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Seeing our best selves beyond the sports arena



SALVOS

MAGAZINE



**“Let go of who you think
you’re supposed to be;
embrace who you are.”**

– Brené Brown





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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The most compelling Olympics

Our best selves

As the world reels with news of tragedies, natural disasters, political upheavals and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Olympic Games and Paralympics have proven a welcome distraction for many. It's not just the sporting achievements that have grabbed our attention, but the warmth, support and care the athletes have shown each other in both ordinary and challenging situations.

Belinda Cassie explores this in Faith Talk and writes about how both compelling and comforting witnessing these displays of compassion, patience and humanity, has been. World-class athletes have shown their best selves, beyond their sportsmanship, to each other and beyond.

The Bible encourages us to develop and live by such warmth, humility and understanding, and our communities, nations and wider world need this now, perhaps more than ever.

In this edition, everyone has an additional opportunity to contribute to that world by taking the Salvos Social Justice survey. This will assist the Salvos in tailoring their resources and bolstering their social policy and advocacy work. The world also needs a more just and equal world.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Super dads don't save themselves

Finding the strength to parent well outside of ourselves

WORDS MARK HADLEY

Father's Day inevitably leads every dad to wonder how he is doing as a parent. My advice would begin by cautioning you not to take too strong a lead from Hollywood's current ideal. *The Tomorrow War* is a case in point. Recently released to streaming services, this action-packed adventure presents Chris Pratt as Dan Forester. His backstory is a little improbable – a special forces commander who resigned to study chemistry at Cal Tech and now teaches high school biology – but it can be forgiven in the face of the very normal struggles he confronts. Dan is fighting to get his post-army career off the ground while being a faithful parent to his daughter, Muri. And if that wasn't enough, a dramatic message from the future turns his world upside down.

Soldiers from the future capture international attention when they materialise in the middle of the soccer World Cup. They inform the residents of our time that in 2048, alien creatures will invade Earth and bring humanity to the verge of extinction. The only hope for victory is if the people of our present agree to go forward in time to bolster the ranks of the failing defenders. Forester the father now faces the difficult choice of staying to guard his daughter's present or going forward to ensure her future. Dan opts to fight, and his journey into the future warns him that he will one day allow his career to break up his family. But the impending holocaust clarifies



his perspective, and Dan sensibly decides to reject that pressure and become a better dad.

The entertainment industry is built around such tropes. Star-crossed lovers will find a way to be together. Black-hat heroes turn out to have a heart of gold. And in the case of *The Tomorrow War*, 'Fathers who pass through a crisis turn out to be better dads'.

We all like to believe this trope is true – especially dads. However, this way of thinking relies very heavily on a father finding the means of character transformation within himself. But how likely is that? The struggle to put a real name to a trope should at the very least suggest how rare that transformation is. Recent experience suggests it may be even rarer than we think.



“
 No crisis will
 in and of itself
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 sort of character
 development
 we need.
 ”

RESPONDING TO CRISIS

The COVID pandemic has increased our awareness that, rather than clarifying our perceptions, exposure to life-threatening circumstances actually has a *negative* effect on our ability to cope.

So, despite what Hollywood suggests, a crisis is unlikely to produce a better perspective on life. But maybe that is because it takes a certain sort of man to make the most of that crisis? After all, Chris Pratt plays a character who is both physically confident and intellectually astute.

So maybe change-through-crisis is possible for the man who is capable enough to take hold of the moment?

Good parenting, though, can't simply be the province of one personality type. Instead, we might suggest that all men who follow the wisdom encapsulated in Scripture (the Bible) stand an equal chance of becoming good dads. But isn't that just another way of voicing Hollywood's trope? Instead of taking hold of a crisis and becoming a better dad, the good Christian will take hold of, say, the book of Proverbs to become the dad he should be? Whichever way you look at it, it is the man who works on *himself*. Now, this realisation should give us pause for thought.

The Bible regularly warns that we are more likely to produce evil than good if left to ourselves. Consequently, we are encouraged to seek the Lord's aid in every good endeavour: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. (Psalm 127:1) ▶

BIBLICAL WISDOM

The same Psalm that contains this warning also encourages men to become dads. However, the two pieces of advice are clearly not meant to be separated. Just as surely as the Lord builds the strong house, the Lord builds the good father. It is vain to think that any effort apart from him can produce such a result. No crisis will in and of itself produce the sort of character development we need. Neither will a slavish adoption of methods gleaned from scripture. They are both only grist for God's mill.

We bring to the equation as fathers the same thing that every human brings to God: our need. Do you want to be a good father – the sort that can take a crisis and turn it into an opportunity for growth? Do you want to be the sort of parent that can apply the wisdom that scripture offers for raising children? The secret is to come to God with your inability to do either: He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 10).

