

**REVIEW**

*Never, Rarely,  
Sometimes,  
Always*

**FAITH TALK**

Relationships  
post-pandemic

**MY STORY**

Grateful dad  
gives back

# TikTok and other internet time bombs

Building a firm 'heart' foundation  
to safeguard our kids



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE

Vol. 001 | No. 17  
14 November 2020  
AUD \$1.00  
[salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)



Right now you are tired.  
Rest assured, God is not.

TobyMac

Music producer, songwriter, author





## 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

**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** Simone Worthing

**Designer** Ryan Harrison

**Cover photo** Ljubaphoto on iStock

**Editorial ph.** (03) 8541 4562

**Enquiry email** salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au

**All other Salvation Army enquiries** 13 72 58

**Press date** 2 November 2020

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by  
Commissioner Robert Donaldson at Focus Print Group,  
Rowville, Victoria

**Some photos in this magazine were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

 [salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)



## Keeping our kids safe online

Online safety for our children and young people is a critical issue in our world today. In this edition, Mark Hadley tackles this topic through a personal example from within his own family. He gives some tips on internet safety, emphasising that the key is not guarding young people at every point but growing them as individuals.

In 'Faith talk', Major Barry Casey talks about how the COVID-19 pandemic, with its emphasis on social distancing, is changing the way we interact physically with others. He focuses on our need, as humans, for connection and closeness, and the vital role trust plays in helping us build the relationships we were created to enjoy.

In 'My story', two men from Brisbane who volunteer together in the lead-up to Christmas share why they chose to 'give back' to the Salvos through the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal and the difference they see their work making in the lives of others.

We hope you find a message of practical help, hope and encouragement in this edition!

Simone Worthing  
**Assistant Editor**

# TikTok and other internet time bombs

Building a firm 'heart' foundation to safeguard our kids

WORDS MARK HADLEY

It was simultaneously the most surprising and alarming email I had ever received from my son's school. I was used to bland updates on bands and sporting teams. I wasn't prepared for the principal to write this: "Please, do not under any circumstances allow your children to go online this afternoon."

It was 14 September and a disastrous day for the relatively new social platform, TikTok. It typically serves its audience micro-videos of a few seconds in duration, showing contributors doing anything from enjoying fast food to doing crazy dance moves.

However, on 14 September, its recipe for success went badly wrong. The graphic suicide of a US veteran that had appeared as a live-stream on Facebook on 31 August migrated in a number of shorter forms to the platform's streaming service.

TikTok's model is to serve a quick succession of videos based on your search results, viewing history, past likes and, above all, popularity. Consequently, there doesn't have to be any logical connection between the cute kitten video you're watching with what comes next, beyond the assertion you'll keep watching because everyone else did. And what everyone else was watching on that day were climactic fragments of a man killing himself with a handgun. The result was exponential. Jennifer Dudley, News Corp's national technology editor, says most

users were exposed to that explicit content completely by 'accident': "We've had a lot of reports of people seeing this video without actually searching for it. It's just been recommended to them because the interactions on it are quite high."

Hence the unprecedented warning from my son's school principal. Yet, in one respect, TikTok's unintentional assault on our children's eyes was a predictable result of the way social media now operates.

“

How do you keep your family safe in this interconnected world?

”

TikTok's formula for success is like that employed by other social giants like Facebook, Instagram and YouTube – a constantly tuned algorithm that aims to make its site so 'sticky' you never want to leave. Machine learning that weighs a user's basic differentials (including age, sex, location) against their internet viewing history, their social groups, the products they show interest in ... crafts a personal combination of content that is high on irresistible.



PHOTO BY ANNIE SPRATT ON UNSPLASH

The Global Web Index reported that 2020 teens spend an average of nine hours a day online, with children aged 8-12 spending an average of six hours daily. In the Asian market in which Australia falls, the total usage of social media is two hours and 16 minutes daily. Tristan Harris, Google's former Design Ethicist, says artificial intelligence has delivered internet services a staggering advantage in the war for our attention: "On the opposite side of the screen there are these thousands of engineers and super computers that have goals that are different than your goals – so who's going to win?"

