

salvos

magazine

Have an ethical Easter

Making the world a better, fairer and kinder place



Vol. 005 | No. 08
16 March 2024
AUD \$1.00
PRINT POST APPROVED
PP100001474

salvosonline.org.au

FEATURE

Earth Hour
2024

FAITH TALK

God is big
enough

MY STORY

Child of war
finds healing



Harmony Day
21 March 2024

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 wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

Salvos Magazine

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Press date 1 March 2024

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by Commissioner Miriam Gluyas at Focus Print Group, South Granville, NSW, Darug Nation lands.



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Our common home

It's a busy couple of weeks in the Australian community calendar.

We are about to celebrate Harmony Week (18-24 March). This celebration brings together Australians from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, genders and abilities. It's about inclusiveness, respect, dignity and a sense of belonging for everyone.

On 23 March, Australia joins the world in marking Earth Hour – a commitment to the health and healing of the planet that this year focuses on plastics. Melanie-Anne Holland writes about the day and challenges us to take action, however small, to do our part.

Easter is also approaching, with Good Friday falling on 29 March. Many of us will be buying Easter eggs and chocolates in preparation for the season – if they last that long!

Tragically, many of the Easter eggs we eat come from sources of cacao that involve child labour and modern slavery. Fay Foster writes about how to recognise ethically sourced Easter treats, where to find them and how our choices can help change lives.

Easter is all about what Jesus has done to change the world for everyone – a timely message for us all.

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Have an ethical Easter!

Helping make the world better, fairer and kinder

By Fay Foster

Here in Australia, we do love our chocolate! In early 2022, it was estimated that Australians eat an average of 5.1 kilograms of chocolate a year. Around one eighth of that amount is made up of Easter eggs, bunnies and other Easter chocolates (bit.ly/3uU7A7V).

But behind the Easter packaging and colourful foil wrapping there's a dark side. Around 70 per cent of the cocoa we consume comes from West Africa, where it's estimated that more than two million children and young people under the age of 18 work as labourers in cacao harvesting (bit.ly/3P3c6Yt).

This work is physically, emotionally, socially and morally damaging to children and deprives them of opportunities for education and development. Some of these children are trafficked.

Based on 2018 figures, it's estimated that a cacao farmer in Côte d'Ivoire earns just \$US0.78 per day and \$US1 per day in Ghana. This is below the World Bank's extreme poverty figure of \$US1.90 per person per day (bit.ly/3P3c6Yt).

ETHICAL CERTIFICATION

The good news is that in recent years there has been an increase in consumer demand for ethical and sustainable production methods, which has resulted in the growth of certified chocolate products – including ethical Easter eggs.

In Australia, there are organisations that audit cocoa production and then certify

the product if it meets certain ethical or sustainable criteria. Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade and Cocoa Horizons are our three primary certification bodies.

Fairtrade is the process of buying and selling produce from developing countries that ensures that farmers work under suitable conditions and are paid a fair price. It also includes an additional payment to help the local community develop basic infrastructure such as fresh water and education.

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Buying ethically sourced products this Easter means ... that we are helping to make the world a better, fairer and kinder one.

”

When this happens, farmers can support their families, and children aren't forced to work and can go to school. Fairtrade means being just and fair to people as well as to nature.

Besides Fairtrade, other ethical chocolate brands, including UTZ and Rainforest Alliance, are taking steps to improve working conditions across their supply chains on a global scale.



SYMBOLS TO LOOK FOR

Three symbols are a good indicator that the chocolatey treats you are buying are ethically produced.



Most brands that carry these symbols can be bought in supermarkets, in specialty stores or online. For example:

- Aldi's Dairy Fine, Choceur and Moser Roth chocolate ranges
- Chocolatier Australia's eggs
- Coles' ethically branded solid block and Easter chocolates.
- Woolworths' Homebrand blocks
- Haigh's sources 80% of their cocoa through Rainforest Alliance.
- Divine chocolate eggs and bunnies – available online
- Whittakers Ghanaian cacao beans are 100% Rainforest Alliance-certified

and you can find the logo on chocolate that contains these beans.

- Darrell Lea and Koko Black source 100% of their cocoa through a partnership with Cocoa Horizons.
- Cadbury Dairy Milk milk chocolate block range and Dairy Milk Easter Magic egg are Fairtrade certified.
- Nestlé's entire product range uses ethically sourced cocoa.
- Loving Earth and Pico blocks.

Buying ethically sourced products this Easter means that we can enjoy chomping on our chocolate in the knowledge that we are helping to make the world a better, fairer and kinder one.

