

salvos

magazine



It is finished

The love that
changes everything



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FEATURE

Easter –
healing and
restoration
of the soul

FEATURE

The
Listening
Project

MY STORY

Loving life
and living
free

“Young people should be at the forefront of
global change and innovation.
Empowered, they can be key agents for
development and peace.
If, however, they are left on society’s margins,
all of us will be impoverished.
Let us ensure that all young people have
every opportunity to participate fully in
the lives of their societies.”

– Kofi Annan





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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living free

Love changes everything

Easter is about love – a love that brings freedom, restoration, healing and hope, regardless of our circumstances. It's about a love that can change our lives.

The articles in this edition reflect that deep and profound love of God. Peter McGuigan writes about the anguish and abandonment Jesus felt on the cross as he suffered for all humanity – because of his love and the freedom he knew his death would bring us. Healing from our own grief and pain is available through that same love and grace when we develop a relationship with Jesus and allow him to regenerate our lives.

In My Story, Katrina shares her journey from addiction to a vibrant faith in God, and how that has given her a changed life of love, hope and helping others.

To highlight National Youth Week (4-14 April), we also look at two Salvos programs that are working with young people – listening to their voices, and supporting them through the decisions, options and choices they are facing.

For these stories and more, go to salvosonline.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Dark night of the soul

The events of the first Easter provide access to healing from the past and the restoration of goodness in our lives.

WORDS Peter McGuigan

Christ was alone. It was midnight as he lay awake in a cell in the bowels of Roman Army headquarters in Jerusalem. Fifteen hours later he would hang on a cross, dead. He knew this as he contemplated the next day. His life would end, painfully, brutally, abandoned.

These were the final hours he had known about from childhood. Now, however, it was much more than an intellectual understanding, a learnt knowledge. Scourging his every thought, the Holy Scriptures became his death sentence: "He was despised

and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering... He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter" (see Isaiah chapter 53, verses 1-11). He knew within his whole being, perhaps with more certainty than ever, that this was his destiny – and he faced a long, dark night of the soul.

JESUS' SORROW

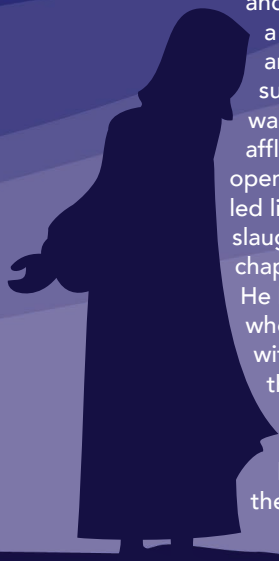
You don't have to listen too closely to hear the emotional bleeding in Jesus' thoughts. I ask myself what most played on Christ's mind that night. Was it fear of death? Was it humiliation? Was it the anticipation of physical pain – the nails being driven through his hands, the whipping he would receive? Was it anger, as he considered his innocence and the irony of being murdered by a treacherous, shallow, two-faced humanity?

“

No one's inner pain is insignificant.

”

Traces of all these emotions may have found their way into Jesus' mind in those chilling hours. But his primary source of pain that night was sorrow. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he had confided to disciples Peter, James and John before being arrested in the still of night in the Garden of Gethsemane.



I have stopped more than once to think about this phrase Jesus used – “sorrow to the point of death”. This was intense, unbearable inner pain, and at its core was abandonment. “My God, my God,” he cried out on the cross while dying, “why have you forsaken me?”

Some say this was complete aloneness. But it was more than that. It is one thing suddenly to be alone – it is another to be abandoned.

I believe the magnitude of Jesus’ sorrow was because of who he was. This was divine sorrow melded with human sorrow. It was in the garden, and then on the cross, that Jesus most experienced the extreme juxtaposition of being both human and divine. Heavenly and earthly grief overtook him.

PERSONAL PAIN

When I think of this, I’m tempted to also think that the sorrow and grief I have experienced in my life are insignificant. But they are not. No one’s inner pain is insignificant. I have known abandonment in my life and it took a long time for me to awaken to its impact upon me, including my outlook on life.

As I look around me now, I can see this sorrow in the lives of others – in the seeming hopelessness of people who live on the street; in the fear in victims of chronic domestic violence; in the betrayal of a person whose partner has been unfaithful; in the grief of the family that has suffered the sudden loss of a loved one.

