

salvos

magazine



A Fairtrade Christmas

Giving the power of choice



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FEATURE

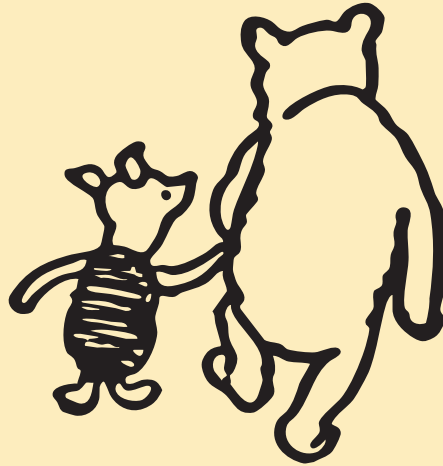
Gifts that give two ways

FAITH TALK

The legend of the spider's web

MY STORY

Making miracles happen



“Christmas is a togethery
sort of holiday.
That’s my favourite kind.”

– A A Milne
(Winnie-the-Pooh)



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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A caring Christmas

It's been a difficult year for most of us. It seems that the cost of living, ongoing everyday issues and global tensions have dominated the headlines and our lives.

And now Christmas is just around the corner. For many, this brings added stress as we battle the pressures of everyday life.

Help is out there. In this edition, we look at how the Salvos can help those needing toys for their kids, food to make the season special, a safe and welcoming place to spend the day or a Christmas service to attend.

Our feature this week also looks at Fairtrade – a system that exists to help end extreme poverty in developing nations and give people sustainable incomes and the power of choice. We can all play our part in making that happen.

As we enjoy Christmas this year, however that looks for each of us, it's good to remember that Christmas isn't about the tree, the presents or the food, but rather on the coming of Jesus and what he has done to change the world for everyone.

Simone Worthing **Editor**

A Fairtrade Christmas

Giving the power of choice

By Fay Foster

“Behind products on the supermarket shelves and in stores are people: farmers, workers, families. Millions of them suffer from extreme poverty, poor working conditions and inequality. Fairtrade changes this. Support Fairtrade, change lives.”



This statement from Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand (fairtradeanz.org) is a great encouragement for us to care for those who work to produce the goods we buy. So how do we do this? What is Fairtrade?

FAIRTRADE

The international Fairtrade system exists to end poverty through trade and works with almost two million farmers and workers in developing countries worldwide.

It owns the Fairtrade Mark that appears on over 30,000 products globally. This label (pictured above) makes it easier for consumers to know whether the products are produced ethically, hopefully making it easier for us to decide which products to purchase this Christmas season.

Producers can only obtain the label if they stick to certain ethical standards in their production and selling of commodities. They must protect the environment in which they work and live; develop, implement and monitor an operations plan on their farming and technologies; follow national and international standards for chemical handling; not use

genetically modified organism products; and monitor the effects of their activities on the environment and make plans to lessen those impacts (bit.ly/4fDzfvT).

Many of the world's most serious issues share a single root cause – extreme poverty. The Fairtrade Minimum Price, Premium and Standards are designed to tackle this so that farmers and workers have reliable and sustainable incomes, and the power to make their own choices.

MINIMUM PRICE

The Fairtrade Minimum Price defines the lowest possible price that a buyer of Fairtrade products must pay the producer. This price is set based on a consultative process with Fairtrade farmers, workers and traders. It guarantees that producer groups receive a price that covers what it costs them to grow



their crop (fairtrade.org.uk). And if the market price increases, they're able to reap (and keep) the rewards.

THE FAIRTRADE PREMIUM

The Fairtrade Premium is a fixed additional amount of money that provides farmers and workers with the capacity to invest in improving the quality of their businesses and communities. They decide democratically how to use the money for their community or economic benefit, or to improve the environment around them. This could be a well or a hospital, better farming equipment or even training and investment to help them switch to organic farming.

“

We support producers who are struggling to improve their lives.

”

THE FAIRTRADE STANDARDS

These standards contain requirements aimed at improvements that benefit producers and their communities. They require fair terms of trade between farmers and buyers, protect workers' rights, and are the framework for producers to build thriving farms and organisations.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Here are just some of the many Australian websites from which you can purchase Fairtrade products this Christmas, including decorations, cloth gift bags, clothing, jewellery, accessories, soap, bed linen, Australian Indigenous products, toys, notebooks, jam, chocolates and more:



- Fair Trade Ethical Christmas Gifts and Products | Uplift Fair Trade (bit.ly/3V1wzA0)
- Shop Ethical and Fair Trade Gifts Australia – The Fair Trader (bit.ly/3ZfFX5x)
- Shop ethical gifts from Oxfam | Oxfam Australia (bit.ly/4fCa2Cb)
- shop.leprosymission.org.au – a huge range!