## PORNOGRAPHY

The ultimate goal is to deliver increasing audiences to advertisers or gain sign-ups for premium services, and the stickiest

property of all is pornography. The online pornographic industry employs the same types of machine-learning techniques as social media, and accounts for more visitors each month than Amazon, Netflix and Twitter combined. If the best brains in the world are working to keep you addicted, then, as problematic as social media has become, this is an industry parents want to be far more concerned about. Let me illustrate with a personal dilemma:

I am the father of three sons. One came to me recently to share that he was struggling with pornography. My first response was to praise him for sharing his struggle with me; my second was to strategise. Together, we took stock of every internet gateway in the house that might tempt him. We installed content filters; we installed accountability ►



PHOTO BY NEONBRAND ON UNSPLASH

software. We did everything we could to make them safe – and that’s when my problems really began.

It soon became clear that although I could lock down the more obvious portals like computers, smart phones and tablets, there were many others I could not. The software we were relying on was not backward compatible, so older phones, tablets and computers could not be secured. Furthermore, there was no way to patch the browser on his PS4. Nor could we lock down the browsers on our smart TVs, or Blu-ray players and digital recorders. And the expanding ‘internet of things’ means that those portals to pornography are only going to increase.

TikTok may have hosted the latest explosion online, but the internet is full of ticking time bombs where child safety is concerned. How do you keep your family safe in this

interconnected world? How do you save children from social manipulation or the addictive qualities of internet pornography? Technology might supply the problem, but it is unlikely to supply the solution. There is a way, though, and unless you have been indulging in some serious helicopter parenting, you’ve probably been using it already.

“

**The first steps to child protection on the internet begin off the internet.**

”

You keep your children safe online the same way you ensure they are safe walking to school. Think it through with me:

1. You talk to them about what they are going to do, underlining the responsibility involved.
2. You highlight the problems they're likely to encounter and rehearse the solutions they need to apply.
3. You ask them to limit themselves to safe places and build in check-in points, so you know where they are.
4. You do it with them enough times so that you're satisfied that they can do it on their own.

Each of those steps can be equally applied to training a child to safely use the internet, as they can to seeing them safely to school. The emphasis in each case is not guarding them at every point but growing them as individuals. You don't stop them going online any more than you stop them growing up. Instead, you seek to develop a heart that is prepared to meet the challenges they're likely to face. This is the most powerful defence of all, and the point where the Bible comes into play.

Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier is credited with saying, "Give me the children until they are seven and anyone may have them afterwards." His assertion was simple: the heart trains the hands. If children learn the right way, then they can apply it in any context later. We need only fear for those who haven't been given a firm heart foundation. Xavier's wisdom is just an extension of that which Jesus taught his followers in Luke chapter six, verse 45: "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart."

If only a good heart promises good actions,

then it behoves us as parents to concentrate on training a child's heart before we train his mouse. The problem is that no purely moral system has ever managed to redeem a heart. Even the Bible acknowledges that laws only provide the opportunity for us to break them (Romans chapter 7, verse 8).

“

**The emphasis ... is not guarding them at every point but growing them as individuals.**

”

What we need then is someone who remakes rather than trains hearts, and this is a job description only God can fulfil. So, I find this truth at work: if I want to make my child safe online, the first thing I need to do is make them safe with God. It follows that regularly leading our children to the Bible, so that they might meet God and be worked on by his grace, is far more effective than any software solution.

The first steps to child protection on the internet begin off the internet. We cannot trust our children to technological solutions alone. We have to remind ourselves that parenting involves us preparing their hearts. The only thing that will make them safe from the world outside is God transforming them on the inside.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always

Helping the helpless, regardless of the opinions they hold

WORDS MARK HADLEY

No one will be happy about the way their ‘team’ is represented in this film, and maybe that is exactly what is needed in a film about abortion. *Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always* is as uncomfortable to watch as the truths it presents, and both the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life camps can expect to come away with bruises.

