

salvos

magazine

A place to truly belong

Building community for all



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FEATURE

Everyone has a part to play

FAITH TALK

A place of welcome and inclusion

MY STORY

Advocating alongside people with disabilities



Harmony Week 2023

20-26 March

Hear stories

Accept everyone

Read and learn

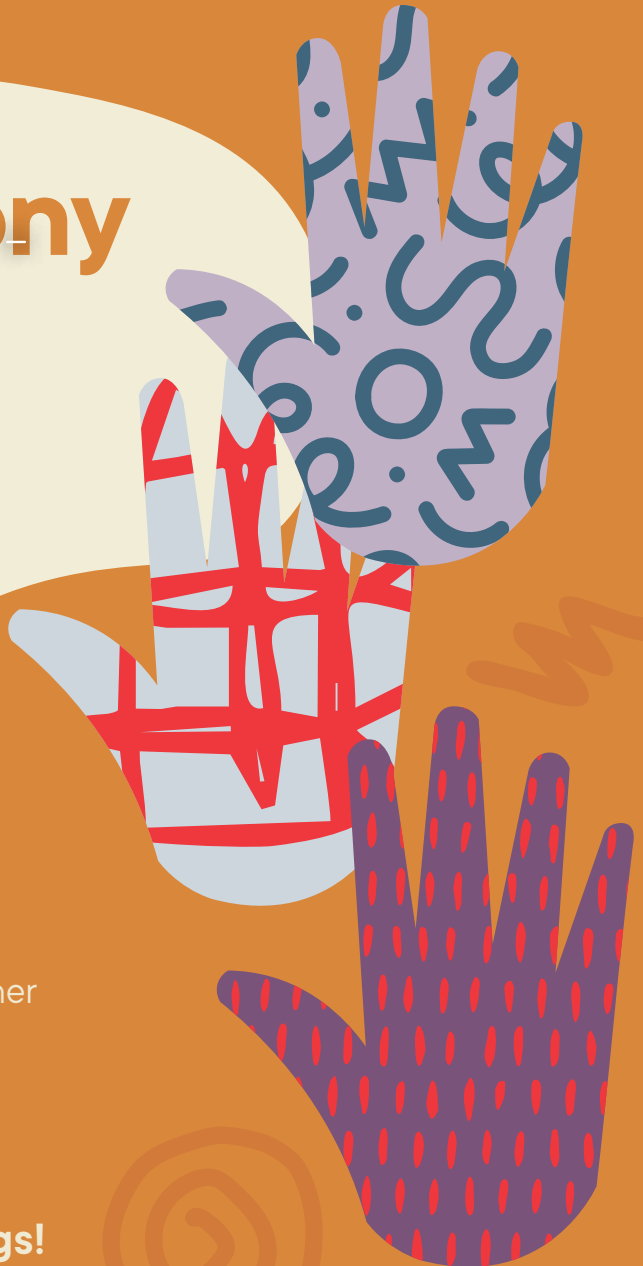
Move forward together

Open minds

New connections

You belong!

Everyone belongs!





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



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

Salvos Magazine

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A sense of belonging

Australia is about to celebrate Harmony Week (21-26 March). This week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from different backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, genders and abilities. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Harmony Day falls on 21 March – the United Nations Day of Elimination of Racial Violence – which emphasises that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their communities and broader societies.

In this edition of *Salvos Magazine*, we focus on community and the need every person has to belong – to be seen, acknowledged, affirmed and loved. We look at some personal stories, from childhood sporting teams to international encounters with refugees, as well as the work of the Salvos in aged care, disability and the rainbow community.

Jesus didn't – and doesn't – discriminate. He went out of his way on Earth to include and love those who society looked down on or rejected, and he asks us to do the same today.

Simone Worthing **Editor**

An invitation to real community

Ensuring everyone has a part to play

WORDS PHIL INGLIS

I wasn't a sporty kid. I was pretty big, and I couldn't run very fast, so I never really tried to join sports teams or even play during the lunch break.

So, for me, sports classes were terrible. The worst time was when we were forced to join teams. On a number of occasions, the teacher would appoint two students as team captains. These two captains would then take turns choosing other students to join their teams until eventually all the students in the class were chosen.



I assume this was a widespread practice in Australian schools and probably around the world. I think teachers felt it was a fair way to divide all the students into two evenly matched teams. I was never the first, second or third pick for either team (or fourth, fifth or sixth for that matter), so it was quite a humiliating experience.

