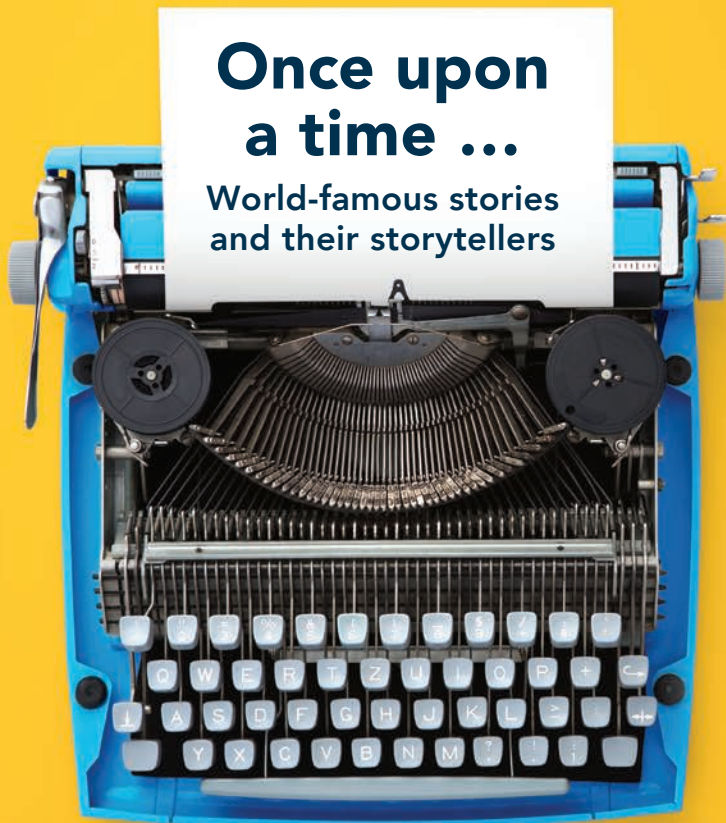


salvos

magazine



**Once upon
a time ...**

**World-famous stories
and their storytellers**



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FEATURE

**The power
of starting
small**

FAITH TALK

**God has the
last word**

OUR STORY

**The
connecting
thread**

*The purpose of a storyteller
is not to tell you how to think,
but to give you questions
to think upon.*

— Brandon Sanderson





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.

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Founders William and Catherine Booth

Salvation Army World Leaders

General Lyndon and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham

Territorial Leader Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief

Colonel Rodney Walters

Publications Manager Cheryl Tinker

Editor Simone Worthing

Graphic Designer Ryan Harrison

Enquiry email publications@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

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The greatest story ever told



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The connecting thread

Story time

Bedtime stories, fairy tales, parables and oral traditions – for many of us, these were an integral part of childhood. We remember being read to, or yarned with, and then reading and yarning ourselves. There were so many tales of adventure to experience, enchanted worlds to escape to, characters to make friends with and life lessons to learn.

Our contributors in this edition write about stories. Faye Michelson writes about the parables of the Bible, particularly that of the mustard seed, and the powerful acceptance and encouragement that comes from starting small.

Dean Simpson uses the example of Ernest Hemingway and the subsequent trend of ‘flash fiction’ – to share his version of the Bible in six words. Mal Davies shares some of the world-famous stories that have impacted him with a focus on the parables of the Bible and the storyteller behind them.

Shirli Congoo writes about the “potent” tool in the oral Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions being the thread that weaves the past, present and future into a single narrative.

Grab a cuppa and enjoy this special edition!

Simone Worthing **Editor**

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES AND OTHER STORIES

The powerful encouragement in starting small

By Faye Michelson

Have you heard the story about the teeny tiny mustard seed? When it's planted, it's the size of a pinhead, but over time it grows into a sapling, sturdy enough for birds to perch on for a moment's rest before they fly off. It grows larger and stronger, until it's a significant tree with wide-spreading branches. You can imagine lying underneath it, enjoying the dappled sunlight filtering through its leaves, listening to the birds sheltering in its canopy. Heaven!

