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WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY

A place to belong

Celebrating Australia's cultural diversity





Diversity is being invited to
the party; inclusion is being
asked to dance.

Verna Myers
Inclusion strategist, cultural innovator
and social commentator



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

WARCRY

Founder William Booth

General Brian Peddle

Territorial Leaders

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson

Secretary for Communications

Lieut-Colonel Neil Venables

Editor-In-Chief

Lieut-Colonel Laurie Robertson

Assistant Editor Simone Worthing

Contributors Belinda Cassie, Mark Hadley,

Sylvia Loi, Sandra Pawar

Proofreader Dawn Volz

Designer Ryan Harrison

Editorial ph. (03) 8541 4562

Enquiry email warcry@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

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and discord

From the editor

In music, harmony results when all the different notes are in tune, and discord is the upshot when they aren't.

The song, *Ebony and Ivory*, by Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder, always challenges me to bring love and respect into every relationship. It asks:

'Ebony and ivory live together in perfect harmony, side by side on my piano keyboard, oh Lord why don't we?'

My simple answer is: self-centredness. Forcing what we think onto others creates discord.

I believe God exists, that he created everything else, he came to Earth as Jesus Christ and he gave people free will. This means we can choose to believe whatever we want. Harmony can occur when we respect others while having meaningful conversations.

Amid the masses of different cultures in Australia, may there be communication in love.

Laurie Robertson, Lieut-Colonel

Editor-in-Chief

Everyone belongs

Celebrating respect and acceptance
for all who call Australia home.

BY SIMONE WORTHING

On 21 March, Australia celebrates Harmony Day. It's a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home — from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come here from around the world.

Harmony Day is about diversity, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of acceptance and belonging for everyone, from our communities, schools and workplaces to our sporting teams, cultural expressions and governments. The day aims to be a catalyst for constructive conversations around heritage, culture and community.

The United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is also observed annually on 21 March.

Orange is the colour of choice for Harmony Day as, traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

In Australia, we identify with approximately 300 ancestries, while 49 per cent of us were either born overseas or have a parent who was. More than seven million people have migrated to Australia

since 1945 and 21 per cent of us speak a language other than English at home.

Around Australia, The Salvation Army's Diversity and Inclusion Team works to enable inclusive culture and practice across all Salvo churches and centres.

“We know that Australia is one of the world's most culturally diverse nations and so, for us, the focus is how do we best help The Salvation Army here be the most effective it can be in engaging in a multicultural context,” says Adrian Kistan, the Salvos' General Manager of Mission Inclusion.



The Hobsons Bay Salvos prepare to acknowledge Aboriginal Sunday as an act of solidarity.



Wodonga Salvos host local organisation, Prudent Women, that reaches out to African widows and orphans.

“This is not about having multicultural outreach programs but being reflective and connected with the cultural diversity that exists in our community. We can demonstrate that we can all come together and truly reflect unity in diversity through Jesus.”

Many Salvation Army churches around the country will celebrate Harmony Day with their own events, or join in local community activities. They will also acknowledge other days throughout the year and continue to work together with different groups in their communities.

In Hobsons Bay (Vic.) the Salvos, honouring the 1940 call by Aboriginal activist William Cooper, acknowledge the Sunday before 26 January as Aboriginal Sunday. This is a day for the Australian Church to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples.

“Our church acknowledged this day because we take God’s call to justice very seriously,” says Star Conliffe, leader of The Salvation Army in Hobsons Bay. “Justice starts with acknowledging our own privilege and how we have benefited from our shared history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This is why we use one day in a year to remember and mourn what has

happened, and acknowledge that the land we worship on was entrusted to Aboriginal custodians.

“We also mark Refugee Week and hear stories from people in our church community who have fled for their lives to Australia, and discuss actions we can take towards justice.”

In Wodonga, on the Victorian border with New South Wales, the Salvos have opened a space for new arrivals, who are mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but also from Rwanda and Burundi.

“We are sharing meals together, culturally learning from each other, adding to community and sharing the love of Jesus,” says Christine Abram, leader of The Salvation Army in Wodonga. “The Congolese church that meets in our building has also asked me to be their pastor.

“We assist with English classes, help older teenagers and adults get their hours up in driving practice so they can get their licences, work with another organisation [Prudent Women] to meet with widows and orphans, and support their beautiful choir.”

For more information on Harmony Day, visit harmony.gov.au

Celebrating diversity

A new outreach program is helping to bring together the lonely, broken and isolated in a diverse western Sydney community.