For more information on a range of Fairtrade products, check out [fta.or.au](https://www.fta.or.au)



Scan here to read more stories of hope.



Earth Hour 2024

Dimming the lights on consumerism and waste

By Melanie-Anne Holland



Switch off and give an hour for Earth on Saturday 23 March at 8.30pm your local time (earthhour.org.au)

Do you remember your first Earth Hour? It's surprising how this simple act of switching off the lights for an hour in 2007 became a global phenomenon in a matter of a few years – a collective call for a just and timely transition to renewable energy. The genius of the campaign was that it is so easy to participate. The solidarity of homes and cityscapes darkened became a space for mindful engagement in ideas of climate action, energy reform and sustainability.



Earth Hour is asking everyone who cares about nature to do something positive for nature for 60 minutes.



One of my favourite memories of Earth Hour is from 14 years ago. Our great-grandmother had come to visit our home for a few days, and when Earth Hour began, Nanna really shone! Candles were lit and we sat together drinking tea, my daughter's eyes wide with wonder as Nanna shared memories of her childhood – an era of kerosene lamps and horse-drawn drays, a time before television and tablets.

CATALYST FOR CONNECTION

That night, generations gathered and listened and asked questions and laughed until tears rolled down our faces, and when we walked out onto our street to stare at the stars, we saw that many of our neighbours had switched off too. It was a beautiful night of unity, hope and connection.

Unity and hope can be powerful catalysts for reform – but only as much as they lead us to action. As our earth moves towards the 1.5°C global temperature increase limit set by the Paris Climate Agreement, we must do more than dim the lights on our consumerism and waste. Earth Hour is asking everyone who cares about nature to do something positive for nature for 60 minutes – to give one hour to making a positive change where we are. Imagine tens of millions of people taking up the challenge and the collective healing it could bring.

PLAY OUR PART

As it says on the Earth Hour website, "Amidst our increasingly divided and polarised societies, the Biggest Hour for Earth becomes a precious moment of unity, reminding the world that our one shared home needs our help and that we all can – and must – play a part in protecting it."

I'm reminded of a verse in the Bible that cautions, "faith, by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead" (see



James chapter 2, verse 17). The writer then says, "I will show you my faith by my deeds." Belief and convictions and hope are meant to be triggers to action; otherwise, they remain lovely ideas.



It's time to roll your sleeves up and give one hour to caring for the environment around you.



Now, more than ever, we need people who are willing to back their ideals with meaningful action. If you care about ecological sustainability, it's time to roll your sleeves up and give one hour to caring for the environment around you.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER



Got 60 minutes? How about you grab a family member or friend and try:

- Planting a veggie patch at home, or some fruit trees
- Supporting a local bushcare group, planting trees and pulling up weeds
- Picking up litter in a park, bushland or on a beach
- Signing up for a specialist recycling service for your home
- Setting up a compost system for your home
- Joining a citizen science project like Birdata (with Birdlife Australia), the Christmas Beetle Count Project (the University of Sydney) or FrogID (Australian Museum)
- Doing an energy audit of your home to see how you can reduce electricity and gas usage.



Five minutes of social justice – Racism

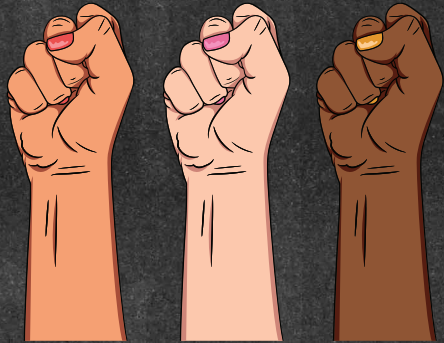
Social justice means different things to different people, but it generally includes the idea of a society being fair and equitable.

In Australia, social justice challenges are multifaceted, including issues such as poverty, homelessness, Indigenous rights, and discrimination based on factors like race, gender, disability and socioeconomic status. Some of the issues in Australia are huge and will take a lot of effort to fix - but all of them can be made better.

In this segment of 'Five minutes of social justice' we are looking at the issue of racism and the difference we can make as an individual, community, state or territory, or as a nation.

Racism encompasses prejudice, discrimination or hatred based on factors such as colour, ethnicity or national origin, denying individuals opportunities based on irrelevant characteristics. Discrimination can manifest overtly or subtly, impacting individuals structurally through system design. Despite being unlawful in Australia, discrimination remains a pervasive issue with 20 per cent of Australians experiencing racism, particularly groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, migrants and refugees.

As believers in equality and human dignity, we strive for a world free from racism and discrimination, recognising the negative and ongoing impact on our diverse communities.



GOT FIVE MINUTES?