And that's what the story is about – God's kingdom. It's one of the many stories Jesus told that are recorded in the Bible. "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story shall I use to illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed! Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, yet it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can build their nests and be sheltered" (Mark chapter 4, verses 30-32, *The Living Bible*).

“

IT'S AN ASSURANCE OF
A FAITH THAT WILL PROVIDE
REFUGE AND BELONGING.

”

In this little story, Jesus gives us a snapshot of Christianity. Its beginnings were tiny, like the mustard seed, planted by him and a handful of disciples, but he knew it would grow and grow and keep on growing through the centuries. His words paint an evocative picture, and I love the part where he says the mustard tree is a place where birds can nest and find shelter. It's an assurance of a faith that will provide refuge and belonging. It's also an encouragement for us personally. We may feel as little



and insignificant as a mustard seed, but God can use our faithful acts of kindness and service to show others the Kingdom of God in action.

VIGNETTES OF LIFE

Some of Jesus' stories, called parables, are well-known and are even part of our everyday language – most of us know about the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. He told a lot of parables, using these vignettes of life as a way to teach about God's love for us, how to follow him, and eternal life.

There are the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, the wise and foolish builders, the great banquet, the hidden treasure, to name just a few – Jesus' stories are all through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. He knew the value of a story to illustrate a point; Mark even tells us that "he did

not say anything to them without using a parable" (Mark chapter 4, verse 34).

One parable that has a bit of wry humour about it while making its point is the parable of the rich fool, found in Luke chapter 12, verses 16-21 (*The Living Bible*).

“

HE KNEW THE VALUE OF A
STORY TO ILLUSTRATE A POINT.

”

A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing – he couldn't get everything in. He thought about his problem, and finally exclaimed, "I know – I'll tear down my barns and ▶





build bigger ones! Then I'll have room enough. And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Wine, women, and song for you!'

"But God said to him, 'Fool! Tonight you die. Then who will get it all?'

"Yes, every man is a fool who gets rich on earth but not in heaven."

A reminder from Jesus that you can't take it with you! The *New Living Translation* version of this parable gives us a strong, straightforward finish: "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

I like gardening, so perhaps that's why I'm drawn to Jesus' parables involving trees and planting. He obviously knew these analogies would appeal to his listeners because there are many of them, such as the parable of the sower (Matthew chapter 13, verses 2-23), the workers in the vineyard (Matthew chapter 20, verses 1-16), and the growing seed (Mark chapter 4, verses 26-29).

THE POWER OF SMALL

Which brings me back to another little illustration using the mustard seed.

Jesus told them: "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible" (Matthew 17, verse 20).

It's a quietly powerful encouragement for us. We may feel small in a world of need, we may feel that what we can contribute is almost nothing, but Jesus tells us this is not the case. He will use the little we offer him and turn it into something much more. Just look at the mustard tree and take inspiration, comfort and hope from its abundant magnificence.



Scan here for more stories of hope.

Salvos release Red Shield Report 2024

The Salvation Army has released its 2024 Red Shield report with the title 'Cost of Living Squeeze'.

The report explores the cost-of-living pressures, experiences of financial hardship, housing conditions and life challenges of community members who accessed the Salvos' Doorways emergency relief services in the past year.

More than 1500 participants took part in the online survey.



The findings revealed experiences of severe financial hardships, with many struggling to manage on limited income. For most, the rising cost of living pressures were clear: unable to stretch finances to meet increasing household bills and afford rising rents, fuel prices and medical expenses. After paying for essentials such as housing and bills, most respondents are left with just a few dollars a day to live on.

Experiences of severe food insecurity were common. Many respondents reported rationing or skipping meals,

while others recounted completely running out of food. Family households struggling to make ends meet reported going without food so their children could eat.

Many people who accessed the Salvos' Emergency Relief services over the past 12 months were profoundly impacted by experiences of financial hardship. Most respondents reported they would not have managed without the support of the Salvos.

To read the report and find out how you can access support, go to: bit.ly/3Rfuqil



Once upon a time ...