The film tells the story of Autumn, played by Sidney Flanigan, an angry 17-year-old competing in a high school talent quest. Her song lyrics include: “He makes me do things I don’t want to do. He’s got the power of love over me.” – and we’re led to believe that whoever ‘he’ is, he has something to do with Autumn’s swelling belly.

After visiting the women’s clinic in her small town, Autumn comes to the realisation that her moods and nausea might not be the result of her period – rather, the lack of it. She learns she is 10 weeks pregnant. This is not the happiest news and Autumn begins scouring the internet for abortion services and even self-induced methods. Abortion is not legal in Pennsylvania, yet Autumn knows she is not ready for a child. When Autumn confides in her cousin Skylar (Talia Ryder), the two set off on a bus to New York in the hope of finding a medical solution.

*Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always* is definitely a woman’s story in equal parts sad, fearful and harrowing. Autumn and Skylar have many reasons to be suspicious of men, from the manager at their supermarket jobs to



Autumn’s own stepfather. Even the assistance of the fresh-faced teen they meet in New York comes at a price – a prolonged kiss and a play to his vanity for the cash they need. Yet the forces that do Autumn the most harm are both side of the abortion debate.

The women’s clinic is run by motherly figures who want to do everything they can to assist Autumn. They diagnose her condition and organise. As Autumn lays on the examination table, the nurse shows her a screen. “This is



your beautiful baby," she says. "And this is the most magical sound you will ever hear." It is the rapid thud of a heartbeat. Autumn turns away, tears in her eyes.

However, when the young girl appears to be 'abortion minded', the motherly receptionist shows her a video that contains the 'violent truth' of the 'murder' perpetrated in the name of terminating a pregnancy.

So much for the Pro-Life camp. When Autumn arrives in Brooklyn, she meets the champions of Pro-Choice.

“

**Autumn and many like her need not just our assistance but our empathy, regardless of which side of the debate we hail from.**

”

The staff of the abortion clinic are similarly caring, though closer to Autumn in age. They offer to meet her practical needs, like having nowhere to sleep in New York. They also establish that Autumn has been ineptly diagnosed and is actually much closer to 16 weeks. They are clearly much more aware, too, of the emotional struggle Autumn is going through. However, their language is so clinical at times and so bound by legal restrictions that it causes its own kind of pain.

This is Autumn's trial, and a powerful one at that. It is certain to leave you wishing you could physically enter the film and offer assistance. It is also just as certainly Autumn's tale.

So, we should not be surprised to see that one voice is conspicuously absent.

*Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always* has nothing to say from the foetus' perspective except for that heartbeat. Even as our sympathy rightly grows for Autumn, it is clear there is another whose needs are being silenced. It reminded me strongly of God's role in this sad, gritty drama. The God of the universe, the Bible assures us, is the protector of the defenceless: "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling" (Psalm chapter 68, verse 5).

This certainly includes Autumn, who has been taken advantage of and spends the film in a tug of war for her soul. As the film finishes, we're left convinced the only thing she feels positively about is freedom from her situation. Yet God's eyes must also be resting on her swollen belly. The verse above makes it clear God will not fail to hold those accountable who abuse the weak. Consequently, we should not fail to help the helpless, regardless of whether or not they hold our opinion. To do so would be to invite God's judgement.

As far as *Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always* is concerned, it seems we're meant to speak out for struggling women like Autumn. She and many like her need not just our assistance but our empathy, regardless of which side of the debate we hail from. However, the only voice the foetus has in this tragedy is a heartbeat. Maybe that's something worth thinking on too.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Developing close relationships in a post-COVID world

The vital role of trust

**WORDS** BARRY CASEY

I have a feeling that the term 'social distancing' is here to stay. I cannot recall ever using that phrase before, but it rolls off my tongue so easily now and seems to not only be embedded into our everyday language, but our culture as well.