“

**I suddenly felt like
I was a part of the team,
not just on the team.**

”

JUST ON THE TEAM

What this did, however, was force all students to be a part of a team – or at least on the surface it did. In reality, I was on the team, but I wasn't part of the team. In many subtle and informal ways, I wasn't allowed to participate. I was assigned to a position that never saw much action. Sometimes I was the water boy or the carrier of the half-time oranges.

When I was on the soccer field, the ball was never passed to me. When I accidentally found myself in possession of the ball, members of my own team would tackle me for it. I wore the jersey, I signed the sign-in sheet at the beginning of the game, I sang the team



songs, and I put my hand in the ring at the beginning of the match but fundamentally, I couldn't participate.

This was quite traumatic for me, but it doesn't end tragically. One day a clever teammate realised that I was a few inches taller than any other player we had – or faced – and that I had fast reflexes. They suggested to the teacher that I should be goalkeeper.

PART OF THE TEAM

Next game I was made the keeper and I absolutely loved it. I was given the opportunity to participate, to contribute. My ideas were listened to, my directions to the defenders were followed and I suddenly felt like I was a part of the team, not just on the team.

Teams are sometimes great examples of community. I wonder if we think about the various circles, teams, groups, churches and organisations we are a part of and ask ourselves if we really include everyone. Are there people who

are on our teams but not actually a part of our team?

Sports teams differ from reality in that they are small and have very limited ways in which people can participate. In most communities, though, there are as many ways to participate as there are people. Are there people we are unintentionally preventing from participating? Are there people we aren't listening to? Are there assumptions we are making about people?

Our challenge this Harmony Week is to find those people who are on our 'teams' and to invite them to be part of our 'teams'.

Phil Inglis is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.



Scan here for information on assistance in the community.

The need to be seen

Recognising our shared humanity

WORDS SANDRA PAWAR

As I think about the theme for this year's Harmony Week, 'Everyone Belongs', my mind immediately goes to a young person I met in Athens, Greece, in 2018.

I remember so clearly the day I met him. It was a Thursday morning when a friend and I from The Salvation Army entered the famous Victoria Square in Athens. Victoria Square was the location where thousands upon thousands of refugees took shelter during the height of the European refugee crisis in 2015. Night after night, hundreds would make the square their home until they could gather enough money to cross the border into the rest of Europe.



This young man was one of many thousands who lived in a park for more than one year, knowing nobody.

Although there were no longer hundreds of refugees sleeping there in 2018, it was still the local hang-out spot for refugees in the city.

“

Do we take the time to actually see the people who long for a place to belong?

”

KNOWING NO ONE

As we entered the square, one young man caught my eye straight away. He was sitting between a lift and the stairs to the train station below. He was dishevelled and sitting scrunched up, with his legs folded beneath him, holding on tight to a ripped plastic bag. I walked over to him, smiling, and asked how he was – he just smiled and shook his head. I smiled back and asked if he spoke English, and again he just smiled and shook his head. I felt that maybe I was invading his space, so I shook his hand and said goodbye.

I sat on a nearby bench with my friend. A few minutes later the same young man walked past us and motioned for us to let him sit on the bench too, so we shuffled over and made a space for him. We offered him some water and he shook his head. We offered him some chocolate and again he smiled



For many refugees, their memories of transit countries, and their experiences of their new home nations, are ones of loneliness, isolation and rejection.

and shook his head. We began to use Google Translate to talk. We found out he was from Afghanistan, he was in Greece by himself, and he had been here for one year, living in this park the whole time. He didn't have any relatives or friends with him and knew nobody.

Google Translate was not really translating very well and often he would just smile at us, clearly confused by what we were trying to say, so after a few minutes we settled into a peaceful silence. I bought him some lunch, but he didn't want it. The three of us just sat on the bench together in silence, with the occasional glance and smile. After about 40 minutes in silence, we had to leave.

As I was walking away my heart hurt. I was not able to offer this young man anything – he didn't want anything from us, and I could not communicate with him. I wondered why he came and

sat with us. He didn't seem to have an agenda – he was just happy to sit and smile with us.

SEEN AND ACKNOWLEDGED

For someone who has been invisible to the world around him for a year, maybe just being seen was enough. Being recognised and treated as a human may have been all he needed for those 40 minutes – someone to see and acknowledge him.