All year long, we can make a difference to impoverished producers by buying Fairtrade products such as chocolate, coffee, homewares and clothing. On the website baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide, you can enter the name of a store you'd like to purchase from and see to what extent this company's products are ethically sourced.

By buying Fairtrade products, we support producers who are struggling to improve their lives. And what better message to send out to the world this Christmas?



An occasional column on all things books and reading



PHOTO COURTESY NADIA WORTHING

Scrooge – a Christmas transformation

Are you a re-reader? Generally speaking, I'm not. As I see it, there are so many good books out there waiting to be read, and so little time to read them!

But there is one book I make an exception for: Charles Dickens' classic novella *A Christmas Carol*.

I was given a gorgeously illustrated version of the book many years ago and I've read it most Decembers since. Every year I find it as compelling and enjoyable as the first time I read it.

And I'm hardly alone. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his visit from the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future eclipses all other Yuletide stories in popularity. Old Ebenezer's phrase, "Bah humbug" has been adopted as an expression of disgust for all things Christmas, and the very name Scrooge has become a byword for a mean or miserly person.

But to use Scrooge's name in this way is to do Dickens' protagonist a great injustice. From a man who has no love for Christmas, children or anything fun



or joyful, Scrooge becomes a model of generosity and kindness.

Apart from a big fright, each ghost gives Scrooge a new perspective on his life. For the first time, he sees his “fellowmen” as they really are, and he sees himself as he really is. The reality is sobering, but the consequences are transformational. The man who once abhorred Christmas now promises to “honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year”.

With Jesus’ birth came the opportunity for the world to see God in an entirely new way. And, just like Scrooge, those who embraced this new perspective were transformed from the inside out.

I don’t plan to stop my annual *A Christmas Carol* tradition any time soon. For me, it’s a gift that keeps on giving.

– **Andrea Redford**

 **salvos**
STORES

This Christmas season,
we invite you to join our

Christmas Reflection

On 10 December at 10am, we will gather in every store
to share the love, joy, and hope of Christmas.

Together we will remember loved ones, share a story, a scripture and prayer.

The store will remain open for shopping.
For more details, please chat to our friendly team
at your local store.

Gifts that give two ways

The Salvation Army International Development office (SAID) supports community development by working in partnership with communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific to enable them to alleviate poverty.

SAID has a commitment to community development programs that deliver tangible change in key areas, including:

- Empowering women
- Health education and disease prevention and management
- Education for children and adults
- Improving access to clean water and sanitation
- Livelihood and income-generation activities.



No one should have to fight for their survival. One way you can help those in the developing world experience the opportunities we enjoy is by buying a Salvos Gift. You will receive an emailed link to print your own card, which you can personalise and send to the loved one on whose behalf you have purchased the gift.



Scan here to access the Salvos Gifts catalogue.

50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy

On Christmas Eve 1974, Darwin experienced one of the most destructive tropical cyclones recorded in Australia's history. On the 50th anniversary of this event, four survivors reflect on the harrowing events of that day and on the incredible response by The Salvation Army to assist and help restore the community.



Scan here to watch the 50th anniversary video.



Need help this Christmas?

Christmas should be a time of joy and hope, but unexpected circumstances or a crisis on top of current cost-of-living pressures can make it even more stressful and challenging. If you need support with providing the essentials for you and/or your family or gifts for the kids, or are looking for some connection over Christmas, the Salvos can help.

There's no judgement, and no reason anyone should have to go hungry, be alone, or feel anxious about how to provide for themselves or their families.

FOOD AND GIFT SUPPORT

For food, hamper and gift assistance, call 1300 371 288 or scan the QR code below.

SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL WITH US

Whether you are on your own this Christmas, are unable to prepare your own festive lunch or are experiencing homelessness, the Salvos welcome you to enjoy a Christmas meal with us at one of our centres.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We understand that the rising cost of living is placing increasing financial stress upon individuals and families



around Australia. The added pressures of the Christmas season to buy gifts or provide a nice meal for the family can seem completely out of reach. Instead of taking out a buy now, pay later loan or maxing out another credit card, talk to one of our Moneycare financial counsellors to find out how we can support you this Christmas and into the new year.

CELEBRATE WITH THE SALVOS

Are you looking for community connection this Christmas? Or would you like to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas somewhere? We welcome you to attend a Salvation Army Christmas carols service, Christmas Day service or other event near you.

For information, contact details and more, scan the QR code below.



Scan here for how to get help from the Salvos this Christmas.

The legend of the spider's web

Doing what we can for others

By James Burns

Do you prefer a real Christmas tree or an artificial one? And what about decorations – baubles, lights, angels? Do you still use tinsel? I ask about tinsel, as I read recently about a legend relating to tinsel and the birth of Jesus.

