FEATURE Breaking the cycle for youth at risk

FAITH TALK The journey to the cross

MY STORY Believing in the potential of young people

Have an ethical Easter

Making sustainable, fun, and personalised Easter treats



SALVOS MAGAZINE

Vol. 003 | No. 11 2 April 2022 AUD \$1.00 salvosmagazine.org.au Most young adults I know aren't looking for a religion that answers all of their questions, but rather a community of faith in which they feel safe to ask them.

Rachel Held Evans





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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My Story [12] A day in the life ...

Events that change lives

'It's up to YOU'th' is the theme for National Youth Week this year (4-14 April). The event invites young people to share their ideas, celebrate their talents, and have their voices heard on issues of concern to them.

This edition features stories on how the Salvos are working with young people – physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually – to equip them to work through their challenges, help change the lives of others, and have a strong voice in their communities.

As many people prepare for Easter later this month, buying Easter eggs, making crafts, and participating in different events are on the agenda. Alexis McKeand shares tips on buying Fairtrade and ethically produced Easter eggs and chocolates, as well as cheap, fun, and sustainable ideas for baskets, bonnets, and beyond.

Easter is about Jesus. It's about his life, death, and resurrection, and what that means to us and to the world. In a two-part series in Faith Talk, Amanda Hart reflects on the week before Jesus died – what he did, how he felt, and how that radically changes our lives today.

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

Simone Worthing Assistant Editor



salvosmagazine.org.au

FEATURE

Have an ethical Easter

Making sustainable, fun, and personalised Easter treats

words Alexis McKeand

Another year is speeding by – my youngest is almost one, and my local supermarket has had Easter eggs and hot cross buns since 11:59pm on Christmas Eve (or so it seems). While I actively try to rally against the early purchase of Easter products, I do have to admit there have been a few marshmallow eggs and mini crème eggs that have snuck into my trolley from their strategically placed checkout lane shelves.

Last year (20 March 2021 edition), *Salvos Magazine* brought you an article on how to have an ethical Easter and all the great Fairtrade* products available to satisfy those chocolate needs at this time of the year. Splitting them into four categories, we brought you our favourites. Our quick summary for this year is on our back cover.

Chocolate is great, and hopefully with the help of our list you will be well on your way to a guilt-free Easter experience (or at least ethically guilt-free. I can't promise they will do anything for your diet!).

But what about a sustainable Easter? Is it even possible to get through the long weekend without a plethora of disposable products like tiny plastic chickens, the baskets I seem to lose every year and therefore need to buy more of, or the inevitable foil-wrapped eggs that get lost in the garden when you forget where you hid them all?

Being the selfless team we are, we have put ourselves and our kids back into the testing lab to come up with a few ideas on just how to up your Easter game and wow loved ones of all ages without cutting back on the fun.

EASTER BASKETS

If you are blessed with the talent of sewing, you could use old or thrifted material to sew small bags for people to hunt with: Two rectangles of material stitched together on three sides with a ribbon for the handles would work brilliantly. Or, if you have paper lying around, you could fold a box using one of many Origami techniques you can find online and let everyone decorate them themselves.

EASTER EGG HUNTS

Have you ever seen those little plastic eggs in the craft or two-dollar shops that you can pop open and fill yourself? Yes, they are plastic, but if you reuse them every year then that is okay, we promise! The perfect egg-hunting idea is to pick up a couple of packs of the eggs and fill them with things. They often come in different colours, so you can Seven assign a colour to each person and personalise the contents with anything small. This could include Fairtrade eggs, jellybeans, toy cars, stickers, stamps or hair clips. Not only will you not have tiny eggs melting in your garden quite as much, but your hunters will love the variety and individualisation you have so effortlessly put together.

EASTER BONNETS

This is still a thing in many primary schools and childcare centres across the nation. Whether you recycle an old hat you already have or get one from an op shop, you will often have things around the house to make something worthy of a parade. Maybe you could use leaves to create a nest shape; an old egg carton cut up to look like a caterpillar or even just give the hat itself some bunny ears from recycled cardboard.

GIFT HAMPERS

Why not grab a second-hand basket or nice box and fill it with all the things someone needs to make their own Easter eggs? You can get a block of Fairtrade chocolate or melts, a silicone egg or shaped mould (available at places like Spotlight), and little paper bags of sprinkles, Iollies, and marshmallows. Or what about a recipe card and all the ingredients for them to make their own hot cross buns?

A do-it-yourself gift can be easy to put together but looks effective and lets people know they are worth the extra effort and thought.