I don't think for a moment he felt that he 'belonged', but I pray that he felt seen. I believe that in order for people to feel like they belong somewhere, they first need to be seen, to be acknowledged and to be noticed.

Do we take the time to actually see the people who long for a place to belong? Do we see those in our communities who most feel unwanted, rejected, abandoned and cast aside? If we don't see them, how can they possibly know they 'belong' anywhere?

You may not be able to go to Greece and sit with refugees, but there are plenty of people in your communities and neighbourhoods who need you to acknowledge them, who need you to see their humanity, and who need you to be present for them. People who need to be seen.

Once we begin to really see people, maybe then they will begin to know they belong too.

Captain Sandra Pawar is an Australian Salvation Army officer (pastor) in the USA.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Salvos show their support at Melbourne Pride March

A team of more than 50 Salvos marched in the Midsumma Festival's Pride March in Melbourne last month, with others supporting from the crowd.

The Salvation Army has been part of the Pride March since 2016. Its presence at the march, under the banner of the Red Shield, demonstrates to the rainbow community that the Salvos are inclusive in the social and community services they offer.

"It shows the community that we stand alongside them so we can build trust and positive connections in what has been, historically, an experience of exclusion and discrimination," says Captain Stuart Glover, Secretary for Mission.

"Our involvement in events such as these centres around our commitment to inclusion and effective inclusive practice, enabling The Salvation Army to be recognised as a safe and welcoming space for all people, especially those most vulnerable."



A Salvos team took part in the Melbourne Pride March last month. Photos Kim Landy.

"Firstly, we wanted to show support to our LGBTIQ+ staff, and secondly, to show our support for our rainbow clients as well as the wider LGBTIQ+ community," says Chris Brett-Renes, LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice Coordinator for The Salvation Army Australia. "We wanted to send the message, 'If you need us, you are in safe hands with us.' The team was so enthusiastic, and we had an amazing reception from the crowd."

Major Rebecca Inglis, Salvos officer, marched for the first time. "I've become increasingly aware of the disadvantage and exclusion experienced by the LGBTIQ+ community, and it's not okay with me," she says. "I want The Salvation Army to be an organisation, to be a church, where all people feel welcome ... loved, respected and safe."

The Salvation Army also participated in the WorldPride March in Sydney on 5 March, for the first time. – **Simone Worthing**

Salvos make firm commitment to Aged Care

In 2022, The Salvation Army conducted a comprehensive review of its Aged Care services and its future direction to ensure it continues to support those most vulnerable in our communities as they age.

The Salvation Army Board has approved a new 10-year Strategic Plan for The Salvation Army Aged Care.

“This new direction will further our mission and enhance our impact by significantly growing our socially focused Aged Care services,” says Colonel Winsome Merrett, Chief Secretary. “The focus in the coming decade will be on supporting older persons who are



homeless, living in poverty or seeking support to age with dignity, by providing high-quality, compassionate and holistic care in communities across our nation.”

‘Start a Yarn’ campaign launches

The architects of the Uluru Statement and First Nations leaders last month launched ‘Start a Yarn’, a national program inviting the Australian public to participate in online yarnning circles to increase awareness and understanding of the First Nations Voice ahead of the referendum.

Professor Megan Davis, Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law at UNSW and Uluru Dialogue Co-Chair, said the yarnning circles would provide the Australian public with the information they need to ‘start a yarn’ with their families, friends and workmates.

“Many Australians have heard the Voice being discussed in the national conversation but don’t know much about the Dialogue process or the 12-year journey to a referendum,” Professor Davis says.

“‘Start a Yarn’ provides an opportunity for Australians to hear directly about the



process that led to a grassroots consensus from First Nations people on the need for an enshrined Voice.”

To register go to ulurustatement.org/education/start-a-yarn/.

A place to belong

Building an inclusive community for all

WORDS MELANIE-ANNE HOLLAND

Regent Honeyeaters are spectacular birds. They are also critically endangered, with only 250-350 of these birds left in the wild – their population ravaged by the pressures of habitat clearing across NSW.

Government agencies, zoos, private conservation groups and other not-for-profit organisations are working desperately on a breeding program and habitat restoration projects, to release more Regent Honeyeaters into the wild. But they have encountered an unforeseen problem ...



Kindness and hospitality help people find friendships and community.