BY SANDRA PAWAR

When you enter Blacktown, in western Sydney, and walk on its streets, you are exposed to a beautiful tapestry. The yarn, threads and colours that make up the tapestry produce a beautiful picture that portrays an image of unity and harmony. Yet if you look at it a little more closely you notice that some of the threads are isolated, some of the vibrant colours have faded, and some of the threads are broken and no longer soft or flexible. To me, this describes Blacktown. When you look at the tapestry as a whole it is beautiful and colourful, but when you take a closer look at individual elements of it, you can see the imperfections and the broken threads.

The city of Blacktown has a population of almost 340,000. More than 136,000 of these people are born overseas. Around 17 per cent arrived in Australia between 2011 and 2016. They come from countries including India, Philippines, China, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. All these countries represented together make a stunning tapestry, a beautiful picture of harmony and unity. Yet, when you take a closer look you see brokenness and isolation, ugly and inflexible racist attitudes, loneliness and heartache.

My husband and I, both Salvation Army ministers, deeply desire to see the tapestry

PHOTO BY LEONARDO BURGOS ON UNSPLASH



of Blacktown look just as beautiful up close as it does far away. We believe that the heart of God is that all families and individuals within our communities would know that they belong, that they are valued, and the communities in which they live need them and everything they have to offer. With that in mind, we have rented an apartment in the middle of a community which is rich in different cultures and faiths. Where new immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and locals live. Doesn't it sound beautiful?

Life in a new country and a new city can be isolating and confusing, especially for people who are recent arrivals. To address this issue in Blacktown, we are working hard to provide programs and activities that help us engage with our neighbours, live life with people, and point them to Jesus.

For centuries, the simple act of sharing food and swapping stories has been a widely accepted practice that has caused strangers to become friends. That is why the table is central to what we do. Our greatest desire is that the apartment and our table become a place of community and connection for those who are longing to be welcomed and included.

We are putting the table to use in two specific ways. On Mondays, our family eats dinner and plays games at a picnic table located in the middle of our apartment block. By doing this we hope we will get to know people as they enter and leave their apartments, and that people will begin to join us as we become more familiar to them. On Friday evenings we host 'Neighbours Night'. We have done this for the last year in the neighbourhood where we live and want it to become a regular gathering at the apartment. We started by going door-to-door and inviting families to dinner. As we get to know people, we will have an open invitation for anyone who wants to join us.

We are certainly not doing anything new, and we do not even have the best model for this kind of ministry, but what we hope is that the broken, faded and isolated threads of the tapestry of Blacktown can be tended to, and shown a little bit of love and care so that, in the end, it truly represents the beauty that is found when all colours and cultures and people not only come together, but are celebrated and valued.

Sandra Pawar is a Salvation Army minister in western Sydney, NSW.



Beyond community

New film *Military Wives* shows that sometimes, a shared understanding of life's pressures is not enough.

BY MARK HADLEY

There are some films that male reviewers watch which they feel somewhat unqualified to judge. They address issues of a deeply personal nature for women which men can appreciate but never fully experience. *Military Wives* falls into that category. It's a true story that presents the pain and longing wives, mothers and lovers go through as they watch their dearest depart for dangerous territories, possibly never to return. I think, like many men, I was unaware of their quiet suffering. Yet, like all viewers, there is something I can take away from the way they learn to cope.

Military Wives is directed by Peter Cattaneo, the mind behind the 1997 comedy *The Full Monty*. It's set on a military base in the north of England where the families of the enlisted are farewelling their loved ones as they leave for Afghanistan. Kristin Scott Thomas plays Kate, the prim and proper wife of the brigade's commander. This is the fifth time she has seen her husband depart for a tour of dangerous territory. Playing opposite is Sharon Horgan as Lisa, the wife of the newly promoted Regimental Sergeant Major. Her informal responsibility is to keep up the spirits of the loved ones left behind, though she'd

much rather remain 'one of the gang'. When Kate, the Colonel's wife, decides she'll take a hand in organising respectable and non-alcoholic pastimes for the women, a choir is formed. The stage is set for a tussle between two very different personalities, but neither Kate nor Lisa are aware of the life-changing effects their little musical exercise will have.

Military Wives presents the real, appreciable pains of women married to the military. In a single conversation, two wives express both the uncertainty that clouds their days and their inability to do anything about it:

Sarah: I feel sick all the time. Every time the phone rings, every time the doorbell rings. How do you cope? Do you talk about it?

Maz: Let's have some wine.

The choir begins as a means of just keeping their minds off the dangerous work their loved ones might be doing, and begins badly. The women involved are so tone deaf and divided that their singing sounds more like "... the incantations of a bunch of witches". But as they find music that conveys their real feelings, a new and beautiful voice emerges. When they



decide to put lines from the letters they write to their husbands to music, it was enough to send this reviewer reaching for his handkerchief:

“10:30 tonight I’ll be looking at the moon.
That’s 1:30 for you.
Will you be looking there too?
These are the simple things
That help me get through.”

