

FEATURE
Something truly
worth celebrating

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MY STORY
The chance to live
a different life

Safe House support

Salvos assist victim-survivors of forced marriage



SALVOS

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“God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realise that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy.

*“This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: **we are not alone on our journey.**”*

“The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us.”

- Henri Nouwen





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

Salvos Magazine

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A place of safety

Every year millions of girls around the world are married as children. Forced marriage of girls under the age of 18 also occurs in Australia. It is against Australian law to force, threaten or trick anyone into getting married.

There were 223 cases relating to human trafficking and slavery offences reported to the Australian Federal Police in the 2019-20 financial year. Of these, 92 were for forced marriage. Of those forced marriage reports, 51 per cent were victims under the age of 18.

The Salvation Army operates Australia's only Safe House for victim-survivors of human trafficking and slavery-like conditions, and offers support for people who have experienced forced marriage, or are at risk of being forced into marriage.

In this edition, Claudia Cummins, program manager for the Safe House, talks about the help and guidance available there, and the care it offers.



For these stories and more, check out salvosmagazine.com.au

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**



Something truly worth celebrating

What a year 2021 has been! In these past 12 months, our world has continued to face up to the challenge and reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, dealing with illness and death, as well as recovery strategies and vaccination programs. In contrast, there was the welcome relief of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which provided positive engagement, something to enjoy, and an opportunity to celebrate our countries' achievements.

Of course, we have also witnessed natural and man-made disasters and tragedies – wildfires in different countries, the assassination of a president, hurricanes, and storms – each presenting a significant challenge. In recent months, the Taliban has retaken control of Afghanistan, with people fleeing the country, concerns about women's education, the potential return to the ways of former regimes, and the loss of any semblance of democracy.

In such tumultuous times, where, or to whom, do we turn? In the Bible, the book of Hebrews chapter 13, verse 8, tells us that we turn to Jesus, who is the same “yesterday and today and forever”; whilst Colossians chapter 1, verse 17, describes him as the one in whom “all things hold together”; and Revelation chapter 22, verse 13, as “the Alpha and Omega ... the Beginning and the End”. We need to turn to the one who is wiser than we are, more compassionate than we are, more powerful than we are, who is both transcendent yet with us, and who is present amid the tumult and chaos with its resultant personal cost because, as we read in Psalm 23 and Matthew chapter 11, verse

In a world of chaos, there is always hope

WORDS General Brian Peddle

28, he invites us to rest. If ever there is a time to turn to Jesus, it is at Christmas, when we pause to remember and celebrate his birth, incarnation, and becoming Immanuel (God with us).

What does all this mean? It means there is hope! It means we are not on our own! It means we have someone who can restore our souls when we are weary; someone who can give us rest when we are tired; someone who can provide an eternal perspective when the immediate is all-consuming; someone who holds us and our world together when we and it are falling apart. That truly is something worth celebrating this Christmastime. Why would we not want to get to know someone like Jesus?

If your relationship with Jesus has been neglected for a while, Christmas represents an opportune time for it to be reconnected, reignited. And if you don't know him already, Christmastime is also an opportunity to meet Jesus for the first time – to invite him into your heart and life as Saviour and friend.

(My wife) Commissioner Rosalie joins me in wishing you a Happy Christmas and God's blessings during this holy season.

General Brian Peddle is world leader of The Salvation Army.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Safe House support for victim-survivors of forced marriage

WORDS Claudia Cummins

The Salvation Army established Australia's first Trafficking and Slavery Safe House for victim-survivors of human trafficking and slavery-like conditions in 2008. Women impacted by forced marriage can also access help and residential or outreach support at the Safe House (see story page 12).

The Safe House provides supported accommodation and case management for single women (cis and trans) over 18. Outreach case management support can also be provided to women, men, families, and young people living in the community.

Since lockdown in Sydney ended in October, the Salvos have seen increased referrals to the Safe House. This has been partly due to victim-survivors re-engaging with services and sharing their experiences of slavery-like offences that have occurred throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. There has also been an increase in young people contacting the service due to being at risk of an upcoming forced marriage.

In the past fortnight alone, we have had several young women self-refer. They've been very concerned that now the borders are reopening, and international travel is resuming, they may be forced by their parents to go ahead with a marriage, including some that may take place overseas.

Support for people who have experienced forced marriage, or are at risk of being forced into marriage, is available.

It is crucial that anyone who expresses a fear of forced marriage knows that they have the right to not go ahead with that marriage, no matter how much pressure they may be under.

Services are available to support them with safe accommodation, financial support, and well-being if they need to leave the family home to avoid being forced into a marriage they do not want.

The intensive case management support model at the Safe House covers nine key areas: physical health, mental health, legal services, education and training, employment, housing and tenancy, social support and living skills, human rights and self-advocacy, and spirituality.

