

FEATURE

Restoring
the broken

FAITH TALK

The surprising
impacts of eating
together

NEWS

A heart for history
and hope

Be Brave. Make Change.

Responding to National Reconciliation Week

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 27 MAY – 3 JUNE



SALVOS

MAGAZINE

Vol. 003 | No. 19
28 May 2022
AUD \$1.00
salvosmagazine.org.au





*In the end, reconciliation is a
spiritual process, which requires
more than just a legal framework.*

*It has to happen in the hearts
and minds of people.*

Nelson Mandela



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

Graphic Designer Ryan Harrison

Cover: Terrence Whyte, Geomulaig man and Salvo, leads a youth mentoring program in Qld. See story page 8.

Editorial phone (03) 8541 4562

Enquiry email salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

Press date 16 May 2022

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



Feature [4]
Restoring the broken

Faith Talk [10]
Eating is earthly but feasting together is divine

My Story [12]
A heart for history and hope

A challenge for all

Australia is currently observing National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June). The theme this year is 'Be Brave. Make Change'.

This edition looks at the theme through the eyes of different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributors – how their history and culture propel them to work for reconciliation, social justice, equity and mutual understanding.

To reach these goals, as our writers explain, is a challenge for all Australians.

This challenge, as Sandra Pawar shares, can bring a personal cost – emotionally, financially, and spiritually. However, the beauty, healing, compassion and hope that reconciliation would bring is definitely worth the cost.

As Mary Yarran shares in My Story, Jesus is the best example of seeking reconciliation at great personal cost. "He didn't let things go by, and he didn't just go with the flow," she writes. "He stood up against injustice and evil, met people where they were at, and, more importantly, challenged the discriminating social and religious mindset and enforcers of the day."

This challenge indeed requires us to be brave and make change.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Restoring the broken

The cost of reconciliation is worth the beauty of a new way of living

WORDS Sandra Pawar

Emmanuel Katongole, Ugandan Catholic priest and Professor of Theology, says that “Reconciliation is God’s language for a broken world.” This, to me, is the best definition of what reconciliation is. It speaks to the broken relationships, systems and policies that cause division. It also speaks to the desire of God to mend and bring together all those broken things.

John Lewis, an American politician and civil rights activist, once said, “I believe we are all a spark of the divine, and if that spark is nurtured, it can become a burning flame, an eternal force of light.” That is what seekers of justice and reconciliation want to see happen – we want to spark a revolution of justice and light in our communities and in our world, but that does not happen without some pain and sacrifice. You cannot just preach justice and

sit back and watch it happen; you cannot just move into a community and say you are here to bring reconciliation. No, it will cost you.

We all know that reconciliation needs to take place in our own communities. We desire to make it happen, but some of us are not prepared for what it could cost us.

POSSIBLE COSTS

It will cost you time; it could cost you your emotional wellbeing; it could cost you regarding your spiritual life, causing you to question and struggle over the word of God. Being a justice seeker will involve sacrifice and hard work. It could cost you your long-held beliefs and opinions; it could cost you comfort and peace.

Author Miroslav Volf shares with us this challenge, “If we believe rightly in Jesus





Christ who unconditionally embraced us, the godless perpetrators, our hearts will be open to receive others, even enemies, and our eyes will be open to see from their perspective.”

That is what it means to be a person of justice and reconciliation. It does not just mean seeking justice and reconciliation on behalf of the victims, it also means embracing the perpetrators. That is costly.

It is not easy to embrace the one who has done the hurting. It is not easy to embrace the person who advocates for Aboriginal children to be taken from their mothers, for refugees to be refused entry into a country of safety, or for homeless people to be denied assistance. Yet embrace we must. Reconciliation is God’s language for the broken people and the broken policies and systems of this world.