World-famous stories and their storyteller

By Mal Davies

I've been fortunate to know some wonderful storytellers, some of whom have been major influences on me in different ways.

Sometimes the strength of a story comes from who the storyteller is. As a child I'd sit on my grandfather's knee, and he'd tell me a story and I'd be captivated. Occasionally it was a story he'd read from a book, but more often it was about his upbringing.

“

Sometimes the strength of the story is ... in (its) sheer wonder and brilliance.

”

He was born and raised in the early 1900s in Western Victoria, and he would tell stories of farm life, of schooldays, of sport and games and pastimes. Later in life I read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and they reminded me of my grandfather's stories.

My parents would also read to me when I was young, and much of that included being introduced to great stories from the Bible: Noah's ark, David and Goliath, Moses, the stories of Jesus' birth and miracles. I especially liked Samson and

his incredible strength; he seemed to me like a Bible version of Superman!

At school I fell in love with books quickly and enjoyed our weekly class visit to the library, where the librarian would commence with a story as we sat at her feet. I loved these stories and would often try to borrow the book she'd read from so that I could read the story again.

SHEER WONDER

Each of these storytellers was admired by me for different reasons. However, sometimes the strength of the story is not so much in the storyteller but in the sheer wonder and brilliance of the story. That is, almost anyone could tell 'that' story and it would be memorable.

For me, this included *The Tales of Robin Hood* and *The Legend of King Arthur* and the books of Enid Blyton. Then, as a teen, I discovered *Sherlock Holmes* and was totally taken in by those wonderful stories from Arthur Conan Doyle.

As I progressed through high school and then into university, I wandered through the world of William Shakespeare, and his stories were just wonderful. The heart-break of *Romeo and Juliet*, the action and twists and turns of *Hamlet*, the political machinations of *Julius Caesar*. These stories really captured me and were masterfully told.

THE STORIES OF SCRIPTURE

Interestingly, while I was at university studying English literature, we studied



the work of another great storyteller. As a lifelong Christian, I was surprised and delighted when part of our curriculum included studying Jesus' stories of 'the good Samaritan' and 'the prodigal son'.

Our lecturer spoke on the parables of Jesus and his storytelling technique, and how Jesus used stories to help people think through matters of morality, ethics and spiritual belief. They weren't just stories designed to amuse or entertain, they were stories designed to teach and help people in their personal development.

Jesus told stories about things that were relevant to the times and culture he lived in: a lost sheep, a farmer sowing grain, a rich man building a bigger barn, a moneylender, vines and plants, a son who left home to live the high life.

Were the stories good? Undoubtedly, they're still being read and taught

and studied 2000 years later. Was the storyteller good at his job? The proof is in the pudding: he drew increasingly larger crowds to hear him teach, and the 'professional storytellers' of his day – the priests and rabbis and Pharisees – felt threatened by the wisdom and authority evident when he spoke.

If you want to read some great stories, head for the Bible, and I'd recommend the book of Luke to start with. As you enjoy the stories, I hope you get to know the storyteller.

Major Mal Davies is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) serving on Kaurua land, Adelaide.



Scan here for more stories from the Salvos.

The greatest story ever told

Hemingway mastered the art, but God had the last word

By Dean Simpson

“For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”

This is regarded as the greatest shortest story ever written. It is attributed to American novelist Ernest Hemingway, who, it is said, once bet that he could write the world’s shortest story.

Lounging in a hotel lobby in the 1920s, Hemingway supposedly bet several writing colleagues that he could pen a ‘tearjerker’ in six words. His friends accepted the wager and watched as Hemingway scrawled something on the back of a napkin.

“

The basic idea is to tell a poignant story in very few words.

”

As the napkin was passed around, each of Hemingway’s friends knew they had lost, and each silently handed over \$10.

No one actually knows whether this happened or not. And Hemingway’s story didn’t even appear in print until 1991 when it was included in a book written by a relatively unknown literary agent.