You can make a sport out of spotting storylines that put the father's power at the centre of the picture, both in and outside of the church. And each time you do so, make sure you remind yourself that what you're seeing is parenting built on an unsure foundation. The only strong dad is one whose agent of change is his own Heavenly Father.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

“
 Good parenting,
 though, can't
 simply be the
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 personality type.
 ”



It's a question of social justice

Take two minutes to make a lasting difference in your community

The Salvation Army is conducting a poll to understand social justice issues in your local community.

What are the biggest social justice issues you see around you? Housing affordability or social isolation? Family violence, disability discrimination or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage? Climate change or mental health?

The Salvos' first online social justice stocktake gives you the opportunity to provide your insights and local knowledge to its policy, advocacy and research teams.

"We believe that the people who live in the community are best placed to know what's going on around them, so our idea is to get 'on the ground' information about what social justice issues people are seeing and experiencing," said Jennifer Kirkaldy, The Salvation Army Australia's General Manager – Policy and Advocacy.



Jennifer Kirkaldy, and her team, are focused on understanding local social justice issues.



TAKING PART

The survey involves identifying up to five social justice issues from a list, with an optional section for suggested solutions. Participants are asked to provide their postcodes, age range and gender – all of which is kept confidential and private.

"Once we receive the results of the stocktake, we will consider them alongside other sources of information including demand for our services and national data around disadvantage," said Jennifer. "This will allow us to paint a comprehensive picture of social justice in Australia.

"With this picture, we will be better able to tailor the resources we produce, as well as bolster our social policy and advocacy work. The more responses we receive, the more robust the final research."

Once survey results are analysed, the team will produce reports to explain them and present what can be done about the identified issues. Participants can then ask for a report to be sent to them.

To take the survey, go to: bit.ly/3iWakbY

Governor-General zooms in on Katherine Hub

The Governor-General of Australia has been given a first-hand understanding of the ministry and mission of The Salvation Army Katherine Doorways Hub in a specially convened video conference call between the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (ret.) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley had wanted to travel in person to the Top End town, but a COVID-19 lockdown in the ACT put paid to that, so a Zoom get-together was organised.

Situated on the banks of the Katherine River, about 320km south-east of Darwin, Katherine has a population of about 11,000. The Governor-General said it was “a vibrant town” and “an important part of the infrastructure and community of the NT.



Governor-General David Hurley and his wife, Linda, on the video conference call with Salvos personnel from Darwin and Katherine.

“Our digital engagement program enables us to stay in contact,” he added. “It is important to Linda and me that we check in with local leaders to hear how their community is faring, particularly during the pandemic.”

– Darryl Whitecross

Vaccination hubs help support the homeless

It's not easy to access COVID-19 vaccinations when you are homeless or vulnerable. The Salvos are working to help fill the void around the country.

In Victoria, The Salvation Army Access Health service team on Grey Street in St Kilda is partnering with St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne and running a Mobile Immunisation, Health and Harm Reduction Service (MIHS) through a mobile vaccination clinic on-site.

Down the road at Sunshine Salvos, a COVID-19 vaccination hub was set up after Captains Colin and Phuong Reynolds were approached by IPC Health in Deer Park. When they heard that the pop-up hub would coincide with the church's Friday takeaway meals, they knew it was an excellent chance to serve the community.



The team at Sunshine Salvos, Victoria, collaborated with IPC health to set up a pop-up COVID-19 vaccine hub.

In Western Australia, a Salvation Army service is geared to help the vulnerable access the Pfizer vaccination. The Beacon, an emergency crisis and transitional homeless centre in Perth, partnered with the Department of Health to administer volunteer vaccinations to clients and staff. – Jessica Morris

SleepOut a wake-up call for homelessness

It's hard sleeping on the streets of Tasmania, but this year's Salvos SleepOut proved it could become a memory after \$94,000 was raised for The Salvation Army Street2Home program.

"We've been somewhat astounded by the results of this year's Salvos SleepOut," said Major Brad Watson, Public Relations Secretary for Tasmania. "We make it as much of an experience and education piece as possible, so people are literally out on streets where the wind comes off the water and are mixing with people who are experiencing homelessness."

Just over 80 locals participated in the 13th Salvos SleepOut, which invites Tasmanians to experience a night on the streets to raise funds for the Salvos. Six MPs and the Governor-General of Tasmania, Barbara Baker, also participated.



Participants at the 2021 Salvos SleepOut in Tasmania embraced the reality of sleeping rough – but Ralph Freckleton, General Manager at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, took it to new levels and slept suspended from the building!

In addition to sleeping rough, each Salvos SleepOut site was given a tour of local homelessness services.

The success of this year's Salvos SleepOut means the Street2Home service can expand.