COMMUNITY HEALED

Author and speaker Brené Brown shares these wise words in her book, *Braving the Wilderness*, “We are going to need to be with people who are different from us intentionally. We are going to have to sign up, join,

and take a seat at the table. We are going to have to learn how to listen, have hard conversations, look for joy, share the pain, and be more curious than defensive, all while seeking moments of togetherness.”

It costs you when you spend time building relationships with people you do not like and disagree with. It takes time and heart to be bearers of reconciliation and people who spark a new way of living in community with others.

Yet, in the brokenness of it all, you will find the beauty and see that, although it cost you, it was worth it in the end.

Major Sandra Pawar is an Australian Salvation Army officer in Sarasota, Florida, USA.

FOR MORE READING

- Volf, Miroslav, *Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.
- Lewis, John, *Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*. New York: Hyperion, 2012
- Brown, Brené, *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone*. Ebury Publishing. Kindle Edition.
- Katongole, Emmanuel, *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing (Resources for Reconciliation)*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Be Brave. Make Change

A personal response to National Reconciliation Week

WORDS Samantha Shortis

National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June) is not just a week on the calendar to host morning teas or events. To truly embrace this week, there must be more than being aware of the week itself and the theme – Be Brave. Make Change.



If we are to embrace this year's theme, we must be willing to acknowledge, learn and listen to stories of the history of this country and its treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, so that together we can feel confident, informed and motivated to be brave and make change.

We must be open to experience truth-telling, listen to the voices of Elders, take it upon ourselves to learn more about the importance of this week, and then reflect on what it means to 'Be Brave. Make Change'.

Reconciliation is an ongoing battle that, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is not limited to one week a year. It is a continuous journey in our fight for change, a battle that has been handed down for many, many generations.

EQUALITY AND EQUITY

The area of reconciliation that resonates with me the most is 'equality and equity'. When learning about history across Australia, the personal stories that have been shared from generation to generation and the intergenerational impact that these have on all our people, have impacted my own life and identity.

When I reflect on stories shared of the inequality my great-grandparents faced growing up, and as adults striving for change all those years ago, these still impact my being.

This brings me to a significant date that falls within National Reconciliation Week – 27 May. This date marks the anniversary of the day in 1967 when Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the Constitution to allow the Commonwealth to make laws for Aboriginal people and include them in the census.

Whilst I acknowledge every Elder who fought

so hard for this momentous event, and the positive change this had for our people, I can't help but reflect on the stories of my great-grandparents and uncles. How did they feel having to beg for basic human rights? How did my grandmother feel being born into a life where she didn't have the same rights as the children she played with at school, and as she grew into a young woman? That impacted her entire lifespan.

From protesting in the street and holding up signs asking to be counted, to the letter that my great-grandfather wrote to a major Victorian newspaper at the time begging for the people to consider giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the same rights as everyone else, I ask everyone to think of those they love the most and ask yourself, "If this was my family, how would I feel?"

How would you feel if you thought that your loved ones were not considered citizens with equal rights?

FORWARD STEPS

While we still have a long way to go in terms of reconciliation, closing the gap, and addressing racism in society, I feel that any step is a good step towards reaching these goals. When I can have one person listen, understand, and maybe go on to teach others – this is how together we can move towards reconciliation.

Today I am filled with hope and faith. I am filled with the strength, guidance and wisdom of my ancestors, family and community. I have the support of the wider non-Indigenous community wanting to move forward and create change in the name of reconciliation.

“

For so long, our ancestors and Elders have been brave, and this has resulted in change.

”

For so long, our ancestors and Elders have been BRAVE, and this has resulted in CHANGE.

Let's work together – how can you be brave and make change?

Samantha Shortis is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coordinator in Victoria for The Salvation Army Australia.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Strengthening young lives

Mentoring program helps restore cultural connection

WORDS Naomi Singlehurst

Helping young people grow in confidence and understanding as they connect more deeply with their culture and community is the focus of Terrence Whyte, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's and Youth worker for the Salvos.

As one of a range of initiatives, Terrence and his team created a six-week program of yarn-ing circles and mentoring for young people.