Whatever the truth, Hemingway’s story sparked a new style of literature dubbed ‘flash fiction’, where storylines are usually restricted to anything up



to six words. The basic idea is to tell a poignant story in very few words.

Hemingway’s story – For sale: baby shoes, never worn – is in the form of an advertisement and infers a larger narrative, perhaps a miscarriage, sudden infant death, or a child that has been abandoned.

I am a big fan of succinct writing and enjoy reading flash fiction from time to time. Some of my favourites include:

- Clown nose broken. It’s not funny.
- Fun night. Only cost a kidney.
- ‘Danger’ sign simply not clear enough.
- Ever early. He died too soon.
- The fire did not burn him.
- Yesterday, I will do things differently.



I've even had a go. Here are some of my offerings:

- The day dawned. Night had come.
- Red carpet evening. Bad blood spilt.
- Let's dance. Two-step. Red cheek.

I know, I know. Pretty lame. But I love the art of storytelling. Perhaps that's why I've been a journalist for 40 years. I love telling stories, but I love listening to and reading stories even more.

“

**For free: eternal life,
contact Jesus.**

”

Sometimes, all it takes is the opening line. I can rattle off some of my favourites from literary classics: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...” (*Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens). “In a hole in the ground there lived a

hobbit” (*The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien). “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife” (*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen). “Call me Ishmael” (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville). “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen” (1984 by George Orwell).

Perhaps the greatest story ever told is the story of God in the Bible. It is a story of God's love for humankind, and the opening could easily win the prize as the best opening line ever (and a classic example of ‘six-word flash fiction’ at its best): “In the beginning, God created *everything*.” (Italics mine).

And the whole Bible in six words? I'll channel my best Hemingway and give it a go:

“For free: eternal life, contact Jesus.”



Scan here for more stories of hope.

The connecting thread

Stories that weave together the past, present and future

By Shirli Congoo

"The life lessons and perspectives brought about in Aboriginal storytelling are essential for our peoples to make sense of the world and to shape and sustain our cultural identity." - Pat Turner AM

Most people have heard of a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country, yarning circles, or dreamtime stories. They have heard songs sung in traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages, seen Indigenous artwork and watched a 'shake-a-leg' or corroboree. To the average person who is not Indigenous, they may appear on the surface as entertainment, myths, legends or even a tick-the-box cultural activity.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people possess a unique and potent tool in our oral traditions, a thread that weaves the past, present and future into a single narrative. These traditions - a distinct form of knowledge - serve as a medium for the reproduction, preservation and transfer of wisdom from one generation to the next. While some of these traditions are open to the public, they are primarily transferred by Elders or individuals entrusted with the authority to pass on specific knowledge. Some of these knowledges are sacred and reserved for specific groups such as men, women or healers.

PRACTICAL PURPOSE

Storytelling in First Nations cultures, whether through dance, art or song, serves a practical purpose. It can guide one to find food, water, shelter or medicine. It can identify kinship relations or navigate using landmarks and constellations. In every story's core lies a lesson in relationships, be it with our Creator, others or the environment.

My eldest son, Robert, is a custodian of specific knowledge about certain animals and creation stories from his father's traditional lands. It is his duty to pass on this knowledge to the younger

generation through stories, art, song and dance. Each marking on the dancers has a story and meaning that links them to the past, present and future.

His teachings serve to connect individual family members and family groups to their ancestral lands, a specific time and each other. This is particularly crucial as many of our Elders were forcibly removed from their lands, making this journey a process of reconnection and reclamation of their sovereignty. Despite being displaced, they held these stories deep within, ready to pass them on, even though they risked punishment for speaking their language or performing traditional dances.

“

**These traditions ...
serve as a medium for the
reproduction, preservation
and transfer of wisdom from
one generation to the next.**

”

RELATIONSHIPS AND HARMONY

When I think of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytelling, it is about being in the right relationship and harmony with our Creator, others and the environment. I believe Jesus was also about that; he transformed humanity, challenged authorities of the day and his followers demonstrated radical love to build God's kingdom. He often did this through parables.