LEARNING LANGUAGE

The newly released Regent Honeyeaters were not forming kinship bonds and having offspring in the wild. It turns out that female Regent Honeyeaters are on the lookout for a particular love song,

and the birds bred in captivity had not learnt this love language from their elders. Instead, these intelligent birds learnt the songs of other species around them in the zoos.

“

People might look like they are doing okay, while still experiencing loneliness ...

”

For all intents and purposes, the captive-bred Regent Honeyeaters looked like they belonged in the wild, foraging and healthy, but they were isolated and unsuccessful because they could not speak the language around them. Once the issue was identified, the conservation program pivoted quickly, providing the captive-bred birds with recordings of wild Regent Honeyeaters, mentoring them in the language skills needed to navigate their new homes and build networks.

Language is a gateway to belonging. As we gather and celebrate Harmony Week, it is a reminder to us all that people might look like they are doing okay, while experiencing loneliness and frustration. With a few small adjustments on our part, we can make sure that others are welcomed and included.



The Regent Honeyeaters bred in captivity failed to thrive in the wild until they could learn the language of the community around them.

WARMTH OF STRANGERS

Five years ago, my husband and I travelled to Japan and spent a week in Tokyo. Armed with guidebooks, a few key phrases and a load of enthusiasm, we made our way around the city and had a wonderful experience.

One of the most memorable days for me was going to The Salvation Army and being warmly welcomed to their Sunday morning meeting. I did not expect to understand much of the worship service but in a gesture of great hospitality, a man chose to sit with us and translate much of the service into English. Through his kindness, we were invited into community, to share food and stories, celebrating our commonalities and newfound friendship.

This kind of consideration and hospitality is the very essence of the movement that Jesus started. In one of his most famous stories, the parable of the sheep and the goats (see Matthew chapter 25, verses 31-40), Jesus teaches about the virtue of compassion. He talks about people from all nations being brought

together and he specifically commends people who show mercy to those who are in hardship. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me in ..."

Harmony Week in Australia is a celebration of our diversity and bringing people together from different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness and respect and affirming that everyone belongs. The struggle of the Regent Honeyeater is a reminder to us that people may also struggle to find a true sense of community. In a time when many people report high levels of loneliness and social isolation, let's do what we can to keep the communication open and make sure that everyone truly belongs.

Major Melanie-Anne Holland is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in NSW. She also holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons).



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

A day in the life of ... Joseph Pinkard

Advocating alongside people with disabilities

Over the coming months, *Salvos Magazine* will feature people from all walks of life who are part of the varied work of The Salvation Army across the country. In this edition we feature **Joseph Pinkard**, who leads the National Disability Inclusion team.

***Salvos Magazine:* Can you give us an overview of your role?**

Joseph Pinkard: I provide national leadership, support and resources to Salvation Army faith communities and mission centres seeking to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

What can a typical week involve for you?

A typical week involves meeting with Salvos and listening to them about how their community is engaging with people with disabilities. I also spend time developing resources and training to support Salvos on the frontline in engaging and including people with disabilities.

What's the most challenging part of your work?

Responding to complex systemic or institutional barriers to disability inclusion. I often learn about these barriers from a person with a disability who is devastated because they are experiencing exclusion from a place where they expect to feel welcome and belonging. This can be challenging because there are no easy answers.

What's the most rewarding?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is facilitating a working group of Salvos with lived experience of disability who help guide ideas and actions to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities. There is a catchcry in the disability rights movement, "Nothing about us, without us", so working with this group and co-designing resources and solutions is very rewarding.

“

Celebrating Harmony Week is a great way for communities to demonstrate inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians ...

”

What progress do you see in diversity and inclusion in the broader Australian context?

There is a growing awareness that people from marginalised groups need to be at the centre of creating a more diverse and inclusive community. The voices of lived experience can help us understand what it is really like to live with a disability and should also be central in designing, developing and

implementing solutions to address issues of exclusion and persecution.

What are some of the major barriers to harmony and belonging in our society?

A perception that it is too hard and complex. I advocate alongside people with disability, an extremely diverse and unique cohort of people. Those with disability can often also intersect with other marginalised groups, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, who have rates of disability similar to the rest of the population (approximately 18 per cent of Australians identify as living with a disability).

What role can Harmony Week play in our communities?

Celebrating Harmony Week is a great way for communities to demonstrate inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. In celebrating Harmony Week, we should consider how accessible celebrations are for people with disabilities.