The program uses some elements of the Salvos Positive Lifestyle Program but with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus. It explores topics from kinship and moiety to caring for Country.

For a group of enthusiastic Year 6 students from Carinity Education Shalom (school) in Townsville, who have been part of the current program session, the experience will culminate with a cultural visit to Turtle Rock, Hervey Range (40km west of Townsville) on Gudjala Country, led by local Elders.

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Terrence is a Geomulaig man, from the Maluigal nation. His mother comes from the Torres Strait Islands, and he was born and raised on Kalkadoon Country.

"We traditionally had cultural mentors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture to teach young people their cultural responsibilities to look after Country, to look after each other and to walk the right path in life," he says.

"While some of this continues today in some places, in other places, it is not at the level it



Terrence Whyte, program creator, is a Geomulaig man from the Maluigal nation.

traditionally was, so we are trying in some ways to bring that back for these young people."

The school groups learn about the significance of the Turtle Rock site on the cultural visit, Terrence explains.

"The boys, who all come from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, get to engage in some cultural activities," he says. "They really love knowing there is a cultural site around where they live. We do a smoking ceremony and activities with the local Elders as cultural teachers.

"Getting back to those cultural values and cultural connections, and remembering cultural ceremonies is so important for [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander] young people to understand their cultural identity.



Terrence helps young people connect with their culture and learn their cultural responsibilities.

It also helps them on the path of caring for Country and caring for people.”

MULTIFACETED APPROACH

As well as a range of primary school programs, Terrence and the team also run a sports-based leadership resilience program for high school students. It has seen many young people re-engage with school and studies and move into leadership roles.

Terrence also runs the Positive Lifestyle Program, a Salvos course covering self-awareness, anger, depression, loneliness, stress, grief and loss, assertiveness, self-esteem and future direction.

He says teaching about and working for social justice and change is also essential for a healthier future for all.

EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

“This year, the theme for National Reconciliation Week – ‘Be Brave. Make Change’ – really complements the NAIDOC Week 2022 (3-10 July) theme: ‘Get Up! Stand up! Show up!’,” Terrence says.

“The fight for social justice is everyone’s business. These themes are a call to action for everyone because, in 2022, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are still fighting many social injustices to ‘close the gap’ in terms of health, life expectancy, education, incarceration and much more.”

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia’s major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia’s first National Reconciliation Week.

Terrence says: “Jesus spoke with and for those who were denied justice in their community. You couldn’t have a better example to follow.”



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Eating is earthly but feasting together is divine

The surprising impacts of sharing a meal

WORDS Justine Toh

I remember a dinner party last summer. Balmy weather, table set for seven, the mosquito coil burning away, music. We sat down to eat after a considerable wait for all to be ready, but no one tucked in. There was a pause, self-conscious laughter. Someone said, "It feels like we should say ... a prayer or something." I had wanted to suggest something along those lines but didn't want to intrude on the faiths (or none) of others.

But there was a kind of openness or gratitude in the air that night. We wanted to give thanks for friendship, for time together, and for the succulent spread before us.

Something mysterious happens when we sit down together to eat. The sensual pleasures of food – its sights, smells, tastes and textures – ground us in our bodies and the immediate present by stirring the individual appetite. We might be tempted to fill our bellies, and fast.

At the same time, however, eating in company can take us outside of ourselves – so much so that we might be inspired to thank a god not everyone acknowledges is actually there. Feasting with others, in other words, can stir a spiritual appetite that not even food can satisfy – and I think this was what happened that summer evening.

So, eating might be earthly, but feasting together borders on the divine. How so?

TOGETHERNESS

A banquet brings people together – even more so when we share from a communal

plate. So many of our social interactions are mediated through individualising technologies like the iPhone. This 'iLife' we live is momentarily suspended when we gather around to break bread together. A feast also challenges the rampant individualism of our culture by giving us the opportunity to serve and wait upon each other, which reminds us of the importance of relationships in our lives.

