

salvos

magazine

Never the same again

The life-changing impact of Jesus' birth



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FEATURE

Just what
motivates
the Salvos?

FAITH TALK

A decision
worth
making

MY STORY

A journey
of healing
and service



**“Christmas is not as much
about opening our presents
as opening our hearts.”**

— Janice Maeditere



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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Hope and healing

Christmas is coming! Many of us look forward to this season as a time of hope and peace – a welcome break from the struggles and the heartache we face personally and those we see globally. For others, it's a time of sadness – a painful reminder of loss. And for some, it doesn't mean much at all – we see the decorations, the lights and the sparkle, but it's really just another day.

Or is it? In this week's magazine, Fay Foster writes about the events that took place the night Jesus was born and how the ordinary lives of everyday shepherds were transformed forever by what they witnessed. We, too, can have our lives changed by the birth of Jesus that night, and his subsequent life and death.

In My Story, Joycelyn McIver shares her journey of restoration, healing and hope after an encounter with Jesus and deepening faith turned her life around. And it's this faith that drives the Salvos to be who they are and do what they do – as the world leader of the movement also shares in this edition.

For more stories of hope, go to salvosonline.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Never the same again

The life-changing impact of Jesus' birth

By Fay Foster

It started as just another ho-hum night at work for the shepherds around Bethlehem.

Taking care of sheep was a 24-hours-a-day job, so the shepherds lived out in the open with their sheep. They made, or found, 'folds' in which to keep the sheep at night. A fold could be a cave, a circle of stones with some branches or thorns for a roof, or a basic shed.

“

The shepherds . . . had seen and heard things that filled them with a new kind of faith.

”

Each day the shepherds led their flocks out of the fold to find pasture, then at night, once all the sheep were counted back into the fold, they would lie across the door of the fold to protect their flock. Thieves, wolves, lions and bears were constant dangers. It is very likely that the shepherds took turns to sleep.

Shepherding was considered an unskilled job, and shepherds were on the lowest levels of society. How amazing then is this account from Luke chapter 2, verses 8-14, of the night when Jesus was born:

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,

And on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests’.”

Sometimes God does things quietly. But on this occasion, this holy night, he announced the birth of his son Jesus with a sky full of angels, with singing and light and prophecies.

Let's go and see!

The second chapter of Luke's gospel, verse 15, tells us that after the angels had made their stunning announcement, they returned to heaven, leaving the shepherds in the fields.

Having witnessed this spectacular, direct-from-heaven announcement, the shepherds were clearly expected to do something about it! Why else would the angel tell them they would know they had the right baby when they saw him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger? And how could they NOT respond on such an amazing night?

So, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (verse 16). I suspect that none of the shepherds stayed in the fields that night – hopefully God looked after the sheep on this very special occasion.

We don't know how long it took the shepherds to walk to Bethlehem, or how they managed to find the right building. Luke just tells us that they "found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger". And once they had seen the baby for themselves, they couldn't stop talking about what had happened. Everyone who heard them was amazed at what the shepherds said to them (verses 17-18).

The shepherds returned to their flocks, but they would never be the same again.

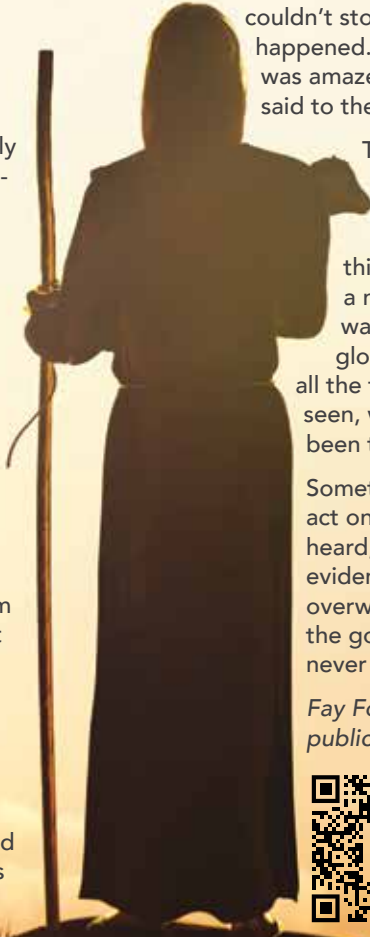
They had seen and heard things that filled them with a new kind of faith. As they walked back to the fields, they glorified and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sometimes, when we decide to act on the good news we have heard, God provides such great evidence of his truth that we are overwhelmed with the reality and the goodness of it all. And we will never be the same again.