Sometimes I see it just by looking into their faces. Their eyes tell of sorrow

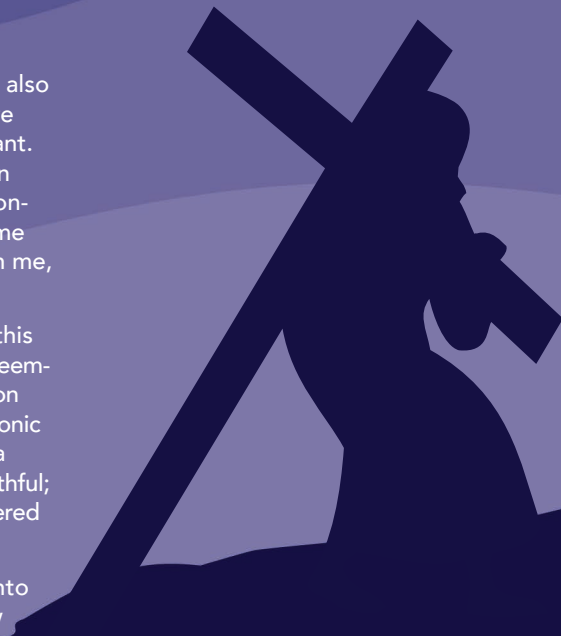
and, often, of abandonment. Sometimes we need to talk to people. Gradually they open up – especially if we’re open with them. And they share their stories of sorrow.

“

Healing from sorrow and abandonment is available ...

”

It helps to talk. Jesus knew this and that’s why the majority of his time was spent mingling with the crowds. But as anyone who has identified sorrow as a barrier to ▶



emotional health and growth in their life can tell you, it takes more than talking to work it through.

“

**I have come to embrace
Jesus' kiss of grace, to allow
its regeneration of my life.**

”

Just where does the answer to overcoming sorrow and abandonment lie? Some say you've got to learn to live with it. That's true to a degree. Our humanity attests to this. Once abandoned, it's easy to feel abandoned again, even if you're not. It's a sensitive thing. Abandonment strikes a very deep chord, one with heavy vibrato written all over it.

HEALING GRACE

But I have found that healing from sorrow and abandonment is available and it comes through a very personal encounter – you might say “a meeting in the garden” – with Jesus Christ. That night in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus gave humankind a beautiful and most precious gift. Despite his agony, and his pleading with God to avoid the cross, Jesus' gift to us, his kiss of grace and mercy, was: “Not what I will, but what you will.” How different to Judas' kiss of betrayal that followed almost immediately.

I have embraced Jesus' grace, to allow its regeneration of my life. In my mind I have travelled with him to the cross and nailed my sorrow and abandonment there. I have risen with Jesus a

new person, still with human frailty, but with the power of grace healing me and helping me feel with the goodness of God again.

Jesus' promise of “life in all its fullness” has come to me, leading me beyond sorrow and restoring the inner contentment of my soul. Again and again God's Spirit shows me my destiny, God's plan for my life, and I feel I have no choice but to respond: “What you will.”

What do we say to this great love of Jesus for our souls? What do we say to this beautiful nurturer of our spirit? Perhaps the words of songwriter Stuart Townend can best say it for us: “How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure.”

Major Peter McGuigan is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) and head of Government Relations for The Salvation Army Australia.



Scan here for more information on Easter and Salvation Army services.



Sydney Kings help Oasis youth get back on their feet

Homeless and disadvantaged young people at The Salvation Army's Oasis services were gifted new sneakers by the Sydney Kings basketball team and JD Sports last Christmas. After receiving their first pair of Nike Dunks, one young person was quite emotional – it happened to be sneakers they had always wanted.

Oasis is part of The Salvation Army's response to youth homelessness, with 20 staff supporting young people in crisis accommodation in Surry Hills and transition accommodation in Darlinghurst (Sydney). Will Mataka, Program Manager at Oasis Sydney Youth Accommodation Services, has overseen the service's operations and practice since March last year.

"The Sydney Kings reached out," says Will, "and we got to talking about what young people go through and what we could do for Christmas. They invited some of the young people to the game and also donated some shoes.

"I'm a bit of a sneaker head," he adds. "I've got a few pairs of shoes and maybe have two or three that remain in a reserved rotation. When our young people opened the gifts, they were so overwhelmed and grateful."