DECORATIONS

How about using all those colourful cardboard boxes and spare paper around the house to cut out egg shapes and turn them into bunting? Perhaps make potato stamps (you know, when you cut shapes into a potato cut in half) and let the kids stamp brown paper to make your own wrapping paper. Or even hunt in your local op shop for bunny statues and decorations. You never know, you might just find your next family heirloom in someone else's donated goods.

SHOP LOCAL

If creating isn't your thing but you still want to be more sustainable, why not check out a farmers or craft market? You can usually find a range of goods from small businesses that often have personally made each item. Shop local, support small businesses, and find those great gifts your family and friends will love.

So, whether you are a chocolate partaker, a parent searching for the compulsory egg-hunt items, or just a generous loved one wanting to give the perfect gift – we hope that this year making your Easter an ethical and sustainable one will be a simple choice!

Hoppy Easter every-bunny!

Captain Alexis McKeand is a Policy and Social Justice Adviser for The Salvation Army Australia.

* See back cover



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Breaking the cycle for youth at risk

New program empowers and equips youth to turn their lives around

As National Youth Week approaches (4-14 April), **Hilary Tobias**, a Salvos case manager for Youth Services in West Metro Melbourne, talks about the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) there and the impact it's having on youth aged 16 to 25, with a lived experience of homelessness or youth services.

Hilary also shares part of her interview with Luis Montero, a young man who experienced homelessness and is now working with other young people facing similar challenges through the YEP.

"The YEP began in 2021 from a desire to have young people more involved in the West Metro services and to give them an opportunity to choose how the team supports them," says Hilary. "It was also to enable young people to advocate for themselves through the service and the broader community, which gives them a chance to feel heard and respected, as well as a sense of belonging.

"Our motto would be that we're working with young people, not for young people. Early intervention is everything. It's critical to stop these cycles from occurring."

LUIS

Hilary Tobias: Can you give us an overview of your early years?

Luis: There was a lot of fighting at home as well as mental health issues throughout our family and a bit of pharmaceutical drug abuse. I was around 15 or 16 when I started to think about leaving because I just couldn't handle it anymore. I was working before I left and managed to buy myself a shed, which I built in Dad's backyard. I started living in the shed.

Sadly, Mum passed away when I was 17. Her passing really affected my family – my dad and two sisters. We were already fighting before, but now fights with Dad would get physical. He told me I had to be the man of the house, and I couldn't handle it ... so I left. I would camp in different spots in the city and walk around until the early hours ... it was scary, and I was scared. HT: How did you meet the Salvos?

Luis: I was homeless at the time, and I wanted to go back into my education. Someone from Melbourne City Mission referred me to Hester Hornbrook Academy, and I went to school there for about one year. A worker there linked me in with the Salvos for transitional housing, and I was able to go from a tiny room into a lovely share house. I was ecstatic because I have a young son [Andre], and now he can just run and roam free. We play, we plant potatoes, do art, and have a little basketball hoop ... it has given me the opportunity to give Andre a life that is good.

I volunteered for a year with the YEP, and now I am employed there. I run a life skills session for young parents, because I am a young parent myself. I teach them how to cook a meal. I'll do a presentation while the



food is cooking. We'll do a quiz and then eat, talk, and get to know one another.

The general goal is just to help other young people. The world is a tough place, and sometimes you just need to cook some food and have a laugh.

HT: What are some of the greatest needs you see for youth and young adults?

Luis: Obviously, I have my experience being homeless, and that's something that I'm quite passionate about. I feel that there's a lot of things that could be changed there and how people are treated with it.

There are so many different, important things that young people are going through these days. And this is why I want more people to join us. I might be passionate about homelessness, but there's another person out there that's passionate about something else, so then, "Hey, let's talk about it. Let's figure it out."

HT: What is your hope for younger generations for the future?

Luis: I hope people will get a bit closer to each other or just understand their neighbour. Sometimes you don't need a screen or a text message. Sometimes you need a real person there, so I hope everybody becomes more empathetic and understands that not everyone is lucky enough to have food and a roof over their head.

HT: What's one thing you want people to know about the YEP and the Salvos?

Luis: The Salvos are welcoming to everybody and anybody. The YEP is the same. The Salvation Army wants more and different people because it's trying to understand what's going on.

For the full version of this story, go to **others.org.au/features**



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Services.