Fay Foster is a writer for Salvos publications.



Scan here for more stories of hope.



What makes The Salvation Army tick?

The motivation behind the Salvos around the world

London's *City Matters* newspaper website recently interviewed The Salvation Army's world leader, General Lyndon Buckingham. The article is below.

The red shield of The Salvation Army is instantly recognisable to millions of people around the world, but have you ever wondered who is responsible for this organisation and what it actually does?

The international leader responsible for The Salvation Army is currently General Lyndon Buckingham. The General is the only elected position in The Salvation Army.

General Buckingham explains, "First and foremost, we run churches! Wherever The Salvation Army flag is flying, you will find a congregation of people worshipping. One of our driving ambitions is to meet human need without discrimination, and that 'human need' varies depending on where we are in the world. We provide shelter for the homeless, feeding programs, schools, hospitals, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, counselling services and prison ministry, and services for children and families who are in need.

"Our International Social Justice Commission, based in New York, speaks to the United Nations on global social justice issues. The Salvation Army is currently making a compassionate contribution to the care of people affected by the war between Russia and Ukraine. We do what we can, where we can, to support those in need based on our



The red shield is a recognisable symbol around the world.

ability to respond. I am grateful to everyone who helps us make a difference."

GLOBAL MINISTRY

Since August 2023, the General has been responsible for overseeing The Salvation Army globally. Although based at the International Headquarters in London, the General travels extensively in support of overseas territories. He said, "The office of the General is responsible for the spiritual life and wellbeing of the movement, but also has policy and direction responsibilities which are delegated and shared between the General's Council and The Salvation Army's International Trustee Company. This is the office that acts as the glue that holds together the international Salvation Army and its mission around the world."



General Lyndon Buckingham is the world leader of The Salvation Army, based in London, UK.

GLOBAL SUPPORT

General Buckingham said, “We recognise the challenge for any one organisation, whether it’s a government or an NGO, to ‘do it all’. Collaboration and cooperation between government agencies and NGOs is a healthy response to the needs of the world.”

“

Our Christian faith is the heartbeat of this organisation, and what we are endeavouring to do around the globe comes from that place.

”

He continued, “I think that people are right to be discerning about how they support various global NGOs. We are incredibly grateful for the level of support

that people around the world can give to The Salvation Army, and we continue to endeavour to be good stewards of whatever resources are entrusted into our care.

“Our Christian faith is the heartbeat of this organisation, and what we are endeavouring to do around the globe comes from that place. I think, if anything, that should give people confidence that our good motivation comes from a faith that expresses itself in acts of loving-kindness. This is the driving force behind this movement. The motivating force behind this movement is God’s love for us and our desire to express that towards our neighbour.”

For the full version of this article, go to salvosonline.org.au/post/what-makes-the-salvation-army-tick



Scan here for more information on the International Salvation Army

Thank you Kmart!



The launches of the Kmart Wishing Tree appeal were different around the country. From left to right: Adelaide, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria (centre page) and Tasmania (bottom).

The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal has officially launched in Kmart Australia stores across the country for its 36th year.

Over more than three decades, Kmart and its generous customers have donated over \$5.6 million in funding and \$10 million in gifts distributed to children and families in need at Christmas through The Salvation Army. We are so grateful to Kmart management, staff and customers for their generous kindness.

The partnership with Kmart provides material resources through which the Salvos can support Australians experiencing either situational poverty or long-term poverty. Supporting families

doing it tough at Christmas also allows the Salvos to share the love of Jesus in a caring and compassionate way and in doing so, play an important part in building healthy communities one person, one family at a time.



If you'd like to support this appeal, you can do so by: Placing a gift under the Wishing Tree at any Kmart store, scanning the QR code in-store to make an online contribution, adding a donation during checkout by clicking the Wishing Tree logo, dropping any spare change into a collection box at any register, or making an online donation at kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree

Volunteers respond to bushfires



Close to 70 volunteers have given their time and efforts to work with The Salvation Army Emergency Services in Western Australia in response to the early start to the bushfire season.

