

FEATURE

Restoring broken relationships

FAITH TALK

My chocolate dilemma

MY STORY

The full circle of faith

Being a place to belong

The impact of really seeing and hearing someone



SALVOS

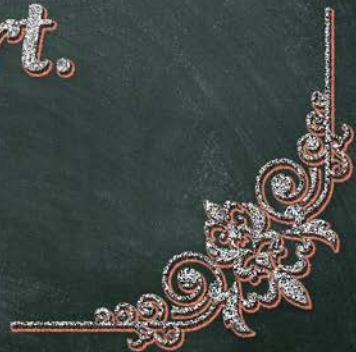
MAGAZINE





Today you could
be talking to someone
who is trying their
best not to fall apart.

So whatever you
do today, do it
with kindness in
your heart.





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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Easter opportunities

The Easter break provides something for everyone – an extended long weekend, a short family holiday, a choice of recreational experiences or a moment to spend time in personal reflection and evaluation.

I enjoy all of the above opportunities that Easter brings. However, I do take the opportunity to reflect on the Christian tradition and mystery of Easter – the story of grace as portrayed in the life and death of Jesus Christ and the mysterious gift of salvation centred on forgiveness, redemption and hope.

‘Amazing Grace’ is one of the world’s most loved songs. Published by John Newton in 1779, it is performed about 10 million times annually. For me, the story of John Newton and the words of his song capture and explain the mystery of Easter.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come,

‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Neil Venables (Lieut-Colonel)
Secretary for Communications

Being a place to belong

The impact of really seeing and hearing someone

WORDS BELINDA CASSIE

I walked into my local coffee shop this morning, the one I go to most days, and the barista turned and said, "Saw you coming!", smiled and pointed at the coffee she was already making for me.

“

I think that, ultimately, most people just want to be seen and known ...

”

She's amazing. I don't know how many times I have watched her greet people by name as they walk in and already have their coffee order underway. I asked her today if she ever got confused. She said no, because until about 9.30am it's all her 'usual people'. She added that as long as no one moved where she set down each person's coffee, she kept on top of it.

Then she said to me, "So you've been in the job for a month now." A statement. Not a question. And to be honest, I was a bit confused and said that the 20th would technically be a month since I started. She replied that I'd started mid-week, so it must be four weeks already ... and she was right,

of course. "See, you didn't even know," she added, "and no one got you a cake either did they? Rude!" And we laughed and I left.

But, as I sit here now, trying to write Sunday's sermon and being distracted by every other little task – because procrastination is a definite thing – I am struck by how much of a gift she has. I think that, ultimately, most people just want to be seen and known – to have someone acknowledge the small milestones, celebrate the little wins with them and commiserate on the losses. Our barista is great at it. She makes people feel like they belong.

I remember when I was looking for a church back in 2011 and I walked in, more than a little heavy on the sceptical side I confess, to a Salvos church in Brisbane. A lady called Elaine met me in the foyer. She was warm and welcoming, introduced me to someone and found me people to sit with. The following week she again met me in the foyer and remembered everything we spoke about the previous week and asked relevant questions because of it. And that's why I kept going back, initially. Elaine has that same gift that my barista does. She sees people, she hears them, and she makes them feel like they belong.

I wonder what our places and spaces would be like if we all gave that sort of welcome. Really seeing someone. Genuinely listening to them. Actively being the place they can belong.

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



Scan here for more on the need for community.



PHOTO BY NATHAN DUMLAO ON UNSPLASH

Reconciliation through the cross

The resurrection of Jesus is about restoring broken relationships

WORDS JANINE AND ROBERT DONALDSON

A friend of ours has a most intriguing collection of crosses, each from a different location and each carrying a particular meaning.

Among them is an olive wood cross that was made in the town of Jesus' birth, Bethlehem. Another, from the Netherlands, has the vine and branches carved onto its surface, representing [the Bible book of] John, chapter 15. A cross from the Democratic Republic of Congo, made from a spent bullet casing, reflects sacrificial service and reconciliation. The cross was a gift to a Salvation Army officer (pastor) who served there for 38 years.

There's also a Coventry Cross made from three iron nails. The original version was made from three large medieval nails salvaged from Coventry Cathedral after the building was severely damaged during a bombing raid in World War Two. The Coventry Cross is a well-known symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Reconciliation is a key theme of the cross of Jesus Christ. In some ways, the vertical axis can represent reconciliation with God, and the horizontal axis reconciliation with each other. The Apostle Paul develops our thinking on this in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 18: "God ... who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other" (*The Message Bible translation*).