And that, in a nutshell, is the question *Military Wives* poses. How do we get through the hardest times in our lives? For the characters, it begins with community and a shared understanding of the pressures. As good as these are, it becomes clear something more will be required: sacrifice for the sake of the other. Kate is ready to sit with the wife of a soldier who’s been killed in action, despite the dark memories it raises of her own son’s loss. Likewise, Lisa is prepared to sacrifice the perfect lyric because it pains her older friend to hear it sung. And when we see something like this being played out on the big screen, we’ll naturally long to live in such relationships. Sadly, studies suggest that, despite our

numerous technologies, we’ve never felt more disconnected. However, the Bible assures us that a *Military Wives* relationship is in reach of us all.

When Jesus Christ’s enemies wanted to insult him, they called him “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” — the greatest outcasts in his society. Yet the Bible draws a line between everyone who has rejected God and that label ‘sinner’, for the sake of showing us just what a friend he can be for us:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

I was moved more than once by the sacrificial love *Military Wives* promotes. But I was comforted too. I could recognise the community and shared understanding, and particularly depth of devotion displayed, because I’ve experienced it in my relationship with Jesus. If you want to enjoy a feel-good film, then *Military Wives* is for you. And if you want to feel what it so lovingly displays, then the Bible says you can have that too.

Beating brokenness and discord

Maybe loving one another isn't so complex after all.

BY BELINDA CASSIE

I'm an online shopper. Not always, but mostly. Which means that I possibly visit my post officer more often than most. Tammy (not her real name) knows me by name now. Tammy was born in China, I guess she is around 60ish, she laughs at my prematurely grey hair and is delightfully sarcastic. She tells me off, shaking her head and 'tsking' at me if she hasn't seen me in a while and, secretly, Tammy is my favourite staff member.

My 'little brother' is a good 30cm or so taller than me. He just moved back to Australia after living in Europe for a while, honing his skills as a jazz trombone player. He is your typically annoying younger sibling — he eats the fridge bare, doesn't clean up after himself and the smell of his room is beyond description. He's also Korean, and I'm an uber pale Australian so our 'family' photos are hilarious.

In a former life I was a nurse in a busy emergency department (ED) in Sydney. I almost ended up on a promo poster once. See, I'd gotten to know a genuinely lovely local woman particularly well. I'd cared for two of her daughters who were

both pregnant and suffered horribly from hyperemesis (persistent severe vomiting) throughout their pregnancies. I met her again when one of her grandkids came into emergency, and one other time when a neighbour of hers had a fall.

The last time we met, I'd come on to the floor to start my shift and saw a large gathering of people around one of our acute-care beds. As I walked towards the group, a woman turned around and it was her. She walked over to me and told me her elderly father was passing away. She reached out and there in the middle of the ED we hugged. Another staff member had grabbed her phone and took a photo of this moment that she had found so moving. My medical colleagues all knew I was a Christian and this lady was a Lebanese migrant and a devout Muslim woman who wore traditional hijab. The two of us, from vastly different backgrounds connecting in that moment, struck a chord.

My Chinese friend from the post office, my Korean brother, my Lebanese Muslim visitor, the asylum seekers I cross paths



For Salvation Army chaplain Belinda, our journeys are richer when we contribute to each other's lives.

with through work, the friend from childhood who was born in Papua New Guinea, the Aboriginal woman who lived down the street from us who always called me 'Bub' and let me sing along when she played the guitar. My life is richer because of every single one of them.

Friends, family, neighbours and colleagues, I continue to count myself blessed that I get to live alongside and learn from and with them. I think, I hope, we are all better people because of what we contribute to each other's lives.

A learned young man once asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus' answer was pretty simple really — love God and love your neighbour as you

would yourself. Simple, right? And yet so complex. Or maybe not complex at all. Maybe it isn't always easy to love or respect someone who looks different to us, speaks differently, believes different things, loves differently, lives differently, comes from a different place. But I sure want to give it a go. Because there is enough brokenness and discord in this world, and if loving my neighbour, my Muslim neighbour, my foreign neighbour, my gay neighbour, my black neighbour, my addicted neighbour — if loving them brings a little more harmony into this world, then count me in!

Belinda Cassie is a Salvation Army chaplain with the Salvos' Inner City Social Mission, Sydney.

Anger defused

Relying on God took Sylvia on a journey from conflict to calmness.

BY SYLVIA LOI

I was a person who did not know how to communicate well. I was shy, hardly had any friends and felt inferior about my inability to communicate. My husband, on the contrary, spoke a lot and joked with his friends and others. That was one of the reasons I married him!