The volunteers worked from trucks and trailers, giving 24/7 service for almost 900 hours up to 20 November alone.

They prepared more than 3750 meals for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA, and first responders.

A team from Bunnings Warehouse Australia joined the volunteers, donating equipment, helping assemble work benches and preparing food for the response.

Singing carols from on high



The Sydney Harbour Bridge Salvos choir climbed the iconic bridge to kick-start The Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal with Channel 7's morning show *Sunrise* on Monday 20 November.

On the climb, choir members not only sang carols but also shared the importance of this year's appeal for families in need. Across the country, the appeal

aims to raise \$25 million so the dedicated local Salvos teams can continue to provide vital services and support to the growing number of Australians in crisis.

If you would like to donate to the Christmas Appeal, please go to salvation-army.org.au/donate. Your kindness will bring hope and joy to those struggling this Christmas.

Choose love!

A decision worth making

By James Burns

“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” Many people will know that William Shakespeare wrote those words, but did you know that they were spoken by Jaques in *As You Like It*?

In the recently released film *Choose Love*, it’s the viewer who can decide the ending. And it’s not just one decision towards the end of the film, but a series of decisions throughout the film that you are invited to make that will determine what happens to the characters. And if you decide not to answer, the choice is made for you.

So just like real life, not making a decision actually is the decision, which leads to planned or unintended consequences.

“

**Not making a decision
actually is the decision.**

”

For some people, their idea of God is that if they choose to become a Christian, they will no longer be free to make their own choices in life. That they will be handing control over to him, with no say in how their life progresses. That he will take over their life like a puppet master.

But that’s the exact opposite of what God wants from us. He could have made humans pre-programmed to love him – robots living in a world without trouble.

Instead, God left the decision to us, hoping that we would choose to love him of our own free will, because we don’t get genuine love from someone by forcing them to love us.

How good it is to know that it was God who made the first move: “We love him because he first loved us.” (1 John chapter 4, verse 19, *New King James Version*).