What does reconciliation with God look like? God makes it possible, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, to restore to health a relationship that was fractured; from a broken relationship to one of peace, harmony, access and closeness.

What does reconciliation with others look like? It is the restoration of good relationships; to settle differences; or quite simply, to come together. This is important for all who are in relationship tension, but of special



focus for non-indigenous Australians with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Salvation Army is committed to this through our Reconciliation Action Plan*.

May God help us to be reconciled to him and to each other.

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson are the leaders of The Salvation Army Australia.

* The Salvation Army in Australia launched its

national Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in December last year. It provides a framework and living document to guide The Salvation Army's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our reconciliation initiatives.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Rural motorbike ministry on the road in Western Australia



The Western Australia motorbike ministry crew outside Narrogin Salvos.

Many Aussies are doing it tough in the bush. A combination of drought, bushfires, floods and a pandemic has made it increasingly difficult for people in remote areas to feel connected with the outside world.

“That’s why it’s important we travel the extra mile and go to them,” says Major Niall Gibson, Salvation Army officer (pastor) at Narrogin, south-east of Perth.

Niall, along with two other retired officers, started a rural motorbike outreach in Western Australia over a decade ago when they decided to support other rural pastors and their local communities. Their weekend visits often include a trivia night on the Saturday and a church service on the Sunday.

To date, the motorbike ministry has visited every regional Salvos church across Western Australia, except Karratha. And that’s no small task when you consider there are 24 Salvos churches spread across the state, with more than half located regionally!

“Participants don’t have to be from the Salvos or even Christian. We invite all our friends, mates – even mates’ mates!” said Niall. – **Jessica Morris**

Something new brewing in the Top End

Word spreads quickly in the Top End like the smell of freshly made coffee.

Captain Peter Jones, the Salvos Public Relations Secretary for the Northern Territory, said that despite only having taken to the streets just before Christmas, the new coffee van has already become popular.

“This is a coffee van for outreach for the Top End; to get out and about and around the place to spread good cheer through coffee,” he said. “Every time we go and do an event, we get a request to be somewhere else: ‘We’ve got this event on, would you guys like to come?’”

In the lead-up to Christmas, the van was used



Barista Jayden Wigley working at the new coffee van, a popular ministry initiative of the Salvos in Darwin.

at several locations and events, including satisfying thirsty supporters of the annual Darwin Christmas Toy Run, which was the biggest recorded, with more than 200 bikers turning out, and the PAWS [animal shelter] Photo Day where pets could have their photo taken with Santa. – **Darryl Whitecross**

Movie review – *The Grizzlies*



The Grizzlies is a recipe for success – and rightfully so. The new Canadian sports biopic about a lacrosse team from Kugluktuk, a small Arctic town in Canada's west, carries the spirit of *Remember the Titans*. And people

will naturally gravitate towards the story of the young teacher who uses sport to help transform a remote Inuit community, thereby breaking generational poverty.

It's a powerful concept, but the real strength of *The Grizzlies* lies beyond this trope. This incredible story is based on real life, and the real heroes are the community it is based upon – the people of Kugluktuk, a town with the highest suicide rate in North America where 50 per cent of children never attend school – and, more specifically, the teenagers who went to the National Lacrosse Championships in 2005.

There is a tendency in films about the 'underdog' to celebrate the (often-white) saviour who coaches them to victory, and their teacher Russ Sheppard (Ben Schnetzer) is a good candidate. On first moving to Kugluktuk, he fails to understand the Inuit way of life and is understandably grieved at the rampant epidemics of suicide, domestic violence, poverty and drunkenness he witnesses. He uses his college sport of lacrosse to find common ground with his class – teaching them about teamwork, belonging and self-worth.

But to summarise *The Grizzlies* in this way does a disservice to the community who lived

this story. Because, while we go into this film through the eyes of a white foreigner, we are humbled and stripped of our colonised privilege (like the teacher) when we witness teenagers fight for their lives and their community.

White Australians like myself will benefit from watching this story because it pushes us beyond ourselves, showing us the beauty and power of other cultures. It is then our responsibility to take these learnings and bring them home, realising that similar stories have been lived out by Aboriginal Australians since colonisation.



In a year where so many quality Australian films featuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander actors are on the big screen, we have ample opportunity to learn what this requires of us in bringing about reconciliation.