“

**We have all had to adjust the way we interact with others in every aspect of daily life.**

”

We have all had to adjust the way we interact with others in every aspect of daily life. Not being able to touch or hug or even shake another person's hand has become the 'norm' in our daily interactions. Keeping people at a distance seems so counter-cultural to who we, as Australians, are and is already having a negative impact on people's emotional well-being. We are made to live in relationship.

Closeness and connection are what most people long for, and need, to cultivate and develop any ongoing, meaningful relationship

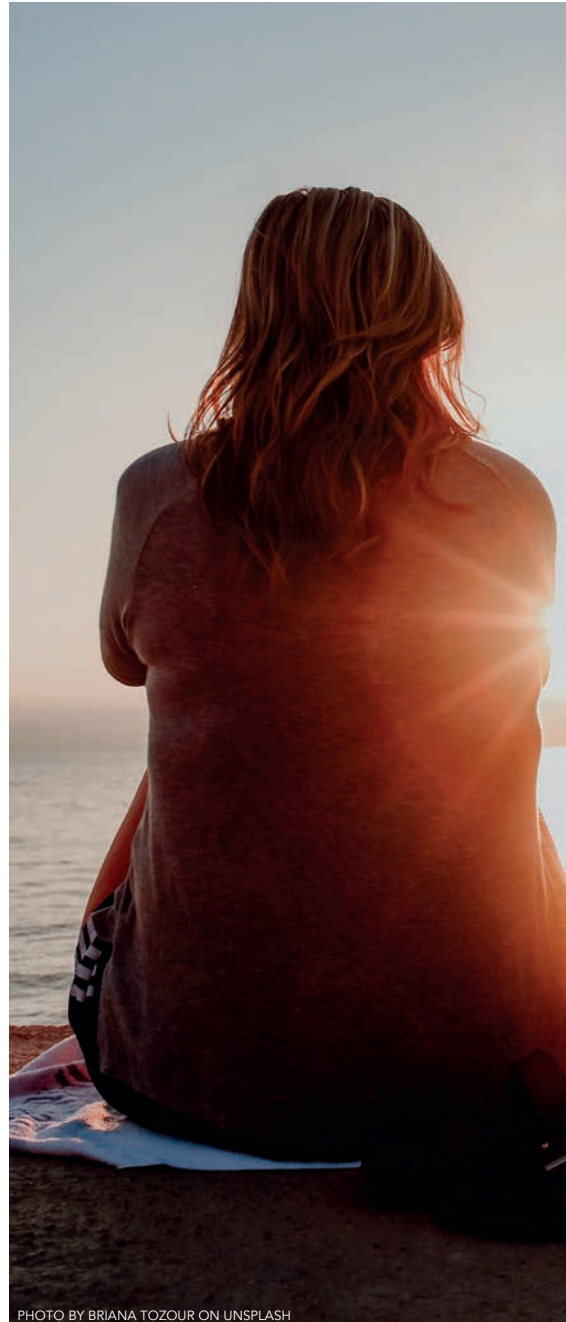


PHOTO BY BRIANA TOZOUR ON UNSPLASH



with others. The question many are asking right now is: “How can we re-engage with others and develop intimate relationships in a post-COVID world, where touch is so important?”

True closeness – or intimacy – is so much more than being able to just reach out and physically touch someone. Intimacy is centred in ‘really’ knowing, and feeling deeply known by, another person to the point where we trust them in every aspect of our lives. The more we trust someone, the closer we let them get to us.

“

**The more we trust someone,  
the closer we let them get to us.**

”

Intimacy brings a deep sense of purpose and meaning to our lives and relationships.

In John 15, Jesus invites us all into relationship with him – and not just a superficial relationship, but one founded and built on trust, acceptance, honesty and safety. His invitation to us is this: “If you want closeness and connection, a life full of purpose and meaning; if you want your life to count, then here is how you can get it – stay connected to me. ‘Your life will be fruitless UNLESS your life is INTIMATELY joined to mine’” (John chapter 15, verse 4). What an invitation!