Why does The Salvation Army, as a church, focus on diversity and inclusion?

Our call as a church is grounded in what we read in the Bible and discern through prayer of God's heart for diversity and inclusion. The diversity of humanity is held together in the belief that all people are created in God's image (Genesis chapter 1, verse 27). When it comes to inclusion of people with disabilities in the Church, we are particularly guided by Jesus' teaching about the inclusion of people with disabilities (Luke chapter 14) and the Apostle Paul's teaching about the interdependence of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians chapter 12).



Joseph is focused on advocating alongside people with disabilities.

How does your personal faith impact your role?

I have spent the last nine years of my life serving in various disability-related organisations and ministries, so in this season of my life I feel a sense of God's call to advocate alongside people with disability. I also draw energy and wisdom from my faith and engagement with God through reading Scripture, fellowship, prayer and reflection.

Interview by Simone Worthing.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Massaman curry dipping sauce



Ingredients

Sesame oil; 2 cloves garlic, crushed; 3 tbsp crushed peanuts; 2 tbsp Massaman paste; ½ cup peanut butter; 1 can coconut milk; 3 tbsp soy sauce; sprinkle of light brown sugar; sea salt and black pepper to taste

Method

- Gently fry sesame oil and crushed garlic, add nuts and caramelize.
- Add Massaman paste, peanut butter, coconut milk and soy sauce. Gently simmer for 10-15 minutes. Add a dash of water if it reduces too much.
- Add sugar, salt and pepper to taste.
- Serve with naan or roti bread or add to rice or vegetable dishes.



Quick quiz

1. What is the theme of Harmony Day this year?
2. What percentage of Australians speak a language other than English at home?
3. How many foreign languages are spoken in Australia?
4. How many Indigenous languages exist in Australia?
5. What percentage of Australians agree that multiculturalism has been good for Australia?

Bible byte

“Live in harmony with one another.”

Romans chapter 12, verse 16
New International Version

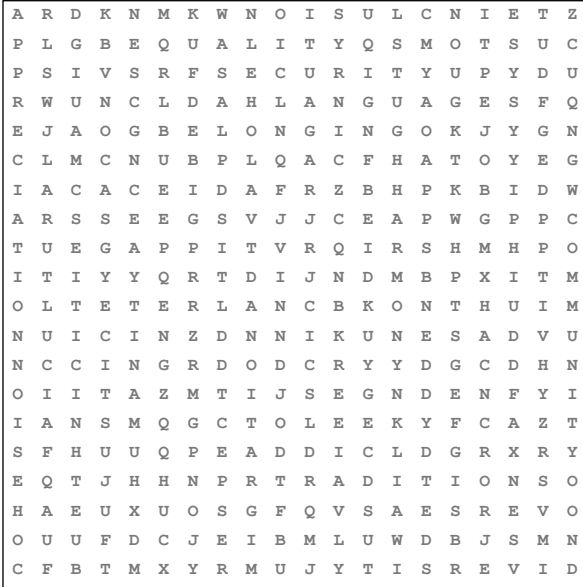
Tum-Tum

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



Wordsearch

Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!



- Acceptance
- Appreciation
- Belonging
- Cohesion
- Community
- Cultural
- Customs
- Diversity
- Equality
- Ethnicities
- Friendship
- Harmony
- Humanity
- Inclusion
- Indigenous
- Justice
- Languages
- Linguistic
- Migration
- Neighbours
- Orange
- Overseas
- Respect
- Security
- Traditions
- Unity

HAVE A LAUGH

- Why did the invisible man turn down the job offer?
He couldn't see himself doing it.
- How can you tell it's a dogwood tree?
By the bark.
- What do you get when you mix a cocker spaniel, a poodle and a ghost?
A cocker-poodle boo.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The world's fastest insect is Australia's tiger beetle *Cicindela hudsoni*, which can run 2.5 metres per second (9 km/h).
- Children ask an average of 300 questions per day.
- You lose up to 30 per cent of your taste buds during flight.
- There are more than 1700 references to gems and precious stones in the King James translation of the Bible.

Quiz answers: 1. Everyone belongs. 2. 22.3%. 3. An estimated 300-plus. 4. More than 250. 5. 86%. **Turn-Turn:** is behind the shield on Joe's shirt on page 13.



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STORES

BECOME A *Changemaker*



Scan the QR code to join our team of Changemakers who are passionate about raising funds to help Aussies in need.