As individuals, we can reflect on examples of our unconscious bias around other cultures. We can also question when others use language that minimises or discriminates against another person.

WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

Visit the Racism. It Stops With Me. (itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au) campaign website to hear stories of people with lived experience of racism, including the *Ask yourself the hard questions* video.



Scan here to take our Social Justice Stocktake survey.

Scan here to visit the 'Racism. It Stops With Me' website.



Computer donation assists women and children in crisis

A donation of computers from a local real estate agent to The Salvation Army's Carinya Women's Services in the Illawarra (NSW) will enable women and children who have experienced domestic violence and homelessness to continue to have access to the Internet.



Belle Property's Nicole Kay (left) donates computers to The Salvation Army's Sonya Button (centre) and Karen Walker.

Belle Property was updating its technology and donated eight desktop and three laptop computers to the Salvos.

Carinya's Manager Sonya Button said the computers have been distributed to The Salvation Army's Family and Domestic Violence services in the Illawarra and Sydney, as well as The Salvation Army's Safehouse for women who have experienced trafficking and slavery.

"All the managers are extremely excited and very grateful," she said. "Women in our community spaces are going to have the opportunity to look for rentals, keep in touch with family and things like ... Having a computer with Internet access is so important. Women can look for jobs and do their study, and their kids can use the devices for homework and study."

It's washing day twice a week

A partnership with Orange Sky Laundry in Rockhampton, Central Queensland, is giving people in need access to free laundry facilities when they attend the Salvos for assistance.

Salvos Capricorn Region officer (pastor) Major Peter Sutcliffe, said Orange Sky approached The Salvation Army at the end of last year about the partnership, and he "jumped at the chance" to provide people in need with access to more services at the Rockhampton site.

Orange Sky Laundry will operate on Wednesdays and Fridays and provides volunteers to run the laundry pod.



The Orange Sky partnership team, volunteers and political representatives at the launch of the service last month.

The Capricorn Salvos used the Red Shield Initiative funding to run water and electricity to the pod so that it can operate safely. – **Lauren Martin**

When faith comes slowly

God is big enough for questioning and doubts

By Fay Foster

How easy, or difficult, do you find it to believe that Jesus is alive, that he rose from the dead, that he is with you and for you?

For some people, faith comes easily. They might find some things hard to understand, but they don't doubt that they are true.

For others, faith is something that comes slowly. We are cautious. We don't want to believe just because we're told to. We need to check things out for ourselves, to get evidence before we can believe.

NOT CONVINCED

After Jesus had come back to life, he appeared to the disciples in the room where they were hiding. But one of the disciples wasn't there. That disciple was Thomas, also known as Didymus.



When he arrived, the other disciples said to him, "We've seen the Master!"

Thomas wasn't so easily convinced.

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands," he said, "and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I'm not going to believe!"

“

We don't have to pretend to believe without questioning.

”

As a result of this conversation, we sometimes hear Thomas called 'the doubter'. But to be fair to Thomas, he hadn't seen what the others had seen. It's never the same hearing it from someone else.

A week later, the disciples were again in the house and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were shut. And again, Jesus appeared and stood in the middle of them.

PROOF GIVEN

"Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke directly to Thomas. "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe!"

We sometimes think that God is going to be angry at us if we don't just



believe. But here we see Jesus giving Thomas exactly the proof he needed. And Thomas was convinced. "My Lord and my God!" he said.

“

Whatever amount of faith you have, live according to that.

”

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed" (John chapter 20, verses 24-29).

There is definitely an advantage for those who believe easily. But for those of us for whom faith comes more slowly, when we look for evidence of God with

open, honest hearts and minds, he will supply it. We don't have to leave our brains at the door when we think about God. He wants us to love him with our whole heart and MIND and soul.

Whatever amount of faith you have, live according to that. We don't have to pretend to believe without questioning. When you use your mind to try to figure out the truth, God absolutely approves. Please do ask all the questions you need to ask. Ask God, ask your pastor, go to Bible study groups and check out the Bible. Every effort to understand will help us to examine God's truth and to grow our faith.



Scan here to read more stories of hope.

Child of war finds peace and healing

Lisa's Easter story

Literally born into the chaos of the civil war in Liberia, Lisa's early years were marked by pain and loss.

Her father, mother, grandfather and other family members were lost in the conflict. The remaining family fled for their lives to overcrowded refugee camps in the Ivory Coast, and then for a second time, after war broke out there, to Guinea.

"Life in a refugee camp was very, very challenging," Lisa says. "There were 18 of us. We had to live in a tent."

“

I know that God does miracles.