*Major Barry Casey is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) currently operating from Adelaide.*



Scan here for more  
on finding meaning.

# Grateful dad gives back in the lead-up to Christmas

Toy run gives Justin a chance to say thanks

WORDS RUTH CARR

As a suddenly single father, with sole custody of three boys under 11, Justin Brown never thought he'd have to rely on charity.

"I'd been a manager on a good salary, but my youngest boy was only two years old, so I had to give up my job. Suddenly I was on welfare. It was very, very hard. It was struggle street really."

With no other way to provide gifts for his sons, or celebrate Christmas in any way, Justin turned to his local Salvos. "I went up to (The Salvation Army) Holland Park (Brisbane) welfare centre and a lady by the name of Eunice was running it. She offered to help me out with Christmas presents. They gave Beau his first bike, which was one of the best things that could have happened for him. I would never have been able to afford a bike."

As well, Justin and his boys were invited to share in a Christmas luncheon at the Brisbane Convention Centre. Again, a wonderful gift he would not have otherwise been able to afford. "It was just great," says Justin.

But reaching out for help weighed heavily on Justin, and he says he felt "very guilty". As a way of countering his conflicted feelings, he asked Eunice if there was any way he could give back. "They always need people. So, she said, 'Well, we would like a hand when the presents come in, in the bags; we have to sort them and then hand them out

to families.' So, that's how I started to get involved. That was eight years ago."

Now back working full-time, Justin takes up to two weeks of his annual leave to volunteer during the busy Christmas period. "I wanted to keep helping. And, it's made me a better person for doing it."

## FRIENDSHIP FORGED THROUGH GOODWILL

One volunteer Justin ran into when he was seeking help at Holland Park was Geoff Moore. "Geoff was a volunteer driver and he would bring the [donated] presents in," says Justin. "We got chatting one day and I said, 'Maybe next year I can give you a hand.'"

From there, a great sense of mateship grew.

Not one to mince words, Geoff says he doesn't volunteer for the Salvos for the "fuzzy feeling".

"I first rang in December 2006 when I retired. I said, 'I've got a ute, I've got time, but I haven't got any money. If I can be of help, let me know.' And it, sort of, started from there," he said. "I don't think about it. I just do it because I enjoy it. As well as the camaraderie [of] catching up with Justin and everyone in the warehouse."

Driving together every year, Justin and Geoff collect donations all over Brisbane,



Justin Brown (left) and Geoff Moore are volunteer drivers for The Salvation Army Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

from corporate companies to retail stores, such as numerous Kmart, which provide a steady supply of toys from under their Kmart Wishing Trees. “All the toys are brand new, there’s nothing second-hand,” says Geoff. “Sometimes we visit up to 10 Kmart in a day!”

“

**Receiving presents for their kids, there’s such joy on people’s faces. And I was in the same boat once; I know exactly how they felt.**

”

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting so many families in 2020, Justin and Geoff are

acutely aware of how not just the gifts, but their volunteering, assists. “People struggle at Christmas time, so many families struggle,” says Justin. “We [Geoff and I] like to help people and helping The Salvation Army is the best way of doing it.”

On Monday 19 October 2020, Kmart Australia officially launched the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal with founding charity partner, the Salvos, earlier than ever before to support the increased demand of Australians in need, following a challenging year.

*Ruth Carr is a national campaign manager for the Salvos.*



Scan here for more on working through financial stress.

## Spaghetti nests



### Ingredients

6 cups leftover spaghetti, 1 cup pasta sauce (or enough to coat, if not already in sauce), 2 eggs, 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese, 12 balls of fresh mozzarella cheese (or grated cheese), cooking spray, 12-hole muffin tin

### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Coat muffin tin with cooking spray. Set aside.

If leftover spaghetti is plain, coat in pasta sauce. Add lightly beaten eggs and parmesan cheese and mix well.