Oasis Youth Services provides emergency accommodation, education and case management for young people aged between 16 and 24. Many have experienced severe, prolonged and repeated trauma and may have mental health issues or are battling substance abuse.



Sydney Kings players Angus Glover and Jaylin Galloway present gift-wrapped sneakers for youth at The Salvation Army's Oasis services in Sydney at Christmas.

"Homelessness doesn't discriminate," Will explains. "Young people can end up here due to domestic violence. Rejection due to sexual orientation. It can be drug and alcohol abuse or neglect. Some have no relationship with their parents. We get the occasional call about a young person couch surfing, sleeping rough on the streets.

"The sneakers won't solve their problems, but they can restore some of what has been taken," he adds. "The shoes add to their journey, the value the gift places on them." – **Anthony Castle**

Continuing the conversation

The Listening Project gives insight into the lives and attitudes of young people

WORDS Anthony Castle

In 2019, The Salvation Army's National Youth and Young Adults team spoke with young people about their world for a research project that gathered the lived experience of adolescence.

Three years – and one pandemic – later, the Salvos' youth and young adults specialist John Marion sat down to speak to them again to see how their world has changed and what it means for the adults who support them.

Lived experience research is built on the idea that to support young people we must first understand their world. The research began in 2019 as 'The Listening Project', when John interviewed about 33 young people aged 12-25, who embodied the vision of The Salvation Army – young people who had experienced hardship and injustice but had their lives transformed by the love of Jesus.

“

I just need you to hear what I'm feeling.

”

The lived experience research was conducted in every state, from the city to the country, and from different Salvo corps (church) expressions. The process was intended to continue year-to-year

but was disrupted due to COVID-19 restrictions. The research recommenced last year and revisited 12 of the same young people first interviewed, with 55 participating.



John Marion leads The Listening Project for the Salvos.

HEAR THE FEELINGS

“Adults don't have to give you a Ted Talk after,” one interviewee said. “They just have to let you know that they understand what you're saying. They don't need to give you a speech about what I can do better. I just need you to hear what I'm feeling.”

COVID-19 had significant effects on Australia's young people, some of whom experienced higher rates of psychological distress, loneliness, educational

THE LISTENING PROJECT



disruption, unemployment, housing stress and domestic violence.

"The lockdowns made it very hard with my mental health with everything I was going through," another interviewee said. "So, a couple of times, I would go for a walk, and I was pulled up by the police, and I just said, 'I'm just going for a walk. I live here.'"

While COVID-19 has been a time of unprecedented disruption, the lived experience research has highlighted that some perspectives haven't changed much for young people. The core experiences of adolescence remain the same.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

"In many ways, the research confirmed what we already knew," John says. "Young people want responsibility, but they also want support. Independence isn't the same thing as being abandoned. They want caring adults, they want mentors, they want people to cheer them on. Young people haven't rejected the adult world – they feel abandoned by it."

Another interviewee commented, "We need guidance on how to do stuff, but we don't need you to do it for us or tell us how to do it. We need to find our way of doing it. And just because we can't do something perfectly doesn't mean we shouldn't be able to do it at all."

John says: "In our society, we decide that young people can't be trusted to make decisions – that they don't know better, that we know more. But when you sit down and have a conversation with young people, you can invite them to shape the future. We now have a group of young people who can speak into challenges and ideas for youth work."

The lived experience research has shaped the development of young people for the last four years and will, for the foreseeable future, involve young people and practitioners as the research continues.

"COVID-19 changed things between 2019 and 2022," John says. "But what young people are saying isn't much different – they just want to be heard. It's up to us to start a conversation and keep it going."

The final report on the lived experience research will be available from the National Youth and Young Adults team later in 2023.

Anthony Castle is a writer for Salvos Online.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

It is finished

The love that changes everything

WORDS General Brian Peddle*

This Easter comes as Salvation Army leaders from around the world have been called together to elect a new General. The privilege of serving in the role of international leaders is now coming to an end for Commissioner Rosalie* and me, and we seek to complete what we had set out to do. Soon we will need to say, "It is finished."

So, when I reflect on Easter, I am drawn to the words of Jesus on the cross: "It is finished." But how much more profound are those words on Jesus' lips as recorded in John chapter 19, verse 30. His earthly life and ministry – the greatest of all human lives and the most far-reaching of all ministries – was complete.

