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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY



Easter

Growing hope in the
age of uncertainty

“Courage is like love; it must
have hope for nourishment.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

1769-1821

French statesman and military leader





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

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From the editor

Foreign occupation forces dictating how life can be lived. Bribery and corruption rife. People in power taking advantage. Everyday life for most a struggle. Hard work with small reward. This was the world that Jesus Christ entered, lived, influenced, died and rose from — revealing there is an eternal picture.

Today, do we feel invaded by an unseen force? We see the results with people ill and dying but, unlike Jesus' time, we can't see the invader. Fear, uncertainty, strain, lack of sleep and myriad other experiences or feelings flood through us.

Jesus' actions and their potential outcomes are still relevant. He has revealed there is a God who walks the journey with us, brings hope and helps us sort out the needed and the unnecessary.

Love, uplifting relationships, faith, kindness, goodness — through Easter we have this and more.

Please check out what your local Salvation Army is doing or worship with us online.

Laurie Robertson, Lieut-Colonel
Editor-in-Chief

Easter

Hope in the age of uncertainty

BY MARK HADLEY

How does a generation lose hope?

To be born into the 21st century is to be born into an era of hopelessness. Kim Johnstone is a demographer with the Astrolabe Group. She has provided decades of expert advice on the transformation of Australian communities. Her picture of millennials resembles a child left standing alone in a parking lot wondering where their parent went:

“[Millennials] perceive the Earth as afflicted by looming and possibly disastrous problems with pollution and climate change. They believe these problems were caused by humans. Logic tells them the people who made this mess are fading from history, leaving the wreckage for them and their kids to deal with.”

Johnstone’s observation isn’t confined to these shores. Dr Loren Soeiro is a New York psychologist specialising in helping people find peace and fulfilment. He says millennials are a generation defined by their lack of hope: “Up to 17 per cent of them are depressed, and 14 per cent suffer from anxiety. Millennials

seek psychotherapy more often than members of Generation X or other, earlier generations.”

Why? What sets them apart from those that came before? Why this rising tide of fear associated with the future? The easiest answers are economics and the environment.

The Huffington Post’s senior enterprise reporter, Michael Hobbes, says millennials are facing the scariest financial future since the Great Depression.

At the age of 35, the very edge of that generation, he believes he and his fellows will never experience the freedom adulthood promised. “Like everyone in my generation, I am finding it increasingly difficult not to be scared about the future and angry about the past,” he writes. “My rent consumes nearly half my income, I haven’t had a steady job since Pluto was a planet and my savings are dwindling faster than the ice caps the baby boomers melted.”

Economies may yet rise, but perspectives



on the environment have settled into a downward spiral. Climate change has risen to the level of an extinction event in our youngest minds.

Anyone reading this article should be familiar with a perceived international threat combined with a sense of personal powerlessness. Generation X grew up learning about the terrors of nuclear war, and the baby boomers experienced a lifetime of Cold War confrontations and looming international menace. In turn, their parents, the Builders, faced the international tensions that led to the ravages of World War II.

And then there is the Silent Generation, born between 1928 and 1945. Their lifetimes encompassed the War to End All Wars, the Great Depression as well as the Second World War. Yet, I think it's fair to say that these generations were protected from the millennials' sense of bleakness by other factors entirely. We find ourselves in a hopeless situation, because hope itself has changed.

Consider *The Oxford Dictionary's* definition for hope: "a feeling of expectation

and desire for a particular thing to happen". Note carefully where hope rests: in the heart of the person who experiences the feeling or the desire. Now compare that definition with what the same dictionary lists as an 'archaic' or old-fashioned use of the word: "a feeling of trust".

In this case, hope depends not on the individual, but on something the individual is trusting *in*. Hope once had as its focus something you were certain of. Now it relates to things you can have little or no certainty about. This isn't just a game of semantics. Our changing usage hints at a change in thinking that makes it virtually impossible for millennials to live in hope.

During the late 20th century, intellectuals, academics and artists were spurring each other towards a new way of seeing the world. Postmodernism, as it came to be known, was a scepticism towards the grand narratives and ideologies that had defined the previous century. Moral systems soon followed the fate of political ones, and eventually this rejection grew into a wholesale denial of



PHOTO BY AVERIE WOODARD ON UNSPLASH

truth itself. This led Nobel Prize laureate Harold Pinter to write: “There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal, nor between what is true and what is false. A thing is not necessarily either true or false; it can be both true and false.”