Claudia Cummins is the program manager for The Salvation Army Trafficking and Slavery Safe House.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Domestic and Family Violence Services.



The Trafficking and Slavery Safe House supports the women in a caring and encouraging environment.

GETTING HELP IN AUSTRALIA

- In emergencies, call 000 for immediate response.
- If you or someone you know is at risk of being forced to travel overseas for marriage, or you want to report your experience to police, call the Australian Federal Police on 131 237.
- The Salvation Army Trafficking and Slavery Safe House:
To access support and for confidential advice, call 1300 473 560 or email endslavery@salvationarmy.org.au
- For more information and support services through Anti-Slavery Australia, call 02 9514 8115, send a message 0481 070 844, email help@mybluesky.org.au or check out mybluesky.org.au

Princess visits Salvos Hub to discuss slavery

Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York visited the Salvos' London Outreach Hub recently to mark Anti-Slavery Week in the United Kingdom.

In her role as co-founder of The Anti-Slavery Collective, Princess Eugenie listened as survivors of modern slavery spoke about their experiences. She then joined the art therapy session in which each survivor created artwork around how they felt about their new-found freedom.

Jenny Gibson, who heads up the Salvos' team of outreach support workers in London, said art was a wonderful way for the survivors to explore their feelings and find their voice.

The London Outreach Hub is one of a network of safe houses and outreach



Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York at The Salvation Army's London Outreach Hub.

support services run by the Salvos where survivors are given access to a range of services to help with their recovery. The services include counselling, medical help, legal advice, educational opportunities, and assistance in finding a job and housing.

- Darryl Whitecross

Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal kicks off

The 2021 Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal has kicked off at 320 Kmart stores across the country, with all donations going towards families doing it tough this Christmas.

Since 1987, Kmart Stores have partnered with the Salvos for this annual appeal, ensuring thousands of struggling Aussies have a holiday to remember.

"It's an amazing dynamic that both those who donate gifts to the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal and those who are the recipients of the gifts benefit greatly from this long-standing appeal," said Major Bruce Harmer, Head of Public Relations for The Salvation Army in Australia.

It's easy to participate – head over to your local Kmart Store, hand-pick some presents and place them under the Wishing Tree. Whether a gift is big or small, we can all make someone's Christmas just a bit merrier.



Salvos staff celebrate the recent launch of the 2021 Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

For more information, or to donate to the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal, visit kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree.

- Jessica Morris

Emma's can-do attitude helps families in need over Christmas.

Emma the engine behind Centenary's food drive

The dining room at young Emma MacDonald's house in Brisbane looks more like a giant pantry leading up to Christmas.

For the past three years, the Grade 5 student has asked her neighbourhood and school community for donations of non-perishable food items, which she then sorts with the help of her mother, Nicola.

The items are then handed over to Salvos officer (pastor) Catherine Philpot at their nearby Centenary Salvos for distribution to vulnerable families as part of its Christmas food hamper program.

Emma, 11, said she came up with the food donation idea after a discussion with her mum about how fortunate she was to always have a meal on the table, go to a good school, and have the things she needed.

"I collect the food for people who couldn't afford to give their children the Christmas they had dreamed of," Emma said. "I have a passion for helping people."

Last year, Emma gave 1000 food items to the Salvos. "This year, my goal is to collect 2000 items," she said.

Local MP Julian Simmonds was so impressed with Emma's efforts that he presented her with a community leader's award and opened his electoral office to accept donations on her behalf.



Woolworths at nearby Kenmore is also assisting, donating green shopping bags to help Emma sort the food items.

But Emma's role doesn't stop at sorting. She and her mum help on the day Catherine and other volunteers from Centenary Salvos hand out the food donations. "I don't do this for the recognition. I do it for others. It helps me to know how lucky I am," Emma said.

"I really value the opportunity to work with Emma and Nicola because it's our chance to share Jesus with them [the community] every year, talk about the joy of loving others and how much better life is when we live for God and others," Catherine said.

- Darryl Whitecross

While we wait

Reflections on the season of Advent

WORDS Amanda Hart

Most of us are familiar with Advent calendars - the calendars of all shapes, sizes, and materials that involve opening a little drawer, box, cardboard window, or envelope with a surprise treat inside.

In the Christian Church calendar, Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin and is a time of preparation and expectation - for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and the second coming of Christ.

Over the next three weeks, Amanda Hart will share her thoughts on the Advent season and how we can use this time to prepare for, and focus on, this special season of the year and the real meaning behind it.

Waiting is a part of our everyday lives. Waiting at the doctor's office for an appointment, waiting for a call centre operator to answer our call, waiting for the train, bus, tram or Uber to get to work, waiting for the next movie in a franchise to be released, waiting for restrictions to lift. We spend so

much of our time waiting, but the question is, what do we do with that time?