The Bible also links people to the past, the present and the future; it is all



intertwined. It is more than stories or a collection of Bible verses that are learnt in church. The lessons in the Bible take on new significance and meaning in a changing world.

I have a dream. I want a new chapter in the story for our country - a reset. If we want transformation across this nation, are we challenging those in authority about the disadvantage and marginalisation of those most vulnerable in our community? Are we, God's people, demonstrating servant leadership or radical love in a crumbling society? Will this new chapter be a 'Yes, let's do it', or will it be a 'No, stay with the status quo'?

Shirli Congoo is the General Manager of the Salvation Army's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team.



Scan here for more information about Salvation Army Indigenous Services.

Apple cake



Ingredients

¾ cup milk; 1 cup muesli; 1 egg, beaten; ⅓ cup brown sugar; 60g melted butter; 1 cup peeled, grated apple; 1¾ cups self-raising flour; 1 tsp baking powder; ½ tsp cinnamon; ½ tsp nutmeg, cream and icing sugar (optional)

Method

- Combine milk and muesli and stand for 5 minutes, then add the egg.
- Mix in sugar, butter and apple, then fold in the sifted dry ingredients.
- Pour into greased 20cm cake tin.
- Bake at 180°C for 30 minutes.
- Stand for 15 mins before turning out.
- Serve warm with fresh cream, dust with icing sugar.



1. What are you called if you regularly visit rainforests?
2. On which continent is the Amazon rainforest?
3. Where is the world's smallest rainforest?
4. What is the world's oldest surviving tropical rainforest?
5. Lemurs inhabit which rainforest?
6. How many of the world's flower species are found in the rainforest?

Bible byte

"Jesus used stories to teach the people."

Matthew chapter 22, verse 1
Contemporary English Version

Tum-Tum

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



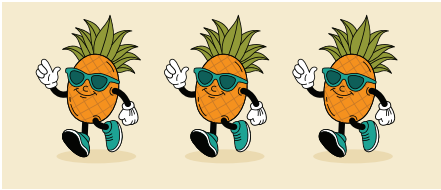
N Y V I O L I N Q Z P L D A P J
 L H Z Q C A G C S Y L I F Z E R
 U E X R Y F G L I O A C W C R E
 L G A M S O D A N U Y B R K F C
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 R J F Z N K Y S A U R U Y H R R
 U L B A N D S I L B S S T E M D
 M D R U M S V C O E P I H A A K
 P P W J P X G A N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

Wordsearch

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

- Band
- Choir
- Classical
- Concert
- Drums
- Folk
- Guitar
- Headphones
- Keyboard
- Learn
- Musician
- Performance
- Players
- Record
- Rhythm
- Rock
- Singalong
- Singer
- Tempo
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Violin
- Volume
- YouTube

HAVE A LAUGH



What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree and an iPad?
A pineapple.

Why did the pineapple stop in the middle of the road?
Because he ran out of juice.

Did you hear about the person who tried to make a pineapple smoothie without any pineapples?
Their efforts were fruitless.

24 June, 1901

Pablo Picasso opens his first exhibition.

The 18-year-old Spanish artist was featured for the first time in Ambroise Vollard's gallery in Paris.

15 June, 1967

The world's first live global satellite TV program is aired.

The BBC program *Our World* featured artists from 19 countries.

28 June, 1846

The saxophone is patented.

Belgian musician Adolphe Sax developed the woodwind instrument typically made of brass, which in recent decades has heavily influenced the sound of the jazz, military band, rock and pop musical genres.

ON THIS DAY...

Quiz answers: 1. Ecotourist 2. South America 3. Malaysia 4. Dairtree (Old) 5. Madagascar 6. Two thirds

Tum-Tum: is hiding in the writer's hand on page 10.



Have you taken care of your Will?

A gift in your Will can help The Salvation Army create a long-lasting impact in the lives of those experiencing hardship.

Find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity. Contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team and ask for a free Wills booklet.

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



CONTACT US TODAY

1800 337 082 or visit
salvationarmy.org.au/wills