The Shed gives youth a place to belong

Eighteen months ago, the youth space at Kalgoorlie-Boulder Salvos, better known as 'The Shed', was a vast, empty warehouse on the church site. But youth leader Cameron Mallory saw its potential to be converted into a hub for young people across the Western Australia Goldfields community.



He started fitting out the shed, including a lounge, PlayStation, library, puzzle and games area, and more. A 12-month pilot program kicked off in October 2020 in collaboration with other churches and youth agencies and managed by the Salvos.

"What we do at The Shed varies from week to week; there is literally something for everybody," shares Cameron. We found that when young people feel ownership of a space, they have more of a sense of belonging. And it's huge in the Salvos that we make sure young people know they belong, that they are loved and cherished."

Every Saturday from 3pm to 9pm, Cameron and a team of mentors open The Shed to young people. Some gravitate towards the gaming area, others prefer the quiet of the library or puzzle table, and some play basketball on the AstroTurf outside. A few teens will access the craft cupboard and create art for the walls. The teens all come together for a chat and a meal at dinner time.

Since The Shed opened, Cameron and his team have seen substantial personal growth in the teens. One example is Peter*, who Cameron says was almost forced by his parents to come along due to being so reclusive at home. Yet, after some time at The Shed, he opened up and is now empowering other teens to socialise.

"For the first hour and a half, Peter was tucked away in the corner [of The Shed] and didn't socialise. We persisted and invited him to come and shoot air hockey. We tried different activities until we found something he wanted to do. Now he is there every single week," says Cameron.



Pizza was on the menu at a recent gathering at The Shed.

"When we had our Summer Party, we paired him with another person, and he went out of his way to make that person's day. [This work] is not just transforming his life; it's him transforming the lives of others! It's more than empowering young people to belong; it's enabling them to bravely develop skill sets and build relationships." – Jessica Morris

Support grows for Ukrainian refugees

Salvation Army workers in Eastern European countries have been helping displaced Ukrainians as they flee the Russian invasion.

In Ukraine, teams of volunteers have been providing hot meals at train stations and giving chocolates to children. They have



also been delivering food parcels to those who cannot leave their homes. In Lviv, the Salvos have shared contact details on social media for displaced people to get in touch and receive essential items. In Vinnytsia, they transformed their building to accommodate internally displaced people.

In Romania, the emergency response team has been helping with documentation, family reunifications, emergency relief, and antihuman-trafficking information.

In Moldova, the Salvos have been finding accommodation for the increasing number of refugees coming into the country. They also sent urgently needed medical items across the border, where a team from Ukraine transported the supplies to a children's intensive care unit in Odessa. In Bulgaria, the Salvos are providing food and personal items to refugees.

To donate and help provide immediate and long-term humanitarian aid for those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine, go through The Salvation Army World Service

Salvos providing ongoing flood relief

The Salvos continue to help people impacted by last month's devastating floods in NSW and Queensland.

At the time of publication (21 March), Salvation Army Emergency Services teams remained active in 27 recovery hubs across the two states. These hubs are operated by multiple agencies and are a one-stop-shop for information, referrals, and personal support and guidance with accessing financial assistance. The Salvos served about 42,000 meals in over 20 evacuation centres in the first two weeks of the floods. Volunteers at these centres have worked more than 7200 hours.

The Salvation Army has distributed \$1,325,288 in financial assistance and in-kind support to 7014 households since the start of the floods.

For more information, to apply for financial assistance, or to donate to the flood appeal, go to *salvos.org.au*

The journey to the cross

Reflections on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

In this first of a two-part Easter series, Salvos officer (pastor) Amanda Hart shares her thoughts on the events in the week leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus (often known as Holy Week). Amanda begins her reflections just after Palm Sunday – when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and is met by worshipping crowds.

JESUS NOTICES

Once the buzz of Palm Sunday was over, Jesus' week seemed typical. He spent a lot of time hanging out and teaching at the temple. A lot. He knew what was coming, so I assume he was trying to impart every last piece of wisdom he could in the time he had left.

He also had dealings with the religious leaders of the day, who were trying to test him and catch him out so they could have him arrested, but he handled that with his usual flare. A fairly standard week really.

But, in the middle of all of this, Jesus took some time to partake in one of my favourite activities – people watching. He observed the wealthy making a big song and dance about their financial offerings – giving amounts that probably wouldn't even make a dent in their pockets.

In the middle of this spectacle, he noticed a sweet little lady who, in my mind anyway, sneaked through the crowd to make her sacrificial offering unnoticed. Jesus noticed her and praised her. It didn't matter how heavy this week was for Jesus. He never stopped noticing those who were otherwise forgotten.