Divide spaghetti evenly into the 12 muffin holes, swirling slightly to create a 'nest'.

Place a ball of cheese on top of each nest.

Bake in oven for 12-15 minutes or until cheese is melted and the spaghetti is slightly browned on edges.

Serve warm or chill in fridge for later.

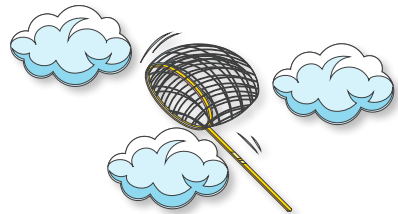
## Have a laugh



I broke my finger last week.  
On the other hand, I'm okay.



Someone stole my mood ring.  
I don't know how I feel about it.



I tried to catch fog yesterday.  
Mist.

## Bible byte

"God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble."

Psalm 46, verse 1

*New International Version of the Bible*

# Wordsearch

A C C B F G F P S B H E G N P  
 L B L Y A R N C Y A V N R O A  
 L A E E I R I I N F I K E I S  
 E C N D A N B D K N U N F T T  
 N T G O C N W E I O R Z H A E  
 O E M I I A L A C O O Y R N U  
 M R P A S T T I B U G C E I R  
 L I N H R R A D N I E R Z M I  
 A A I O E K O R E E N S E A S  
 S N N T X O E N A G S Y E T E  
 G B N E F Q E T B P A S R N D  
 T E M P E R A T U R E T F O D  
 R E T E M O M R E H T R S C Y  
 J D C O N S U M E R S N P A C  
 W A R I E G A R O T S E W U W

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| BACTERIA      | HYGIENE     |
| BARBECUES     | MARKET      |
| CLEANLINESS   | PASTEURISED |
| CONSUMERS     | PICNICS     |
| CONTAMINATION | PREPARATION |
| COOKING       | RAW         |
| ENTERTAINING  | SALMONELLA  |
| FOODBORNE     | STORAGE     |
| FREEZER       | TEMPERATURE |
| FRIDGE        | THERMOMETER |
| HANDWASHING   | WASTAGE     |

**Answers:** 1. Food Safety – it's in your hands. 2. 4.1 million. 3. 31,920 4. Clean, chill, cook, separate. 5. No. Bacteria don't wait five seconds to contaminate dropped food.  
**Tum-Tum:** is hiding in the Wishing Tree on the back cover.

# Quick quiz



PHOTO BY USMAN YOUSAF ON UNSPASH

1. What is the theme for Australian Food Safety Week 2020 (14-21 November)?
2. How many cases of food poisoning occur each year in Australia?
3. How many Australians are hospitalised annually from food poisoning?
4. What are the basic principles of food safety?
5. If you drop food on the floor, is it safe to eat if you pick it up within five seconds?

# Tum-Tum



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

# Did you know?

- You can hear a blue whale's heartbeat from three kilometres away.
- The average four year-old child asks over four hundred questions a day.
- Cheese is the most stolen food in the world.



# The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal

The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal, with founding charity partner, The Salvation Army, launched its annual appeal last month.

This year, the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal is needed earlier and more than ever before in its 33-year history. The collective impact of the Black Summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia has led to an exponential increase in the number of Australians experiencing hardship, with many people having to seek assistance for the first time.

The theme for this year's appeal – Big Heart, Small Gift – encourages Australians to give what they can, however big or small.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Here's how you can get involved in a few simple steps:

Choose a practical gift that will go beyond Christmas time and leave it under the Wishing Tree in-store at Kmart.

When shopping in-store at Kmart, click on the Wishing Tree logo on the self-serve checkout screen to add to a transaction or drop a gold coin into a collection box at the registers.

Donate online by scanning a Wishing Tree QR code that will be found in-store at Kmart.

For more information, or to donate, go to: [salvationarmy.org.au/christmas/kmart-wishing-tree-appeal/](https://salvationarmy.org.au/christmas/kmart-wishing-tree-appeal/)