Education systems embraced this new non-reality. It liberated teachers and learners alike, assuring them every opinion was not only equally valid, but equally right. Politically, party values became subservient to situational ethics. Postmodernism also dovetailed neatly with the West’s growing celebration of individual freedom in the face of community values. ‘Disagreement’ became synonymous with ‘intolerance’, ‘argument’ a wholly negative term, and ‘my opinion’ the deciding factor in every discussion. Back to *The Huffington Post*’s Michael Hobbes: “This is why the touchstone experience of millennials, the thing that truly defines us, is not helicopter parenting or unpaid internships or *Pokémon Go*. It is uncertainty.”

Is it any wonder millennials struggle to grow hope, when there’s nothing certain to plant it in? Google “What to do when you have no hope”, and you’ll be provided with solutions like “List your successes, strengths and resources”, or “Have trust in yourself”. But what if your confidence can’t change the world? Where does hope come from? If the only thing you can rely on is yourself, and you are manifestly unequal to the challenges of the day, what is there left to hope for?

By contrast, the Bible (the book which earlier generations swore by), focuses on that more old-fashioned definition of hope. In climactic times, it encourages



readers to rest their peace not on what we bring to the situation, but what stands strong separate of us. In short, the events of the original Easter. It points to the Son of God, willingly allowing himself to die so that we might live forever, and rising so we can rise to God's family. Hearts resting on this hope, it says, weather every storm: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Unlike the other major religions of the world, Christianity builds its hope on events in actual time. "It is as if Christianity happily places its neck on the chopping block of public scrutiny," says historian Dr John Dickson, "and invites anyone who wishes to come and take a swing." And they do. Philosophers like Michel Onfray and scientists like Richard Dawkins have suggested the man commemorated this Easter is a myth. Yet it's worth noting that no serious historian is prepared to deny the historicity of Jesus. "Frankly, I know of no ancient historian or biblical

historian who would have a twinge of doubt about the existence of a Jesus Christ," says Professor Graeme Clarke of the Australian National University. "The documentary evidence is simply overwhelming."

Even when we come to the resurrection, agnostic academics like Professor Ed Sanders of Duke University are not prepared to abandon the evidence: "That Jesus' followers had resurrection experiences is, in my judgment, a fact. What the reality was that gave rise to the experiences I do not know."

This is the soil of certainty that Christians plant their hope in this Easter. This is where hope grows. Not by the strength of those who choose to believe it, but the strength of the evidence itself. The truth of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remains to be rediscovered by every generation, including millennials. And if that truth remains, then so too does hope.

Salvos serve across the country in uncertain times

COVID-19 is changing, but not stopping, Salvation Army outreach.

BY DARRYL WHITECROSS AND LAUREN MARTIN

As Australians grapple to keep up with the changes to home, work and community life as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, The Salvation Army across the country is also changing its practices, but continuing to reach out to local communities to do whatever they can to ease people's burdens during this time.

Just recently in Sydney, Nicole Viles, manager of Stanmore House (Salvation Army conference and training centre) and her staff hit the streets to show love to their community, dropping a gift of toilet paper and a card on the doorsteps of their local neighbourhood. The card

read: "If you are self-isolating we are here to help!", with details including Stanmore House phone numbers. The team is hoping the small gesture of love will cut through the fear and uncertainty many people are feeling at this time.

Across the city at The Salvation Army Streetlevel Mission, team leader Mitchell Evans said he and other team members were trying to work with the community to be a source of truth in this confusing time.

"There is a lot of misinformation at the moment that is portrayed as truth and this is incredibly dangerous," Mitchell said. "Social media can be an incredible tool for people to connect, but what we're seeing at the moment is this becoming a platform for conspiracy theories, crackpot remedies and fearmongering.

"Practically speaking, we're encouraging the community to practise good personal hygiene — something we do anyway — and to look after themselves and one another. We will get through this. We just need to ensure we keep our humanity in the process."

Many Salvation Army corps and centres



are having to readjust the way they deliver regular meal services for people in need. Most are reporting twofold reasons for this — not just the impact of coronavirus and its potential for transmission, but also due to panic buying and the inability to source food for large numbers of people.

SUPERMARKET SALVOS

Salvo volunteers have also been helping Woolworths support its elderly and disabled customers during the early restricted opening hours at the Australian supermarket chain.

Woolworths announced that from 17-20 March it would give the elderly and those with a disability a 60-minute window from 7am to shop freely, as its managing director Claire Peters said in a statement, “in a less-crowded environment”.