Years into our marriage, our relationship deteriorated. We found we had little in common and didn't know how to rebuild our happiness. My husband, our daughter and I each wanted to go our own ways.

My sister had been a Christian for around 17 years and for the past six of those had been telling me about God's love and his message of salvation. The conflicts in our marriage were increasingly affecting our daughter, so I took my sister's advice and decided to go to church to see if we could get help. I took our daughter with me. I also wanted her to make some more friends, as she was shy like me, and I thought this would help.

During my first two years of going to church each Sunday I was touched by the songs and the prayers, but I resisted actually believing in God. I didn't know why I found the decision to believe so hard, so I asked some Christians at work to help me and pray for me.

One Sunday, the Salvation Army officer (minister) asked if anyone wanted to accept God's call and I suddenly felt melted by God's love and accepted his saving grace. I believed.

After a while my passion for God and trust in him wasn't growing. I developed chronic severe insomnia, and was always too tired to do much, including read the Bible. I was afraid of losing my job and had to rely more on my husband. Our family was suffering.

Through God's mercy and prayer, I have kept my job. I still have insomnia but I know God's love is always with me and keeping me. When I have difficulty working out solutions for the tasks at hand, I pray and God leads me to finish those tasks.

Our daughter finished high school five years ago and wanted to leave Sydney and study in Melbourne. I prayed that God would provide the right opportunities for her, and for my husband to help her achieve her dream. God answered, and she studied in Melbourne.

My husband and I continued to have conflict and argued a lot. We were both unhappy and stressed. One sleepless



Life is much more peaceful and fulfilling now for new Salvation Army member, Sylvia Loi.

night I found one of my daughter's books from her church youth group years ago. I started reading it, and the Bible more, too. These books helped me with trusting God more, feeling at peace, and being calmer. Through what was happening in my life, God was helping me to follow him and his teachings.

God's teachings in the Bible about gentle words defusing anger and sharp words causing tempers to flare (Proverbs chapter 15, verse 1), as well as forgiving one another and the power of love and kindness, made a big impact on me. When I put them into practice, they also impacted my husband, and our home is

much more peaceful now. I still stumble and react from time to time, but am improving.

I believe that God has helped me to grow and I have now become a soldier (member) of The Salvation Army. This will help me to serve God and tell others about his amazing love. Around the world, The Salvation Army helps others physically and spiritually and I am glad to be a part of this church.

I pray that God will walk with me, transform me to be his peaceful daughter, and grant me the strength, grace and ability to serve him!

Russian ricotta cheesecakes



Ingredients

500g ricotta cheese (full cream or low fat), 2 eggs, 5 tbsp plain flour, 1 tsp vanilla essence, 3 tbsp sugar, pinch of salt, ¼ cup canola or vegetable oil, extra flour for dusting.

Method

Place ricotta, eggs, flour, vanilla essence, sugar and salt in mixing bowl. Using electric mixer or hands, mix thoroughly. Form eight balls. Flatten into patty shapes. Cover both sides with flour. Put oil in frying pan and fry cakes on a medium/low heat until golden. Serve warm with a dollop of sour cream and jam or sweetened condensed milk.

Recipe and photo courtesy Lena Pobjie.

Tip for the race of life

“God has no favourites”
Romans chapter 2, verse 11
(*The Voice Bible translation*)

We are family



When Jason was seven, his older brother Tom, then 10, told him that their beloved cousin Nicky, also seven, had been adopted from overseas.

Jason couldn't believe it. “No way, she is our cousin, her dad is our uncle, how is that even possible?” he said.

Tom was equally incredulous. “Well, didn't you ever notice her different skin and hair colour, and that she looks nothing like her parents or brother, or like us?” he asked.

Jason was still sure his brother was teasing him. “No, I didn't,” he replied. “She is just Nicky. There are no differences. I have no idea what you're talking about.”

The boys looked at a photo of their little cousin and Tom pointed out the differences in the little girl's outward appearance.

“It doesn't matter or change anything,” Tom said. “It's cool that she came here all the way from overseas and joined our family. She belongs with us and that's what family is all about.”

Jason nodded. “Who cares if she looks different? She doesn't anyway, she looks like her, and she's my favourite cousin!”

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

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 *Warcry* is Tum-Tum hiding?



Answers: 1. March 15-21 2. Australia's cultural diversity. 3. Communication, freedom and respect. 4. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 5. Love one another.

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

Quick quiz



1. When is Harmony Week in Australia?
2. What does Harmony Week celebrate?
3. Why is orange the colour of Harmony Day?
4. What similar United Nations Day is marked on 21 March?
5. How does God tell us to treat each other?

Want to know

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

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- information about The Salvation Army
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