And he never stops noticing you either. How often do we take time to notice the forgotten? Luke chapter 2, verses 1-4.

DOWNTIME

Have you ever considered that Jesus went off by himself for some alone time? To me, the verse from **Mark chapter 11**, **verse 11**, suggests that he was once again looking for some downtime at the beginning of this week.

Jerusalem would've been packed with people who had come from all over to celebrate the Passover festival. It doesn't take much for my introverted mind to think that Jesus heading off to the nearby town of Bethany with his 12 disciples (followers) was intentional. Bethany was where his close friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived – approximately 2.5km from Jerusalem. Far enough to spend some quality, uninterrupted time with his dearest friends, close enough to get back to Jerusalem when he needed to.



I have a feeling Jesus knew it was exactly what he needed to face the week ahead. Mark chapter 11, verse 11.

REST AND BETRAYAL

It seems that Wednesday may have been a rest day for Jesus – a day for him to be cared for by others instead of the other way around for once.

But while this was happening, Judas, one of his disciples, was hard at work betraying Jesus to those who wanted him silenced – the religious leaders of the day.

Even though Judas went to the chief priests, it seems to me that he was trying to avoid any responsibility for his actions by putting the ball in their court. He asked them, "How much are you willing to pay me?" He didn't want to be responsible for the life and death decision, he wanted someone else to decide for him.

Once the deal was made, Judas looked for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them. Now, the responsibility lay in the circumstances where this was possible. Judas couldn't even take the responsibility to create the opportunity himself. Surely, if he didn't actually make the decision and create the opportunity, he couldn't be held responsible for what happened, right?

But, as Jesus and the disciples were gathered for the Passover meal, Jesus called Judas out. He pushed him to take responsibility for his own words and actions.

Like Judas, how often do we try to avoid taking responsibility for our actions? What is it that Jesus is calling you to own up to today? Matthew chapter 26, verses 14-16.

To be continued in the next edition (9 April).

Captain Amanda Hart is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

A day in the life of ...

Believing in the potential of young people

Over the coming months, Salvos Magazine will feature different people from all walks of life who are part of the varied work of the Salvos across the country. In this edition, to coincide with National Youth Week (4-14 April), we feature Olive Mereyato, Service Manager, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Youth Crisis Accommodation, in Western Australia.

Salvos Magazine: Can you give us an overview of your job?

Olive Mereyato: Before we get to the 'what', let's talk about the 'where'.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is located on Wongatha Country, approximately 600km inland from Perth and four hours from the closest beach. We are a predominately gold-mining town in the middle of the desert, surrounded by red dirt and Hi-Vis workwear as far as the eye can see!

In the Gold Capital of Australia, I lead a team of awesome youth workers in providing short-term and crisis accommodation and support to young people aged 15-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Part of my role is to establish and maintain key relationships within the community services sector of the region to increase the wraparound support of the young people we serve.

The other part is to manage the day-to-day running of the service.

SM: What's the first thing you do when you arrive at work (even if that's at home!)?

OM: The first thing I do (either in the morning, the afternoon or the weekend) in our 24/7 service is get a comprehensive handover from my staff member onsite. This gives me insight into where our young people are sitting physically and emotionally and will impact how I approach the rest of the day.

SM: What can a typical day involve for you?

OM: There are not many 'typical days' when working with young people in crisis situations, but over a week, some regular tasks would include:

- Managing staff rosters and recruiting staff.
- Advocacy and liaison work with young people, including transport and support to apply for a birth certificate, Centrelink payments, driver's licence or complete other documents for housing, education, training or employment.
- Meeting with other services or agencies to increase beneficial partnerships that will improve positive outcomes for our young people.
- Managing enquiries, referrals to specialised services, intakes (when a young person presents for accommodation) and exits.
- Responding to emails and writing reports.

SM: What are some of the biggest challenges you face?

OM: Our current housing crisis is the most challenging part of my work. We have young people in our service who have worked to be able to manage in the community and maintain a home, but unfortunately, there is nowhere to go.

Second to that would be the broad range of reasons our young people present to us with. Unpacking trauma and the other reasons





Olive loves helping to run a house full of young people! young people at risk of homelessness face can be hugely challenging. It's definitely not a one-size-fits-all approach.

SM: What's the most rewarding?

OM: Seeing our young people achieve their goals and become positive and contributing members of the community is absolutely the most rewarding part! With that, we often get visits from our previously accommodated young people just checking in – and sometimes introducing new partners or babies – which is always nice. It tells us that we continue to be a safe space for the community when they come and see us voluntarily.

