocate and set up a new home. Free financial counselling and the existing No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) will still be available as part of the initiative.

Salvos Loans began in late 2020 in response to an identified need for more financial support for women impacted by DFV to establish themselves in safe, secure housing.

“The demand has been huge,” said Ross Norgate, the Salvos NSW/ACT microfinance Coordinator.

SUPPORT FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Most women accessing the service have taken out loans to pay for costs associated with moving into and setting up a new home, including purchasing white goods and installing security. One woman even purchased a second-hand car.

“There’s also been TV and phone expenses,” said Alison, “because they need a high-tech security system and they need an updated



Alison King is the Salvos NILS Project Officer who oversees the new Salvos Loans initiative.

phone and TV for their security system, so it really is for safety purposes.”

A unique part of the service is its investment in wrap-around support for the women being assisted with a loan. Project Officer Alison King helps to connect the women with a domestic violence support worker [if they don’t already have one] and works through the Salvos Positive Lifestyle Program with them, as well as financial counselling and budgeting tips.

“Conversations from The Salvation Army’s ‘You’re The Boss’ program assists recipients with budgeting strategies and also to achieve

or work towards financial independence,” Alison says. “Within this program different aspects of an individual’s financial situation are explored through creating new money habits, finding plans that are right for the individual, paying bills, discussing debts and insurance, shopping smart and other money saving tips.”

Paying back up to \$5000 for women on limited incomes is a long journey, and each recipient is given up to three years to make the repayments. Alison makes sure each loan recipient feels supported throughout the process.

“[I really try to] keep that rapport or build on that rapport so that they stay engaged and continue to repay their loan and keep me notified if there are any struggles,” she says.

“

The ability to have access to up to \$5000 with no interest is absolutely life-changing.

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“I write birthday cards for the women and their children. An eight-year-old girl was so excited to have a birthday card because they don’t have anyone – any family or anything – they’ve come from overseas. So those little things really make a difference to the family as well.”

One woman, who can’t be identified, wrote to Alison to thank her for the ‘above-and-beyond’ support the service gave, saying, “Thank you so, so, much for all of this. I really appreciate it. Because of you, my kids and I won’t be homeless anymore, and we can have a better and happier life.”



ONE-OF-A-KIND SERVICE

“This is something that is not available anywhere else at this point in time,” says Captain Brad McIver, the Salvos state social mission and community engagement coordinator, who was part of the development of the new initiative. “It’s The Salvation Army identifying a really critical need and a very practical way that we can respond with the love of Jesus to that circumstance.”

Brad, who sits on the loan assessment committee for Salvos Loans, said that assessing the loans has given him much insight into just how difficult and traumatic the circumstances are around family and domestic violence.

“We have seen that the ability to have access to up to \$5000 with no interest is absolutely life-changing. People, perhaps for their first time in a long time, are experiencing freedom in all the senses of the word with an invitation to something more [through the Positive Lifestyle Program and other supports offered].”

For more details email salvosloans@salvationarmy.org.au



Scan here for more on financial stress.

Making simple changes in a complex world

Playing our part in protecting the world and its inhabitants

WORDS SANDRA PAWAR

Climate change is increasingly becoming a threat to the global community, especially to the most vulnerable among us. Its consequences are devastating and heartbreaking. The lives of men, women and children worldwide are being destroyed and torn apart by climate change, and community after community is suffering.

Thankfully, there is now a global awareness of the immense damage that climate change is causing, and people are beginning to understand that something must change. Communities are becoming increasingly aware that pollution and plastic waste are ruining our oceans and destroying our fish and sea life.



There is a growing awareness that the rising temperatures are causing the sea levels to rise too, and forcing people to relocate their homes and communities. There is the knowledge that droughts and severe heat levels

are catastrophic for farmers and growers. There is evidence and an awareness that people face severe water and food shortages in regions facing the effects of climate change. The people affected the most are the poor, the powerless and the vulnerable – those who are already struggling to survive.

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What we choose to do today affects more than just ourselves.

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Climate change is an incredibly complex and challenging issue, with so many factors coming into play. What is neither challenging nor complex is that we need to make changes because more and more women and children worldwide are suffering because of our action or inaction. It has become abundantly clear that we cannot just move forward with business as usual. The result of climate change globally is countless victims and untold suffering, and something needs to be done today.

One person who has been vocal on this issue is Pope Francis, who, in 2015, first urged the United Nations to “take a greater interest in this phenomenon, especially human

trafficking caused by environmental issues, and the exploitation of people.”



Even further back, at the United States Catholic Bishops Conference in 2011, why the Church cares about, and responds to, global climate change, was discussed: “At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both ‘the human environment’ and the natural environment.”

It does my heart good to see fellow Christians acknowledge the issue and talk about what we need to be doing to protect the earth and its inhabitants.

We serve a God who deeply loves all his creation. His love for all his children should be enough to challenge us and make us commit to living our lives in different ways, to ensure that climate change does not worsen and that more victims are not created.

We must be challenged, and we must become self-reflective about the daily habits and practices we have that could be leading to the destruction of the environment and, ultimately, our exploitation as God’s children.

We must understand that we need to protect and fight for the rights of all humans, not just those within our communities but those around the world. It means we understand

that the choices we make today affect us today and impact future generations. It means we care especially for the poor and vulnerable. It means we learn about how our daily habits can affect them and how the products we use or the food we eat can impact the struggling.

It is time to make choices in our own lives that help allow people worldwide to flourish and grow and not live in fear. What we choose to do today affects more than just ourselves; it has consequences that travel around the world.



Let’s do better, and let’s be better so that those consequences bring life and hope for the future.