“

**We don’t get genuine
love from someone by
forcing them to love us.**

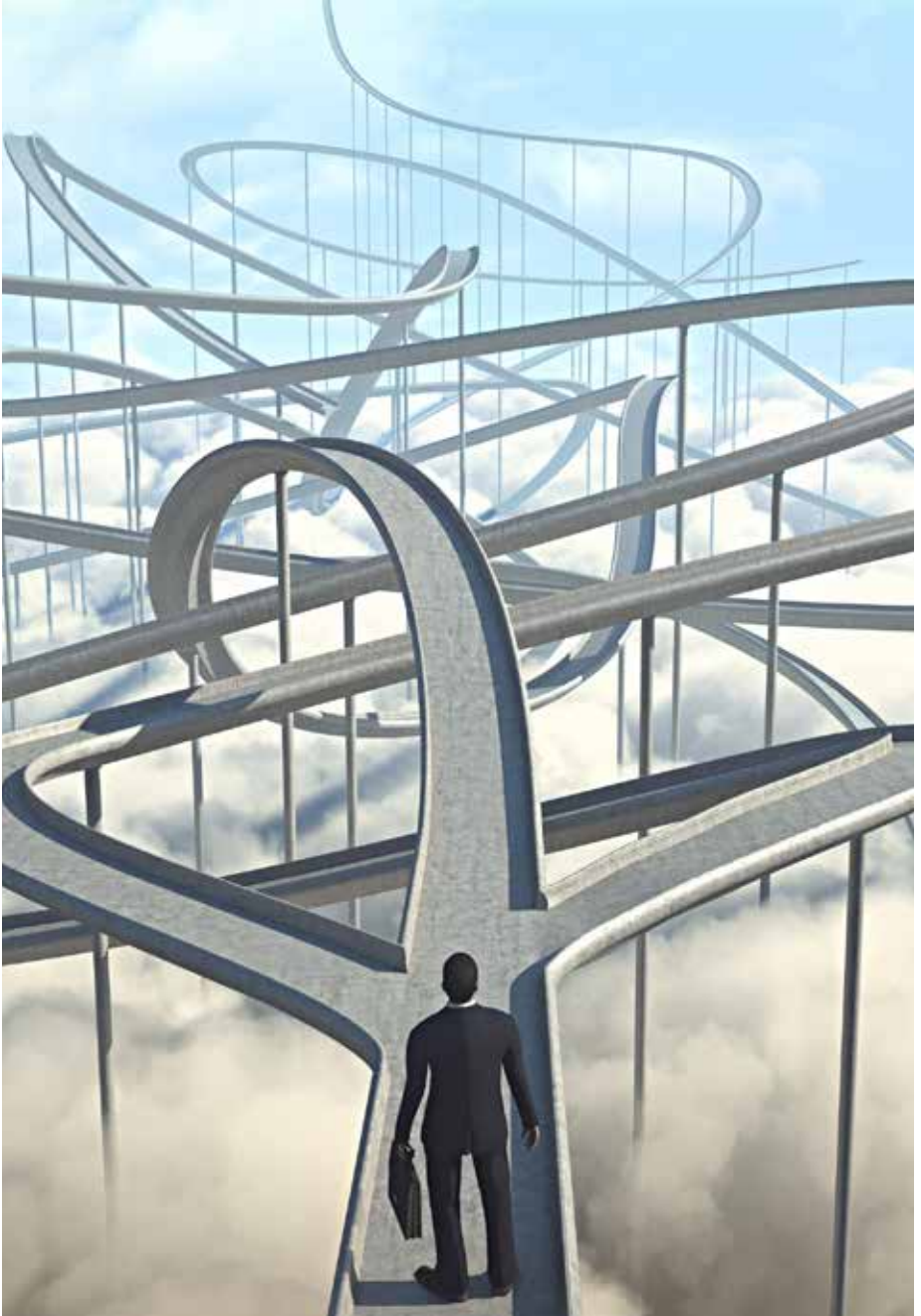
”

It has been said that each one of us has been put on this earth for a purpose. If you’re not following the path you know you ought to take, it’s not too late to change direction. But how tragic it would be to have to admit to the words of John Greenleaf Whittier, “For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’”

Choose Love? Choose God’s love!



Scan here for
more information
on Salvation
Army services.



A journey of healing and service

Courage in the face of hardship, gratitude for blessings and a deep and enduring faith

By Joycelyn McIver

I'm the middle of three girls, so definitely have that middle-child thing going on. Just 13 months after my little sister was born, my dad left my mum. Mum then spent her time raising three girls on her own on the pension, cleaning people's homes and doing their ironing to make ends meet.

Mum did the best she could, but I guess she was always lonely. She remarried when I was nine and that didn't go so well – I wasn't safe in the house at that time. Fortunately, I grew up in The Salvation Army's Rockdale Corps (church) and there were some lovely people there, including a family who had mentioned to (my now husband) Brad's parents that if my younger sister

and I ever needed somewhere to stay, they would take us in. So we were able to get out of that situation and go to live with this beautiful family, the Stewarts. They had one daughter who is still very precious to me as a little sister. That gave me an opportunity to finish my schooling, to go to university and to find some health and healing.

“

God has a sense of humour . . .

”

School for me was a space to escape home life. I was probably a bit of a nerd. I liked study, I liked to get good grades. The connections I made at school – and I'm still friends with one of the girls that I went to Beverly Hills Girls High with – were really important. Having those connections and relationships that were safe, and being able to feel like I was achieving something and working hard to get good grades, were important for me.

As a teenager, I did go off the rails a little bit. And again, I think that was a response to the trauma of what was happening at home. I would often truant with a group of girls from school and we'd go down to Beverly Hills railway station and drink in the middle of the day. That was probably in years nine and 10.



Joycelyn loves a laugh with friends and colleagues.



Joycelyn and her husband, Brad, enjoy a growing family and serving together as Salvation Army officers (pastors).

FINDING GOD

I had a life-changing encounter with Jesus at the end of year 10, so in years 11 and year 12, I was a new person – so much so that there was a relief teacher who came in year 11 who wouldn't believe that I was the same student that I was in year 10, because there had been such an incredible change in me.