Salvos in uniform were invited to assist by getting groceries back to people’s cars, pushing a trolley, or in other practical ways, including reaching up and getting items that are high on shelves.



Woolworths called on The Salvation Army to make ‘official’ the initiative after it learned that some Salvos had taken it upon themselves to go to their local Woolworths supermarket to offer to assist elderly and disabled customers.

“This gesture of kindness is truly appreciated, and we are very grateful to all our friends at The Salvation Army. It’s these little things that can really make someone’s day,” Woolworths Senior Community manager Loretta Arrastia said.



Holding on to hope

The importance of caring for each other through life's dark days as we wait for the light to come.

BY BELINDA CASSIE

Hey, how are you doing? No really, how are you? 2020 has been ... tough, right? We've gone from severe drought to unprecedented bushfires, to flooding, to a global pandemic. And that's just in the first few months.

I'm a not-quite-middle-aged woman, and I can't remember a chain of events like this happening before in my lifetime. I sat on a friend's couch today — a suitable distance apart of course — and we named it, shared

how the anxiety around the world is right now and how the fear of what might come next is very real. Overwhelming almost.

I think it's the uncertainty. It's hard not to be concerned when we don't know when supermarket shelves might have necessities again, whether schools will close, or people will keep their jobs, or which of our friends or loved ones might fall ill — or worse. The not knowing can almost be paralysing.

PHOTO BY JASMIN SESSLER ON UNSPLASH





2020 has hit us hard. So much so that my confession is I forgot about Easter. I mean, my whole gig is to be a Jesus-following person, I'm a Salvo officer (pastor), and it's kind of my job to remember things like Easter, you know. But life was happening and, amidst everything that's been going on in Australia and the world lately, I missed the start of Lent and had no idea what date Easter fell on this year.

Having made that little confession, I'm really hoping my boss doesn't read this, because Easter is a sacred time in the Church. It quite possibly shouldn't be someone's Facebook post about struggling with giving up sugar for Lent, and another church's post about cancelled Easter services that jogged my memory. Normally I'm pretty on top of things like this, but these aren't normal times and Easter got crowded out by disastrous events and anxiety. And the unknown.

But over the last couple of days I've been thinking — and just hear me out for a minute — what if this is our Friday moment? If you're unfamiliar with the Easter story, you can find the details in a nutshell in the Bible, in the book of Luke,

chapter 23. It was on Friday that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. And it was on Friday that the whole world fell apart for those who loved and followed him. Their grief, their fear, their anxiety over what might come next was very real. Overwhelming almost. Maybe that feels a little familiar to you right now.

Jesus' followers didn't have Luke chapter 24 to read, which talks about the Sunday when the hope of Jesus' return to life would be made even more real than the pain and anxiety they'd felt on Friday. On Friday, in the midst of disaster, it was hard to hope for Sunday. It's Friday as I write this, and in the middle of our dark Fridays I honestly don't know how far off our Sunday will be, the one in which we get to celebrate a return to life and reconnection and health. But — you know what? — even in the middle of all that's going on, I'm choosing to hold on to the hope that Sunday is coming, and friends, it's going to be so very good.

And while we wait for Sunday let's agree to check in on each other, see how we're all doing, and maybe share a loo roll or two.

A future with Jesus

Ameen shares his story from oppression to freedom.

BY AMEEN AL-JAMALI



I was born into an Iraqi refugee family in Iran. My parents had moved there in 1970. Life was hard for us and we experienced discrimination and oppression. We were always treated as second-class citizens. I couldn't go to university. My dad tried several times to seek asylum in Australia or Europe, but was not successful.

I decided to leave Iran in 2010, when I was 23. I went to a United Nations detention centre in Indonesia. There I saw people who had been waiting for many years to go to Australia, with no guarantees they would ever get there. I decided to go by boat. It was very risky and nobody wants to do it like that, but I wanted to go so much and saw no other way.

The boat was small and packed with people. We were told it was okay but we knew it wasn't. We didn't care. There was not enough food for everyone but, to the organisers, people's lives meant nothing. We broke down in the middle of the ocean and just floated, waiting for help. I can't describe the ocean, the waves, the fear. It was a crazy trip.

After nine terrifying days we arrived on Christmas Island. They put us into detention and it took over a year for us to be transferred to Australia. We arrived in Darwin and went to a refugee camp. I felt good, so good — we were in Australia and I knew that we could get help to settle and start a new life.