I've heard people say, "I'm the world's worst procrastinator." I've said it many times myself. What I actually mean, though, is, "I'm the world's best procrastinator." The number of times I've had weeks to write an assignment but find myself under pressure trying to get it finished on the day it's due. Procrastination is not the best use of the time we spend waiting.

During this time of Advent, when we prepare our hearts in the lead-up to Christmas, I like to reflect on a story Jesus told to remind us to use our time waiting wisely.

BE PREPARED

In the Bible's book of Matthew, chapter 25, verses 1-13, the story tells of 10 bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom to come to the bride's house. Upon his arrival, they would move in procession to his house, where the formal wedding ceremony would commence. It wasn't unusual for it to be night-time before the bridegroom arrived, so the members of the party would carry lamps in the procession to light the way - anyone without a lamp was considered a wedding crasher.



Five of the bridesmaids spent their time waiting wisely – preparing for the coming of the bridegroom. They made sure they trimmed their lamps and had plenty of oil to keep them burning. The other five were not prepared – they had no oil for their lamps. Long story short, they missed out on the wedding banquet.

Advent is a reminder for us to wait actively instead of sitting on our hands procrastinating as we prepare to remember and celebrate the coming of Jesus. It's an invitation to participate in the story by using our gifts and passions to glorify God and share his goodness and love with others, not just sit back and wait from a distance.

What can you do this week to play an active part during this season of waiting?

Captain Amanda Hart is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria



Scan here for more
on finding meaning.

**“So you, too, must
keep watch! For
you do not know
the day or hour
of my return.”**

- Matthew chapter 25, verse 13
New Living Translation

Classic pavlova



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

Ingredients

Butter for greasing, extra cornflour, 3 egg whites, pinch salt, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup castor sugar, 2 tsp cornflour, 1 tsp lemon juice, whipped cream, chopped fruit to taste.

Method

- Place a sheet of baking paper on a tray, brush with butter and dust with extra cornflour.
- Beat egg whites and salt until soft peaks form. Sprinkle in sugar gradually, beating until sugar is completely dissolved. Lightly fold in the cornflour and lemon juice.
- Spread $\frac{1}{4}$ of mixture into a circle and spoon or pipe swirls of remaining mixture around the edge to form a shell.
- Bake in a very slow oven (120°C) for 1-1½ hours or until pavlova is dry to touch. Cool in the oven.
- Fill with whipped cream and top with your favourite chopped fruits. A perfect dessert for Christmas!

Tum-Tum

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



Quick quiz

1. To which family do cherries belong?
2. Where were cherries first grown in Australia?
3. How many varieties of cherries are grown in Australia?
4. Approximately how many tonnes of Australian cherries are grown each year?
5. Which country in the world produces the most cherries?
6. How many cherries did Australians consume in 2020?



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

Bible byte

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'."

Matthew chapter 1, verse 23
New Living Translation

N C O I P I H S N A M S T R O P S T N N
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 I N G A O G H I C O L E F I K L L E T U
 P G A I R L P K L L C L Y N I P K I A S

Wordsearch

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

Badminton	Match
Ball	Net
Basketball	Netball
Bat	Pitch
Championship	Play
Competition	Racquet
Court	Rowing
Cricket	Rugby
Curling	Score
Fitness	Sport
Football	Sportsmanship
Goal	Team
Hockey	Tennis
Kayaking	Volleyball

FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY

"I don't know what presents the wise men brought Jesus but a LEGO set would have been better."

"Gabriel was this herald angel. He was a boy but he's played by a girl in Christmas plays."

We took our grandchildren to a Christmas carols service. One of them asked, "Where's Carol?"



Two little girls were looking at a painting of Mary holding the baby Jesus. "That's Mary," said the older girl, pointing at Mary. "She's holding her baby, Jesus." The younger girl asked, "Where's the dad?" The older girl replied, "He's the one taking the photo."

DID YOU KNOW?

Russia has 11 time zones within the country.

A modern violin is made from 70 pieces of wood.

A group of porcupines is called a prickle.

As of September 2020, the full Bible had been translated into 704 languages.

Answers: 1. Rose family; 2. Young, NSW; 3. Around 30; 4. 15,000; 5. Turkey; 6. 11,000 tonnes.
 Turn-Turn: is hiding on page 3.



Have you taken care of your Will?

Like ripples in a pond, a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army can impact more lives than you could ever imagine

When having your Will made or updated, please consider including a gift to The Salvation Army.

Please contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team to find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.

For a free copy of our Wills information booklet, contact us on 1800 337 082, email willsandbequests@salvationarmy.org.au or complete and return the coupon.

salvationarmy.org.au/wills



- Send me a FREE copy of your Wills information booklet
 I am interested in leaving a gift to The Salvation Army
 I have included a gift to The Salvation Army in my Will

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