I feel the most connected to God when I'm being creative and doing things with my hands, making things, walking in nature and being around water. Water and bush is a big space where I feel at peace and connected to God, and I can feel his presence in those spaces. So, making sure I slow down and schedule time out is important for me.

When I was 19 and Brad was 20, we got married at Rockdale Salvos with friends and family around. I went to Sydney University and got a Bachelor of Education in secondary teaching and then went on to become a home economics, design and technology

teacher. I taught in Sydney for about eight years and then we moved to the Northern Territory. I taught up there for about the same period. I loved teaching, loved working with young adults.

When Brad proposed I said to him, just to let you know, I don't want children. I think I'd been quite scarred from my experience and just didn't think I would ever be a good mum. He wanted a football team. I felt I'd been called to full-time ministry, and he wasn't feeling that. We got married anyway, and God has a sense of humour because four children later and 10 years as Salvation Army officers (pastors) . . . there you go.

Major Joycelyn McIver is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.



Scan here for more stories of hope.

Salmon and potato patties



Ingredients

4 medium potatoes, 40g softened butter, 1 egg, ½ cup finely grated cheese, 1 tin salmon, 1 small chopped onion, 1 clove crushed garlic, ½ cup breadcrumbs, oil for frying

Method

- Cook potatoes until soft. Mash in a large bowl with butter, egg and cheese.
- Drain salmon, remove bones and flake into pieces.
- Add salmon, onion and garlic to potato, mixing well.
- Shape mixture into patties and coat in breadcrumbs.
- Place patties on oven tray and cover. Refrigerate 30 minutes.
- Fry patties in oil until lightly browned.

HAVE A LAUGH



What do you call an amazing day up a mountain?
A peak experience.

What does an angry mother mountain shout at her stropy teenage mountain?
Don't give me that altitude.

What happens when you reach the summit of a mountain?
It's all downhill from there.

What world-famous rock group has four guys that don't even sing?
Mount Rushmore.

SIGNING IN



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

6			9			2	4	
5				2	4	9	6	1
			1				3	
		1			9			2
			2	5				3
2				4		1		9
	8			1	7			
				3				
		5						

Tum-Tum



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

Bible byte

"A heart at peace gives life to the body."

Proverbs chapter 14, verse 30a
New International Version

Quiz answers: 1. The Swiss Alps 2. Honshu Island 3. The Pyrenees 4. Cambrian Mountains 5. Romania 6. Mount Wycheproof (147m above sea level) in Victoria. **Tum-Tums:** is hiding behind Joycelyn on page 12.



Quick quiz

1. What mountain range is the Matterhorn part of?
2. What island of Japan is Mount Fuji on?
3. Which mountain chain separates France and Spain?
4. Which mountain range includes England's Lake District?
5. In which country are the Transylvanian Alps located?
6. What is the smallest registered mountain in the world?

10 December 1901

First Nobel prizes awarded.

Five years after the death of Swedish chemist and inventor, Alfred Nobel, the first Nobel Prizes were awarded. The Peace Prize for that year was shared between French pacifist Frédéric Passy, founder of the Peace League, and the Swiss Jean Henry Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross movement.

10 December 2001

Release of the first film in the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

The award-winning movie called *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* was directed by Peter Jackson and was based on J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

12 December 1911

Dehli replaces Calcutta as the capital of India.

15 December 1939

Premiere of *Gone with the Wind*.

The award-winning film was adapted from Margaret Mitchell's book by the same name.

7	6	5	8	9	8	2	2	3	1	4
1	2	4	5	3	6	6	8	9	7	7
3	8	6	4	1	7	5	2	2	6	6
2	7	3	6	4	8	1	5	9	6	9
8	9	6	2	5	1	4	7	3	3	3
4	5	1	3	7	9	6	8	6	2	2
6	4	2	1	6	5	2	7	3	8	8
5	3	8	7	2	4	4	6	6	1	1
6	1	7	9	8	3	3	2	4	4	5

ON THIS DAY

GIFT YOUR TIME *volunteer*



Give the gift of time. Volunteer at your local Salvos Store & help to raise funds for those in need in your community. Ask about volunteering in store today or online at salvosstores.com.au/volunteer