The Grizzlies is rated M for suicide themes and coarse language. – **Jessica Morris**

My chocolate dilemma

The real message of Easter is not about sweet treats

WORDS BELINDA DAVIS

There was a time when I really looked forward to Easter. The thought of receiving all those chocolate eggs was something that would send this little chocoholic into eager anticipation. Lindt chocolate bunnies were my absolute favourite. And then there was the invention of choc-chip hot cross buns. Divine. Easter was right up there as the most wonderful time of the year.

“

The Easter season has very little to do with chocolate.

”

That was until three years ago when I made a somewhat radical decision. I had noticed that, as the years progressed, I was easily gaining weight that wasn't so easy to lose, so I thought I would try cutting refined sugar from my diet. Without refined sugar in my diet, I was sleeping better, thinking more clearly and began losing weight. It was very disappointing – I was hoping it would make no difference at all so I could go back to the sweet chocolatey treats I loved!

After a few months of this new way of eating, I allowed myself the occasional sweet treat and discovered that the milk chocolate I used to adore was now way too sweet to enjoy! Instead, I found that dark chocolate was the

most I could handle, and it needed to contain a high percentage of cocoa – something I had previously considered tasted like dirt.

Then, last Easter rolled around. I was given my usual stash of chocolate eggs and other treats and I thought they were lovely. Until I tried eating them. Each of my chocolate treasures was significantly less enjoyable than before. Even the choc-chip hot cross bun I allowed myself to have was very disappointing. Now, of course, I could have chosen not to eat them, but these were gifts presented to me by people I care about. Plus, it was chocolate after all. So, I ate my chocolate stash almost begrudgingly and I felt my love of that side of Easter slide away.

This season is coming around again and, as it approaches, I am debating what to do. Do I reject the sweet, chocolate offerings that come my way? Do I accept them graciously before finding someone else to consume them? Do I ask people who might be thinking of buying me chocolate eggs to buy me something else instead?

You can begin to understand the levels of my anxiety about this situation but, as I offload this drama here, it dawns on me that my focus for Easter is somewhat skewed.

NOT ABOUT CHOCOLATE

You see, the Easter season has very little to do with chocolate, sugar or any other type of food, and everything to do with the sacrificial



gift of love that Jesus demonstrated for each one of us. The punishment he took, that we so rightly deserved, enables us to enter into a restored relationship with God.

“

**We should be reminded
... of the price Jesus
paid for our freedom.**

”

The trouble is, everywhere we look we see the retail message of Easter (that is, chocolate) and nothing about what it really means. At least at Christmas there are some nativity scenes around but at Easter, there are no depictions of the season, apart from the cross on the hot cross buns. This is probably because the images of Jesus' sacrifice are not as palatable to us, and we would rather not be reminded of someone's pain and suffering.

That is where we are wrong, though. We very much should be reminded of the price Jesus paid for our freedom. In the Bible, in the book of John chapter 3 and verse 16, it says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." That is a gift worth holding on to.

So, this year, as I contemplate my chocolate dilemma, I am hoping that it will remind me that the message of Easter is not wrapped in chocolate but is the gift that was offered so many years ago. I pray you will realise the value of this gift also as you prepare for this time of celebration.

Major Belinda Davis is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia.



Scan here for more
on finding meaning.

The full circle of faith

A personal story of hope

WORDS NAOMI SINGLEHURST

One night in 2005, Brett was woken from a deep sleep by a mysterious voice saying, "Brett, get up". He opened his eyes to see an orange glow around all the windows. Brett yelled, "Fire!", woke his wife, grabbed one of his sons and ran down the stairs.

He handed his son to his neighbours, who were running towards his house.

"I turned the tap on to try and hose the stairs down because they were starting to catch on fire," Brett says.

"Then the hose exploded off the tap because of all the pressure, so I ran back upstairs, and my wife had our youngest son, and she was just standing in the bedroom. All the windows had bars on them. Everything was on fire."

Remembering television ads of the time that said in the event of fire, "Get down low and go, go, go", the family struggled to the back door, only to find it fully ablaze.

"We started making our way back to the front door, and that's when the smoke alarm finally went off," Brett says. "So, we got to the front door and the stairs were actually fairly well on fire. I had to push my wife off the stairs, and I jumped about two or three metres. Then we watched the house, our cars and all our contents burn."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The young couple were renting and studying



Brett and his wife Kirsten are now a part of the Salvos in Brisbane.

at the time. They were massively under-insured and highly traumatised.