After five months the camp closed and I moved to Melbourne. I stayed with a friend and went to English classes at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). They helped me find work in a car wash. I got a job in a packaging factory and, after two years there, found a job in food

services. It was an anxious and uncertain time as I got used to a totally different culture, values and way of life.

I lived in community housing across from The Salvation Army's intercultural ministries in Brunswick (Vic.) and got support from them from time to time, but I didn't know about Jesus or God. A friend asked me to go with him to English classes there and I went — it was a Bible study to learn English. They were talking about Jesus. I wasn't offended; my family is religious too. I enjoyed the study, made a lot of friends from different backgrounds and also met Linda, now my wife, who is from Taiwan.

I started helping at intercultural ministries, cooking for people, taking food to the homeless and collecting donations. I went to the Friday night dinners where we ate together and talked about Jesus.

I spoke to Monty Bhardwaj, who is a Salvation Army minister there, about my growing faith. I really believe in Jesus; he has changed my vision about the whole world, and my life too! I can go deep with Jesus and everything he says applies to today and makes us better people. I am so happy and my mind has been opened. In Islam, people are superstitious and focus on the past. It doesn't make sense. Jesus makes sense. We have a future with him.

Linda and I now have a little girl who is nearly three. She is learning about Jesus too. I can't talk about Jesus with my family back in Iran though. It would be too dangerous.

I now work as a carpenter to support my family. I am so appreciative of all I have learned and am thankful to God, and The Salvation Army, for the new life I have.

Hot cross buns



Ingredients

2 tsp dried yeast, 2 tbsp sugar, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup warm water, 3 cups plain flour, 1 tsp salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp mixed spice, 2 tbsp butter (melted), 2 tbsp milk, 1 egg (beaten), $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sultanas. **For the crosses:** 3 tbsp plain flour, 2 tbsp caster sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp water **For the glaze:** $\frac{1}{3}$ cup water, 2 tbsp caster sugar

Method

Mix yeast, sugar and water in a small bowl. Cover. Stand for around 10 minutes until frothy.

In a bowl sift flour, salt, cinnamon and mixed spice. Make a well in the centre. Pour in yeast mixture, butter, milk, egg and sultanas.

Mix into a soft dough. Knead dough until smooth and elastic. Return to bowl and cover. Stand in a warm place until dough roughly doubles in size (around 20-30 minutes).

Divide dough into 12 pieces. Shape each into a bun. Place on lined tray, cover and stand in a warm place for 20 minutes.

For the crosses, mix flour, caster sugar and water. Pipe a cross on each bun. Bake buns at 200°C for 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 180°C and cook for a further 5 minutes, until golden brown.

To make glaze, combine water and sugar in a saucepan. Stir over heat to dissolve sugar and bring to a boil. Brush glaze over buns and let cool.

Pay it forward



Self-employed Annie (name has been changed), a lady from a local community, recently took a day off and came into a Salvation Army church to help out. The Salvo worker knew Annie didn't have much toilet paper, so gave her two rolls. Annie had to go back to her workplace to get some 'snap and seal' bags that the church had run out of. When she arrived, as she tells the story, "I saw a little old lady there saying she had no toilet paper so I gave her what the Salvos gave me." The Salvos were able to give Annie a few more rolls.

Tip for the race of life

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

Psalm 46 verse 1
(Bible, *New Life Translation*)

Wordsearch

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

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ANGELS | GOD |
| CELEBRATION | HOLY |
| CHOCOLATE | HOPE |
| CHURCH | JESUS |
| CROSS | LENT |
| CRUCIFIXION | LIFE |
| DISCIPLES | MIRACLE |
| EASTER | PARADE |
| EGGS | RESURRECTION |
| FAMILY | RISEN |
| FORGIVENESS | SUNDAY |

Quick quiz



1. What was the name of the hill on which they crucified Jesus?
2. What is a sepulchre?
3. What came first, Jesus' crucifixion, the resurrection or the Last Supper?
4. How much do Australians spend on Easter eggs?
5. How many chocolate bunnies are produced each year in Australia?

Tum-Tum



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

Answers: 1. Golgotha. 2. A cave-like tomb. 3. The Last Supper. 4. In 2018 it was around \$210 million. 5. Approximately 90 million.

Tum-Tum: Is hiding in the toilet roll on page 11.

Want to know more?

Visit warcry.org.au/want-to-know-more or return the coupon to **Warcry, PO Box 479, Blackburn VIC 3130.**

I would like:

- to learn more about who Jesus is
- information about The Salvation Army
- a Salvo to contact me

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