It is finished.

But the words "It is finished" take on a deeper meaning when we consider that Jesus spoke in his own language of

Aramaic, so the word he used indicates complete submission – completed before he died.

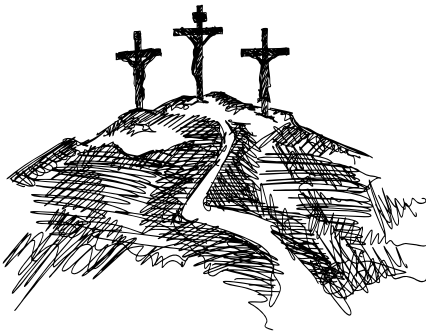
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**Jesus ... understands us ...
His identification with us
in the human experience –
including pain, suffering and
death – stands completed.**

”

In Christ, God-who-could-not-die voluntarily and completely submitted to becoming human. In so doing, he experienced pain, suffering and death itself. The apostle Paul echoes this in Philippians chapter 2, verses 5-8 (*New Revised Standard Version*) when he writes, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."

Jesus clothed himself with our humanity. He understands us. He experienced the extremity of a public execution with all



its humiliation. His identification with us in the human experience – including pain, suffering and death – stands completed.

It is finished.

When the apostle John later wrote his Gospel in Greek, he recorded “It is finished” as the last words of Jesus, using a word from the world of finance meaning ‘paid in full’. So, the evangelist reminds us that, in Jesus’ complete submission, he paid the debt of sin for all humanity. On the cross, our account has been paid in full.

Paul connects ‘paid in full’ with no longer counting our sins, and the important emphasis of reconciliation through the cross. He describes this in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 19 (*New International Version*): “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them...” Sin is no longer the issue – the only thing of importance is how we will respond to a Saviour who has paid the account in full.

It is finished.

In Romans chapter 6, verse 10, we read: “The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God” (*New Revised Standard Version*). God’s provision for us began with a new covenant, commencing with the cross. Once and for all. Paid in full.

Hebrews chapter 9, verse 28 reminds us that Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many, including us, while John chapter 1, verse 29 proclaims, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (*English Standard Version*). That is my sin, and your sin.

It is finished.



In the truth that Christ died once and for all, there is also the truth that he lives, and because he lives we can live also. This is the essence of the Easter message. No matter what comes, the truth of God’s action on our behalf remains rock solid. No matter what comes, we are safe in his hands and fully aware of his provision. No matter what comes, we can live as ‘more than conquerors’ and ‘overcomers in the midst of all things’ because his grace is sufficient and he is faithful.

Romans chapter 5, verse 8 says: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” It’s done! For once and for all time ... and that changes everything.

It is finished.

**General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle are the international leaders of The Salvation Army.*



Scan here for more information on Easter and Salvation Army services.

Loving life and living free

For Katrina, Easter is the key to Christianity

WORDS Katrina

I struggled with addiction from a very young age, even stealing my mother's cooking sherry. I'd been abused by someone close to me and understand now that drinking was my coping mechanism.

Through primary school I drank continually, but by high school I started smoking marijuana and taking pills. There were many challenges at home and my behaviour wasn't good, so I went into a youth hostel at 15. I was taking drugs, drinking, and often getting arrested.

They said that if I didn't go to rehab I would be back on the streets again. So I went to Perth to deal with marijuana and alcohol, but instead I was introduced to heroin by a bunch of city kids.

It became a vicious circle and the fourth time I was in rehab a guy came and spoke about another program but I had no intention of going to a Christian rehab. I ripped his pamphlets up, but then I thought, "At least that's 12 months of accommodation." I went through the motions of rehab for around six months – I was getting clean and it was a good place to be.

FINDING FAITH

We were in chapel one day and I had what I can only describe as an encounter with God. Something in me changed. I went on to finish the program and do a six-month traineeship at the same place, then a training course in YWAM (Youth With a Mission) because I knew I wanted to serve God.

In that role I travelled to India, then home to help start Aboriginal ministries. That was great and we did a lot of good, but when I left that job I ended up back in addiction. That became a cycle through a few roles until I experienced the worst time of addiction I'd ever been in.

“

Nothing budes me from knowing that God loves me.

”

I went into full-blown heroin addiction. I got arrested for many things and ended up in a psych ward for months with a camera on me because my partner at the time had died of a heroin overdose. I had absolutely nothing – no family connection, no home, no possessions, no friends. So I cried out to God again.