Brett says friends, workmates and locals started to drop in gifts and meals. Local TV stations and a major radio station did appeals and another radio station paid for their wedding.

"We were incredibly grateful," he says.

"Everyone was very, very generous.

"My wife was studying at university with a Salvation Army church member who sent us to a local Salvos centre. They talked to us and gave us a computer and just really practical stuff and ... compassion and genuine care.

"The care was discreet and genuinely

pastoral. So, it lodged in my head, that this was an organisation that genuinely cares for people, regardless of faith. And at that stage I had no faith. I was an atheist.”

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

By 2013, Brett and his wife had five kids. Brett had a good job and says he should have been content with his life, but instead he started to feel it was pointless.

“I didn’t really know how to be a good dad, or a husband, or anything like that, and kept thinking, ‘There’s got to be more to life than this,’” he shares.

Brett says the mysterious voice that woke him years before and saved his family had never made sense to him. But as he started searching for meaning and praying, many more “small, strange things – miracles or coincidences” started to occur.

“

There is always, always hope.

”

“God was sneaking into my life,” Brett says. “There were a couple of times when prayers were answered in astonishing ways, against all the odds. Then one night, I can’t really explain it – it was just weird – but I had a real encounter with God. It was like this invisible, but very real presence.”

Brett says the next day he woke up as a totally different person. “I felt more grounded and sane than I had ever felt, but had to keep checking – am I going insane [or] imagining things? But it was also so exciting.”



Brett now works for the Salvos as a youth pastor in Brisbane.

Brett studied at theological college and eventually took on a role as a Salvos youth minister in Brisbane.

“My heart now is to share joy, hope and a sense of purpose with others, and in so many ways it feels like I’ve come full circle with the Salvos,” he says.

“For me, the Easter message is that God is not distant and angry – but loving and close. Through Christ, God became one of us and suffered and experienced all the pain and trauma and sadness that we experience in life. Then through the cross, darkness, death and sin were ultimately defeated, and our lives can be transformed.

“In my experience, even in the hardest times, the light of Christ is there. And because of that, there is always, always hope.”



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Lemon and lime granita

PHOTO BY ANDINEA REDFORD



Ingredients

1 cup sugar, ¼ cup lime juice, ½ cup lemon juice, the zest of 1 lime or lemon.

Method

Combine 2 cups of water with the sugar in a small saucepan. Stir over medium-high heat for about 5 minutes, or until the sugar has dissolved.

Bring the mixture to the boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer without stirring for 5 minutes, or until the syrup thickens slightly.

Remove from heat, pour mixture into a bowl and let cool for 5-10 minutes. Cover and refrigerate until well-chilled.

Add juices and zest to syrup. Stir to combine. Pour into a metal slice or baking tray. Place in the freezer until ice crystals form around the edges – around 30 minutes. Then use a fork to break up any frozen sections and stir the ice into the centre of the tray.

Continue freezing and stirring the mixture every 30 minutes for around 2½-3 hours. Finally let the mixture freeze solid.

To serve, use a spoon to scrape the mixture into crystals and serve in a small bowl. Garnish with a slice of lime or lemon.

Have a laugh



Me: Did you miss me while you were at Nana's?

Six-year-old: She let us make chocolate-chip biscuits.

Me: I missed you.

Six-year-old: We ate them for breakfast.

So, that's a no ...

My son came home from primary school, crying.

Me: What happened?

Son: My teacher said it was a piece of cake. But there was no cake at all. She lied about the cake. That is not something to be proud of, lying to children.

Bible byte

"Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all."

1 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 4.

The Passion Translation

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

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. Brazil 2. Crude oil 3. cappuccino
 Water 4. Finland 5. Latte, flat white, and page 13.
Tum-Tum: is hiding under Brett's arm on

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

Quick quiz



PHOTO BY JAKUB DZIUBAK ON UNSPLASH

1. Which country in the world grows the most coffee?
2. Which is the only legal commodity that is traded more than coffee?
3. What is the only drink consumed more than coffee?
4. Which nation consumes the most coffee per head of population?
5. What are the three most popular coffee drinks in Australia?

Did you know?

- The names of the six continents end with the same letter that they start with.
- The WD in WD-40 stands for Water Displacer.
- The first product that Sony came out with was the rice cooker.



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The site can also help you connect with one or more of our social services. We can assist in many areas – from financial stress and homelessness, to addiction and family violence – and offer hope to those struggling for meaning and purpose in life.

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