SM: How has COVID-19 affected your work?

OM: We have been largely uninterrupted in our work here in WA ... I do love that due to COVID-19, being regional no longer means we are missing out on essential training and networking opportunities as we moved so much online. The most positive thing to come from COVID-19 is that our young people no longer share bedrooms, which has led to a more peaceful home environment.

SM: What drives/motivates you to get up each day and go to work?

OM: I've always been drawn to working with young people, so to be able to provide that stability and care in a young person's life and lead a team of equally caring and supportive youth workers to provide that safe place drives me every day. Is it tough sometimes? You bet! Some days it feels like one step forward and two steps back, but seeing firsthand the difference we are making to young people in our community makes the tough days easier for sure.

SM: How do you see your work achieving the mission of the Salvos to transform lives?

OM: Everything we seek to accomplish is underpinned by The Salvation Army's vision and mission values. What I love about our Youth Services WA team is that these values are not forced; they are simply affirmed every day as we do the best we can to guide and support our young people.

We believe in them and their potential until such time as their own belief kicks in. Once that happens, there is no limit to what these young people can achieve!

We do our best to keep our local mission plan at the forefront of what we do, which comes easy when it speaks to caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities, and working for justice.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Homelessness Services.

Savoury capsicums



Ingredients

2 medium to large capsicums (ones that can sit on their base), 1 pkt pre-cooked rice, ¾ cup frozen peas and corn (thawed), 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese, salt and pepper to taste.

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C.
- Cut out the top of the capsicums and then scoop out the seeds. Sit the capsicums on a plate, cut side up, and microwave on 'high' for 4 to 5 minutes or until they have softened and wilted.
- Meanwhile, combine rice, peas, and corn and ²/₃ cup of the cheese in a bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- Scoop the rice mixture into microwaved capsicums and top with remaining cheese. Transfer to an oven dish and bake in oven for 10-15 minutes until heated through and cheese on top is melted and golden.





Dear God, I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying.



Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that OK?

Dear God I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can't do it.

signing in



Sudoku

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

	9			8		7		
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		8	5					3

Tum-Tum



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

Bible byte

How can young people keep their lives pure? By obeying your commands. Psalm 119, verse 9 Good News Translation

Ouiz answers: 1. Joan of Arc. 2. Mary Shelley. 3. Mozart 4. Victoria 5. Louis Braille. **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the sign on page 14.



Who were these famous teenagers?

- Who was a famous French warrior in her teens, also known as 'The Maid of Orleans'?
- 2. Who wrote *Frankenstein* at the age of 19?
- 3. Who wrote his first largescale opera, '*Mitridate, re di Ponto*' when he was 14?
- 4. Who became Queen of England when she was 18?
- 5. Who invented a system of writing for the blind when he was 15?

Tuesday 4 April is World Stray Animal Day. Feral cats threaten

the survival of more than 100 native species in Australia.

About 200,000 dogs are admitted to shelters and municipal facilities in Australia each year.

The number-one thing pet owners can do to prevent overpopulation is to spay or neuter their pets.

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CHEAP AND CHEERFUL

- Dairy Fine and Moser Roth Aldi
- Woolworths Select
- Cadbury Only a select few, so do your searching for the Fairtrade and related symbols (see box).

MID-RANGE

- Darrell Lea
- Lindt
- Chocolatier Foodworks and IGA
- Ferrero

*FAIRTRADE

GOURMET

These are available mostly online.

- Haigh's
- Poppy's Chocolate

ALLERGY AND DIETARY REQUIREMENT FRIENDLY

- Treat Dreams Vegan-friendly and online (this year's new flavour is apple crumble)
- Moo Free David Jones and independent supermarkets

Fairtrade is the process of buying and selling produce from developing countries. It allows and mandates that farmers earn what they deserve for their labour under suitable working conditions. This enables farmers to support their families. Children can go to school instead of working. People are treated justly and fairly, as is the environment.

SYMBOLS TO LOOK FOR

There are three main symbols that indicate that the 'chocolatey' treats you are buying are making a difference in the lives and communities of farmers and their communities in developing countries:



Fairtrade is about stable prices, decent working conditions and the empowerment of farmers and workers around the world.

16



The UTZ logo means the company supports sustainable farming by sourcing UTZ certified coffee, cocoa, tea or hazelnuts.



The Rainforest Alliance certification on a product means the product or company has been audited to meet standards that require environmental, social and economic stability.