SERVING OTHERS

I was eventually released into the care of my family, which was strange, but things were better this time. I walked into a Salvos church and soon started going to church every Sunday. When we went into COVID lockdown, I thought, "Oh my, I'm gone. I haven't got the support of church." But during the lockdown I got even closer to God.

I went back to church after the lockdown a totally changed person. That's when



Katrina has received help and support to get clean from drugs and alcohol, and now assists others through Salvation Army services and chaplaincy.

I knew I was going to serve God again, but this time as a whole person. I love the work I do now with The Salvation Army and no day is the same as the last.

I work with our Salvos Doorways team, supporting people who come for help and case management. We do toasties twice a week and I sit with people and get to know them as we chat over food and coffee. I love it! I also felt called to study chaplaincy, so am doing that at the moment as well. Since I have been clean of the drugs, I've married and that is also really good.

HOPE AND FREEDOM

I've had a lot of trials over the last few years, as I have over much of my life,

but the difference is now that nothing budes me from knowing that God loves me. For me, Easter is the key to Christianity. Jesus dying so we can have forgiveness – Jesus rising from the dead so we can have freedom. It is the start of experiencing a life full of love and hope and change. God really is so good!

Find a place to experience life in its fullest – celebrate Easter with your local Salvos. Go to salvos.org.au/Easter



Scan here to read more life-changing stories of hope.

Tuna mornay



Ingredients

425g can tuna, 150g frozen mixed vegetables, 490g jar bechamel sauce, 80ml thickened cream, 450g pkt microwave brown rice, 2 green shallots, 120g pre-grated three-blend cheese (cheddar, mozzarella and parmesan), 25g breadcrumbs, olive oil to drizzle

Method

- Place tuna, vegetables, bechamel and cream in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes or until warm.
- While tuna mixture is cooking, place rice in microwave for 1 minute or until slightly warm.
- Chop shallots, then stir half through tuna mixture.
- Evenly spoon rice into the base of a square 6-cup baking dish. Top with tuna mixture. Sprinkle with cheese and breadcrumbs, then drizzle with oil. Grill for 2 minutes or until top is golden. Serve sprinkled with remaining shallots.



Quick quiz

1. Who is the Swedish schoolgirl who has become a global leader for environmental issues?
2. Who is the teenager who developed a system for the blind to be able to read?
3. Who is the Pakistani schoolgirl who campaigned for girls' education and survived being shot by the Taliban?
4. Who invented the trampoline in 1930 at the age of 16?
5. How old was Mozart when he composed his first symphony?

Bible byte

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

*1 Timothy chapter four, verse 12
New Living Translation*

Tum-Tum

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



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

Wordsearch

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

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Adolescence | Inventor |
| Campaign | Leader |
| Celebrate | Musician |
| Childhood | Opinions |
| Compose | Opportunity |
| Connect | Participate |
| Develop | School |
| Education | Teenager |
| Famous | Theme |
| Fun | University |
| Future | Week |
| Influence | Voice |
| Innovator | Youth |

HAVE A LAUGH



**Why did the chicken cross the playground?
To get to the other slide!**

**What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?
I don't know, and I don't care.**

**What do you call a 60-year-old who hasn't reached puberty?
A late boomer.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Youth Week is celebrated in many areas of Australia in April. The NSW Youth Week theme is 'Connect. Participate. Celebrate.'

It is designed to give young people aged 12-24 an opportunity to attend events, share ideas and opinions on issues of concern, and have fun.

Youth Week began as a NSW Government initiative in 1989.

Quiz answers: 1. Greta Thunberg 2. Louis Braille 3. Malala Yousafzai 4. George Nissen 5. Eight 6. Turn-Turn is peeking out from behind the sign on page 13.



SO NOBODY STRUGGLES ALONE

*"When you are supported, it affects every area of your life. That's the beauty of The Salvation Army. My whole life has turned around because of the Salvos. I don't know where I'd be without them. I really don't." - Georgie**

The Salvation Army provides help, connection and essential services for Aussies experiencing isolation and hardship. Your generosity will help ensure no one struggles alone in these challenging times.

*Names changed to protect privacy.



Donate today.

salvationarmy.org.au/georgie



**RED
SHIELD
APPEAL**