Captain Sandra Pawar is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in New South Wales.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

One man, his daughters and his dog

Housing program reunites a family

WORDS DON MCCRAE

I met Chris around 12 years ago when he was in his 30s. I was working at a centre for homeless men in Hobart, running a program for men coming out of prison. Chris had been living there after leaving prison for an accumulation of minor offences. He had two children from a long-term relationship, but they had been placed into state care at an early age because their mother was also in prison, serving a long sentence for a significant crime.

Soon after this, I began working for the Salvos as a team leader and stayed in touch with Chris.

He spent years couch-surfing and, when he eventually found a property, he would take in

people experiencing homelessness. Problems would arise and the tenancies would invariably end, which left Chris back on the streets.

About five years ago, Chris met the love of his life – a puppy he rescued from the pound and called Mutley. This puppy grew into a rambunctious beast that was big enough to put a saddle on! If you have ever tried to apply for a rental with such a beast in tow, you would appreciate that this is not always what real estate agents are looking for, so Chris could not secure a property.

Many community housing properties for single men are one-bedroom units, so it was





unlikely that Chris would ever be successful in finding a place appropriate for a large dog.

Chris slept in a tent for months at a time. He said Mutley was his only companion and once saved his life after someone threatened him with a machete. The pair managed to couch-surf until Chris eventually purchased a car for them to sleep in. He would frequently be asked to move on from where he chose to park and was invariably caught driving without a licence. After his fourth charge, he was sent to jail.

When I saw Chris in jail two years ago, he told me that Mutley was being looked after by a friend. When Chris was released, his friend allowed him to couch-surf. This provided a period of stability for the short term, and Chris worked with Child Safety Services to gain access to his children. Over the next two years, Chris worked to have access visits with his children to a point where they started staying overnight and for weekends.

Even though Chris didn't have his own house, things were beginning to look up. Recently, Chris came to me and said that he couldn't stay with his friend anymore and was being forced to move out. He was expecting his daughters to move in on the weekend and, with the change in circumstances, the dream of having

his children come to live with him was snatched away in an instant. Chris was distraught.

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It's moments like these that bring the real rewards ...

”

In my role, I was able to assist Chris, and within two days the Salvos helped secure accommodation for his family, including Mutley.

I find it hard to remember a time when someone was so amazed that, in the face of adversity, the Salvos came through. This is what we do, and it's moments like these that bring the real rewards for our work.

Don McCrae is team leader, Salvation Army Supported Housing, Street to Home, Tasmania.



Scan here for more on homelessness.

Butternut squash soup with garlic bread



Ingredients

1 large butternut squash, salt, pepper, olive oil, 2 carrots, 1 onion, 3 tsp chopped ginger, 600ml vegetable stock, 2 small loaves of ciabatta, bunch of parsley, 2 tsp chopped garlic.

Method

Peel and cut squash into cubes. Place on a baking tray and season with black pepper, salt and a drizzle of olive oil. Season all sides and whack tray into a moderate oven (180°C) for 50 minutes.

Finely dice carrots and onion. Sauté in a frying pan with large drizzle of olive oil for 10 minutes. Add chopped ginger and stir.

Add squash to pan and combine. Pour in vegetable stock and pepper. Simmer for 15 minutes. Blitz the soup with a stick blender until silky smooth.

Slice ciabatta and place on a baking tray. Finely chop a handful of parsley, leaving a third for later. Mix 3 tbsp of olive oil, chopped garlic, two thirds of the parsley, salt and pepper. Mix and spread over ciabatta. Bake for 20 minutes.

Serve soup with a drizzle of olive oil, a pinch of parsley, black pepper and garlic bread. Enjoy!

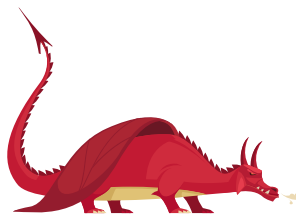
Funny things kids say



It was fun being famous on my birthday.



I did not mean to do that face out loud.



I will love you until dragons are real.

Bible byte

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

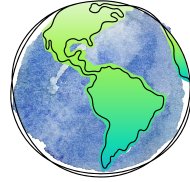
Psalm 19, verse 1
New International Version

Wordsearch

Y S R R A M F F R G L R S M D
 T M H R M R O A L I E P O P R
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| ENVIRONMENT | RECREATE |
| FARMLANDS | RESTORE |
| FORESTS | RIVERS |
| GLOBAL | SOIL |
| HEALING | WASTEWATER |
| HEALTHY | WETLANDS |

Quick quiz



1. When is World Environment Day?
2. What is the focus of the day?
3. How many hectares of forest around the world are lost each year?
4. What percentage of the world's wastewater is discharged into oceans and rivers without treatment?
5. One recycled plastic drink bottle can power a computer for how long?

Tum-Tum



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

Answers: 1. Saturday 5 June 2. Ecosystem restoration 3. 4.7 million 4. Nearly 80 per cent 5. 25 minutes.
Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the iceberg on page 2.

Did you know?

- Lobsters have clear blood.
- The human head contains 22 bones.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.



"I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE HOMELESS."

That's the unimaginable reality Megan* and countless other Aussies are living right now. Couch surfing, living in cars, staying in refuges and sleeping rough – these hidden faces of homelessness are often not represented in official statistics and for every person experiencing homelessness you can see, there are 13 more you can't.

Your help today can transform the life of someone facing extreme hardship.



Donate today

Visit salvationarmy.org.au/megan2021
or scan the QR code



**RED
SHIELD
APPEAL**
LEAVE NO
ONE IN NEED

**Name changed for privacy*