– Jessica Morris

Darwin hostel more like home after upgrade

The latest refurbishment of what could be described as the traditional epicentre of The Salvation Army's ministry in Darwin – at 49 Mitchell St – has brought a renewed sense of pride and respect to all involved in the project.

House 49 manager Danelle Batchler said using the new naming convention would hold special significance for residents who wanted to call the facility home and shake off the stigma that living in the hostel carried. "We're building a sense of 'we are a big share house; of looking after one another'," Danelle said, where the resident had "some pride in their environment; a little bit of ownership".

Fred Docking, the Salvos' Service Manager, said the refurbishment work was "a huge investment", and the changes would help the



Fresh scones out of the new oven: House 49 manager Danelle Batchler with Damien Narul. Budget cooking classes are run at House 49 as part of a positive lifestyle program.

church make "a significant social impact" in the lives of the residents, and in the city. "It's really more than just a building," he said. "It's about a whole [life] transformation."

– Darryl Whitecross

The most compelling Olympics

Seeing our best selves beyond the sports arena

WORDS BELINDA CASSIE

I don't do sports. But, I've found this Olympics season compelling in ways like no other.

It started just before the Tokyo Games, at the European Championships, when the European Handball Federation fined Norway's women's beach handball team after the players wore shorts, instead of the required bikini bottoms, during a weekend game. These women had defied the archaic misogynistic rule book and made uniform choices to desexualise their image and their sport. And P!nk, the world-famous American singer and songwriter, is paying the fines.

During the Games, world-class athletes on the winners' podium often put their medals around each other's necks – a moment significantly more meaningful than a medal being placed by some dude in a suit they'd never met (and I've never heard of).

American artistic gymnast Simone Biles stepped aside from the final of the team event and the individual all-around competition, openly sharing her mental health concerns. Yes, there were some negative responses, but overwhelmingly she was applauded and supported for choosing herself over a competition.

STEALING THE SHOW

At the pool, an Aussie girl from Caboolture 'stole the show' by swearing in the most Aussie way. And an Aussie coach also stole the show by celebrating in the most 'bogan' Aussie way. Then a New Zealand women's rugby champion stole the show by being the happiest interviewee ever.

As the world faces tough times, examples of warmth, consideration and genuine care have an added impact on our lives.



Then, at the high jump, two athletes from Italy and Qatar stole the show with a handshake, a hug and an exuberant celebration when they decided to share the gold medal instead of duelling it out in a jump-off. A couple of countries stole the show when they won their first-ever gold medals – and it was a woman who won the medal in both cases. The whole world, it seems, went crazy with joy over it. And I don't think that a single one of them minded that somebody else stole the show.

SPORTSMANSHIP MAGNIFIED

This Olympics has been very different, I think. We've seen sportsmanship in the past, we've witnessed joyful celebrations, we've watched moments of courage and determination, we've been awed by stunning wins, we've relished endearing moments. But this time, it all seems different. Magnified, perhaps.

Perhaps as the world continues to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps as so many have been forced to face their mortality, perhaps as we've been so separated for so long with no concrete idea of when international borders might be open again, perhaps as we've seen so much of the worst of humanity over the last 18 months, we crave seeing us at our best. Not necessarily our best from a sports point of view. But our best sportsmanship. Our kindest selves. Our funniest selves. Our warmest selves.

As much as I don't do the sports bit, I have always appreciated the opening ceremony. I love seeing the traditional dress of the host country. I like seeing what each visiting country comes up with for their team uniforms, too. But I think there was a different uniform of sorts this year.

Paul, who in the Bible wrote a letter to the church in Colossae, had this to say to

“

We saw a lot of athletes, coaches and spectators alike choosing to wear compassion, kindness, patience and yes, even love ...

”

the Christians in that city, “put on then ... compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience ... and above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Colossians chapter three, verses 12-14 *English Standard Version*).

I think that's what made this Olympics stand out. It wasn't an official uniform choice – and, being a Salvo, I kind of know a bit about uniform choices, but I think the unofficial uniform of this Olympics mirrored Paul's advice to the church in Colossae.

I think we saw many athletes, coaches and spectators alike choosing to wear compassion, kindness, patience and yes, even love – so our best selves really, in an era where we need it more than ever.

Captain Belinda Cassie is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Tasmania.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Bryce with his wife Sue and daughters Eliza, top left, and Georgia.



My daughters' view of fatherhood

WORDS BRYCE, ELIZA, AND GEORGIA DAVIES*

When I was in my early 20s, high on my list of life goals was to be a good dad. When my first daughter, Eliza, was born, I recall holding her and feeling terrified that I would not be up to the task. Eliza now works in the human resources department of a big company, and my younger daughter Georgia is a paramedic. I've asked them to share some experiences of their fatherhood journey.