“

Food can nurture a healthy attitude towards difference.

”

Moreover, food can nurture a healthy attitude towards difference. What we choose or refuse to eat, and with whom we do so, often marks boundaries between personal tastes, cultures and religions. If we are what we eat, then when we eat only what we know and like, we're reconfirming our ideas about ourselves and the world.

OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

On the other hand, trying out unfamiliar foods, as well as supping with strangers, allows us to not only experiment with our tastes but play with our ideas about who we are and who we might be. Or at least reconsider our position. There's something generous and humble in that.



So, food threatens our self-containment by opening us up to differences and each other. In encouraging us to let go of ourselves and our own interests, food also introduces the possibility of grace: kindness that arrives, unexpectedly, from elsewhere.

“

Feasting with others ... can stir a spiritual appetite that not even food can satisfy.

”

At another table in times past, a different god declared that he, Jesus Christ, was the 'bread of life'. Christians understand Jesus to mean that just as bread was broken and its nourishment shared by all, so was Jesus' body broken so that humans could have life to the

full. This 'bread of life' is a foretaste of heaven – described as a rich banquet to which all are invited. This sensuous description of heaven is all about feasting, abundance and celebration. It announces the arrival of not only the good life but perhaps the best kind of life of all.

I fondly remember that summer dinner party and the moment my friends and I felt the need to say thank you for each other and for the meal we were about to receive. If only we could have agreed on who deserved our thanks.

Justine Toh is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity and the author of Achievement Addiction.

This article was originally published in ABC Religion & Ethics.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

A heart for history and hope

The ongoing work for social justice, equity and understanding

WORDS Mary Yarran

I have been married for 40 years and am a mother of three. My father is of both Yindinji and South Pacific Islander heritage. My mother's family is from Wamba Wamba Country in Victoria, and my mother's father comes from Ngarrindjeri Country in South Australia.

I am also thankful for the privilege as a Christian to be working alongside other Christians, continuing the legacy of those who fought for justice before us.

I think of those like David Unaipon, an Aboriginal man featured on the Australian \$50 note. He was an amazing person who made significant contributions and achievements between 1880 and 1920 as a preacher, author, university lecturer and inventor.

I am very proud to say that he has Ngarrindjeri connections, like my mother's family. Like so many others, he knew who he was because he knew who God was and that we were all created equal.

THE 'RELAY' OF RECONCILIATION

I see working for reconciliation as a relay race. We must take hold of the baton passed on by the heroes who have gone before us and, like them, work for social justice, understanding and equity for our community and future generations.

For me, there's none greater than Jesus. He didn't let things go by, and he didn't just go with the flow. He stood up against injustice and evil, met people where they were at, and, more importantly, challenged the discriminating social and religious mindset and enforcers of the day.



Mary continues to fight for reconciliation and equity for all Australians.

I also thank Jesus for the heroes and heroines of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As a teenager, I had the privilege of meeting Sir Douglas Nicholls. He was an evangelist and made regular visits to little Aboriginal groups living on the fringes of towns. He was also the first and only Aboriginal state governor of South Australia.

I remember Sir Doug coming to our church youth group. He and other pastors would share the love of God, but they also spoke out about inequality and the plight of our people.

STILL MUCH MORE TO DO

When I consider the gap that still exists regarding life expectancy, health, education, employment and, sadly, deaths in custody and suicides, despite so many working for equal rights over so many years, I get heavily burdened and frustrated.



Mary is a regular and enthusiastic walker on the Salvos Reconciliation Trek.

However, I am confident in our present and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and others – specialists in their fields – who are making changes in policies and laws that unfairly disadvantage the disadvantaged.

“

Reconciliation is up to every person, every day.

”

Reconciliation is up to every person, every day. We must all continue to be brave and make change, continue to work hard and ‘carry the baton’ until we no longer need to talk about reconciliation or closing the gap because these objectives have finally been achieved.