”

The scarcity of food and the prevalence of diseases like malaria and diarrhea added layers of hardship.

During desperate violence, lawlessness, overcrowding, hunger, uncertainty and fear, Lisa's grandmother Ruth faced the overwhelming task of caring for her grandchildren in terrible conditions. However, she was unwavering in prayer and her belief that God would take care of them.

"It was so hard to know hope existed," Lisa says. "What we knew was suffering, what we got used to was suffering, what we lived, every part of our life,

was suffering. But she told us, 'God can change this.' Grandma had that hope year after year and taught us that."

AUSTRALIA: ANSWER TO PRAYER

Over 15 years ago, Lisa, her cousins and Ruth saw their prayers answered. They came to Australia after Lisa's aunt, who had come to Australia earlier, tracked the family down in the refugee camp. That aunt was connected with the Salvos at Auburn, NSW, and they supported her to reunite her family.

Despite many struggles, Lisa learned English, finished high school and university, and today works as a registered nurse.

Working a second casual job until the birth of her first child a year ago, Lisa has also managed, with what she says is "the grace of God", to construct a building for a future health facility in Liberia.

Lisa is now praying and raising funds for the necessary human resources and equipment to fill the building and bring desperately needed healthcare to a remote Liberian community.

"I know that God does miracles and I'm buying some equipment little by little to see if we can open it ... by faith really."

She has always loved to help others, and even as a child helped the local midwives in Africa.

"There were some people we couldn't help because of a lack of resources, [and]



it just broke my heart,” Lisa says. “We also lost one of my sisters in childbirth, and I saw that. God put this dream for a clinic in my heart. I’ve always wanted to help people, because you [shouldn’t] have to die because you don’t have money.”

“

**You shouldn’t have to die
because you don’t have money.**

”

EASTER PEACE AND HOPE

Despite having nothing materially in the refugee camps in Africa, Lisa says Easter was still a very special time of hope, worship and celebration. Every year there were three days of re-enactments of Jesus’ betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection.

“I was reminded that someone really did this for me to set me free. It was just amazing for us kids to see,” she says.

For Lisa, Easter still represents “beautiful new life”.

“I think Easter is the centre of that freedom. I know that when I pray to him, he hears me, because I don’t have to do anything to earn or get his love.”

“There is a [Bible] verse I love,” she says. Jeremiah chapter 29, verse 11, “For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to bless you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’.”



Scan here for
more information
on Salvation
Army services.

Irish Soda Bread



Ingredients

150g plain wholemeal flour, 200g plain white flour, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp baking soda, (Optional: 100g grated cheddar cheese), 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar, 200ml milk, sprinkle of plain flour, butter to taste

Method

- Preheat oven to 220°C.
- Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl.
- Add apple cider vinegar to milk before pouring into dry ingredients. Stir to combine.
- Bring dough together into a ball. Dust a greased baking tray with sprinkle of plain flour and place ball of dough into the centre.
- Shape dough into a flattened loaf and cut a deep cross into it.
- Bake loaf for 35 mins until golden on top.
- Serve hot and buttered if desired.



Quick quiz

1. Where did sushi originate?
2. What country drinks the most coffee?
3. Pink Ladies and Granny Smiths are types of what fruit?
4. What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
5. On what continent would you find the world's largest desert?
6. Which country features a shipwreck on its national flag?

Bible byte

"I am the path, the truth and the energy of life."

John chapter 14, verse 6a
The Voice translation

Tum-Tum

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



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

Wordsearch

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

- Africa
- America
- Asia
- Australia
- Beaches
- Belonging
- Caring
- Celebrate
- Children
- Diversity
- Enjoy
- Europe
- Family
- Friends
- Fun
- Harmony
- Inclusion
- Love
- Mateship
- Others
- Parks
- Respect
- Sharing
- Work

HAVE A LAUGH



Why did the sun go to school?
 To get brighter

What do you call an alligator in a vest?
 An investigator

Did you hear about the tornado that married a cloud?
 The wedding was a whirlwind.

WHO AM I?

I am one of Australia's most visited landmarks.

I am listed among the seven wonders of the natural world.

I am home to over 9000 known species.

I am made up of many small animals which build a hard external skeleton.

I am 2300 kilometres long.

Quiz answers: 1. China 2. Finland 3. Apples 4. Africa 5. Antarctica 6. Bermuda
Who am I: I am the Great Barrier Reef
Turn-Turn: is hiding behind the chocolate eggs on page 5.



**“The Earth is what we
all have in common.”**

Wendell Berry

**Earth Hour 2024
[Earthhour.org.au](https://www.earthhour.org.au)**