Bryce: In your early years, what were some of the important aspects of fathering to you?

Eliza: It was important to have a dad who was present and involved. I remember down in Melbourne that every day we would go to the park – rain, hail or shine. And we were both huge netball kids. You managed several teams simultaneously, which is astounding to me, given your [lack of] administrative prowess!

Georgia: You were always a lot of fun. We did a lot of things together like bike rides and outdoor play. And I think that you pegging tennis balls at us has made us able to catch and throw quite spectacularly.

Bryce: What about some of your emotional needs or relational needs?

Eliza: I used to get terrible earaches. I remember one night you and Mum took me to hospital. I just felt safe having you there. They gave me medicine, and when I opened my eyes a few hours later, you were still there. You hadn't left my side. Things like that are important.

Georgia: With school pickup, Mum would never be late, so we knew it was your day if we had to wait. But you were always on your way. We felt very loved.

Eliza: I was an anxious kid in a lot of ways. You and Mum have always been very good at meeting me where I am at and supporting me.

Bryce: In your studies at school and beyond, you asked me to help with stuff I knew nothing about, but you just seemed to want me in the room?

Eliza: Yes. I didn't need your educational or academic help. I just needed someone sitting there as a support while I pulled all-nighters on my procrastinated projects for school.

Georgia: When I was in university [studying to be a paramedic], there were around 20 drugs in our kit that we needed to know back-to-front. And you would sit on the couch and test me on everything. And we came up with these crazy acronyms and stuff like that. That was the kind of support I needed.

Bryce: How did you find our conversations over the years?

Eliza: I lived in London for five years and loved it. But I would get homesick regularly and would jump on a FaceTime call with you and usually be crying down the phone. The support of just having you be okay with me crying down the phone at you, knowing that there wasn't a whole lot you could do, was what I needed.

Georgia: You were also the one we had a lot of hard conversations with – always trying to get to the bottom of our issues. And I think it's been so beneficial in the last couple of years as well. A constant and stable person to talk to. And you've always been excellent at just reassuring us that you love us. Mum loves us. Nothing's going to change that ever. And, as adults, you have always trusted us to make our own decisions, which has been super important.

Eliza: There's a lot of respect and trust between us all, and I never felt judged. You have always been open and have sought feedback from us, and you've been willing to accept when you've missed the mark on something. There's always been a lot of room and encouragement to have hard conversations. I think that's huge.

Bryce: What do you wish I'd done differently?

Georgia: When I look back on our childhood and into adulthood, I don't focus on anywhere that it's gone wrong because there's just been so much of it that's gone right.

**This paraphrased article was taken from the original podcast interviews at bit.ly/3sx9aa4*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Rainbow fried rice



PHOTO: ANDREA REDFORD

Ingredients

2 tbsp oil, 2 cups diced vegetables (we used a mix of red capsicum, spring onions, carrot, corn and peas), 2 cups cooked rice, 1 cup cooked quinoa, ¼ tsp garlic powder, 3 tbsp soy sauce, 1 tsp rice vinegar, 1 tsp honey, sesame seeds (optional).

Method

Heat oil in a frypan on medium heat. Add veggies and cook, stirring until softened (about 3-4 mins).

Add rice, quinoa and garlic powder to the pan and stir to combine.

While the rice mixture heats through, whisk together soy sauce, rice vinegar and honey in a small bowl or jug, to make a sauce.

Once the rice mixture is heated through, pour in the sauce and stir to combine.

Serve warm and sprinkle with sesame seeds (optional). Enjoy!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lightning strikes the Earth 6000 times every minute.
- 'Rhythms' is the longest English word without a vowel.
- The Amazon rainforest produces half the world's oxygen supply.
- Every day we take about 22,000 breaths.

FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY



Fog is just clouds that have fallen down.

How long will it take for the new baby to grow arms?



I wish we were fairies. Our lives would be easier.

I don't smell staleness in my room, Mum. I just smell a lot of greatness.



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

Sudoku

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

Tum-Tum

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



Answers: 1. September. 2. Habitat loss. 3. Less than 80,000. 4. 18-20. 5. ½-1kg leaves. 6. The common wombat.
Tum-Tum: is hiding in a tea cup on page 9.

Bible byte

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. Lamentations chapter 3, verses 22-23
 New Living translation

Quick quiz



1. When is 'Save the Koala' month?
2. What is the greatest threat to koalas?
3. How many koalas are in Australia?
4. How many hours per day do koalas sleep?
5. Approximately how much does an adult koala eat daily?
6. What is the koala's closest relative?

SIGNING IN





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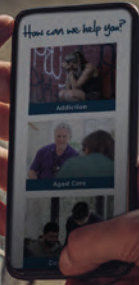
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