This is a challenge for all Australians.

Mary Yarran is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Coordinator for The Salvation Army Western Australia.

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS

An invitation in 2020 to join the Salvos in Western Australia on a ‘Reconciliation Trek’ in Pindjarup Noongar Country gave me, at the time a Perth-based teacher, a deeper understanding of their commitment to reconciliation.

The annual trek, which includes teaching, discussions, a yarning circle and more, takes more than 14 participants on a two-day, 14km walk along the Bibbulmun Track. It is run by Steve and Marena Freind of The Salvation Army Urban Missions Movement, under the guidance of a local Noongar Elder.

After being impressed by the interest and engagement of the participants, when I heard about a new role with the Salvos, I successfully applied for the job. In 2021 I joined the trek again - this time as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Coordinator.

Participating in the trek is just one small facet of my role, which focuses on helping to make West Australian Salvation Army services, churches and other centres culturally safe and welcoming to those with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. More than feeling welcome, we want them connected with our community.

We are getting there, but there are still barriers to break down on both sides, so my role is also to encourage communication and understanding.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Damper



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

Ingredients

2 cups SR flour, 1 tsp salt, 20g butter (cold and chopped), ½ cup milk, ½ cup water, 2 tsp rosemary (optional).

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C and line a tray with baking paper.
- Put the SR flour and salt in a large mixing bowl (with half the rosemary if using). Rub chopped butter into the flour with your hands.
- Form a well in the centre, then pour in the milk and water. Stir until it forms a dough.
- Divide the dough into four portions for mini dampers or make one large damper.
- Place on lined tray and slice a cross into the top. Garnish with rosemary.
- Bake for around 25 mins until damper is golden brown. Tap the bottom; your damper should sound hollow.
- *Options to try:* cheese and chives - mix 1 cup of cheese and 1 tbsp of chives into the mix. Top with grated cheese and bake until melted and golden.
- Garlic, parmesan and mixed herbs - add 1-2 tsp of chopped garlic, ½ cup of parmesan and 1-2 tsp of mixed herbs to the mixture.

HAVE A LAUGH

A man walks into a library and orders a hamburger. The librarian says, "This is a library!" The man apologises and whispers, "I'd like a hamburger, please."

Why are libraries the tallest buildings in the world?
Because they have so many stories!



Why did the cardiologist recommend that his patients go to the library?
He'd heard they're good for circulation.

I'm really sorry for all these library jokes, I'll put them on hold.

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

Tum-Tum

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



Bible byte

Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
Ephesians chapter 4, verse 32
New Living Translation

Quiz answers: 1. Brown 2. Ethiopia 3. Sperm Whale 4. Tale 5. Three 6. Mona Lisa
Tum-Tum: is hiding in the QR code on page 7.



Quick quiz

1. What is the rarest M&M colour?
2. Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia?
3. What is the loudest animal on earth?
4. What is the softest mineral in the world?
5. How many hearts does an octopus have?
6. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more usually known as?

DID YOU KNOW?

National Reconciliation Week is held each year from 27 May to 3 June.

These dates commemorate two significant milestones - the successful 27 May 1967 referendum and the 3 June 1992 delivery of the High Court Mabo decision.

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

9	1	6	2	1	7	4	1	8
2	2	5	9	0	1	1	2	8
8	5	7	3	1	1	6	2	8
8	2	5	3	8	2	1	1	8
4	4	7	0	2	0	3	3	8
1	5	9	2	1	2	0	3	3
7	1	8	2	1	2	1	4	8
4	1	8	2	1	2	1	4	8
5	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	8
6	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	8

National Reconciliation Week 2022 (27 May-3 June)

BE BRAVE, MAKE CHANGE.



Have you taken
care of your Will?



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

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

For information or a free
copy of Your Will booklet



Please contact:

salvationarmy.org.au/wills
or scan the QR code