Having been warned in a dream after the birth that they should escape to Egypt due to King Herod looking to kill Jesus, one evening Mary, Joseph and Jesus sought refuge in a cave. It was a very cold night, so cold that there was a frost. The story goes that a little spider saw the baby and so wished that he could help to keep him warm, so he spun a web across the cave's entrance.

Later, a group of Herod's soldiers came that way, intent on carrying out Herod's orders for all boys under the age of two to be murdered. They were about to search the cave, but when their captain saw the spider's web covered with frost across the entrance, he decided that, as the web was intact, there could be no one in the cave. At that the soldiers moved on, and the family was safe to continue their journey and make good their escape.

And that is why people started putting tinsel on their Christmas trees, as a reminder of the spider's web.

I think that's a lovely story, but as it's only a legend, we will never know if it actually happened. But I like to think it did, for who doesn't love a heart-warming story at Christmas, particularly one about Jesus?

It's good to remember, though, that Christmas isn't just about the tree or the trimmings or even the meal, but rather the focus should be on Jesus, the son of God whose birth we celebrate at this special time of year. His purpose in coming was that he would die on a cross for our sins, but then come back to life so that we may have eternal life. It's about a personal relationship with God. It's about unconditional love.

“

But it's good to remember that Christmas isn't about the tree or the trimmings or even the meal, but rather the focus should be on Jesus, the son of God whose birth we rightly celebrate at this special time of year.

”

That's what he did for each of us, and like the spider, we can think about what we can do in his name for others – at Christmas and throughout the year. After all, he was the one who said, “Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me” (Matthew chapter 25, verse 40 *The Message Bible translation*).



Making miracles happen

Celebrating the impact of volunteers

Australia has just marked International Volunteer Day, a global celebration that takes place each year on 5 December to highlight the vital role volunteers play in addressing the world's challenges, strengthening communities and creating positive change.

The Salvation Army Australia has nearly 20,500 volunteers who serve in a range of programs including local church community outreach, emergency food relief and crisis services, Salvos Stores and spending time with the lonely and vulnerable.

Alongside millions of volunteers across Australia, Salvos volunteers are especially busy during the festive season. Below, three volunteers from Eastlakes

Salvos at beautiful Lake Macquarie, NSW, share how volunteering at the church's annual Avenue of Trees – where church and community members decorate Christmas trees and open the display to the public for a time of fun and togetherness – has impacted them.

Auxiliary-Lieutenant Terri Muendel, leader at Eastlakes Salvos, says, "We honestly have the BEST volunteers! All 70+ of them!"

“

Christmas is my favourite time of the year, and it's such a privilege to serve.

”

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE

I love the season of Christmas, and I find joy in volunteering, especially this time of year – seeing the excitement on the faces of our little kids as they stroll through the Avenue of Trees; showing dignity, love and acceptance to those who are struggling, through gifting Christmas hampers and toys for their families.

It's a real honour when our community members share a small part of their world with us, and I am forever grateful and humbled.

Christmas is my favourite time of the year, and it's such a privilege to serve.
– **Michelle Abdilla**



Dressing up is an essential part of the Avenue of Trees.

SHOWING SOMEONE CARES

I so love volunteering at Eastlakes Salvos! I feel that it's my place and where I'm meant to be. Each week, many people from various life circumstances come to us. We are the 'hands and feet of Jesus' as we hear their stories. We are then able to assist them – be it free pantry items or Christmas hampers. By the time I see those same people walking out our church doors, they are smiling, are armed with food assistance and with a belief and a hope that someone cares.

The Avenue of Trees is my favourite time of year. We can connect with our local community and see individuals and groups coming together to decorate their trees. I've been talking about decorating one of my seven trees by making 200+ pompoms. Recently, one of our regular Tuesday pantry ladies approached me and said she wants to do a heart-theme tree in memory of my sister Wendy, who passed away this year.

– **Helen Schultz**



Christmas activities are a highlight of the year for staff and volunteers.



Winning a prize always brings a smile!

MAKING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

There are a lot of reasons I volunteer at my church, especially at Christmas time.

Firstly, this church, Eastlakes Salvos, is my church and so I love to do my part in its day-to-day running, programs and events.

Christmas is a very busy time, but it can also be a very stressful and worrisome time for families and others. Sometimes there just isn't enough money to go around.

This is where our church really can make a difference and can help to make Christmas a very special time for many older people, families and lonely people.

I love to be part of making these little miracles happen.

But more than this, as a Christian, I believe I must obey Christ's commands and love everyone, feed the hungry and comfort the lost. This is my calling.

– **Barbara Green**



Scan here for more stories of hope.

Mango Salad



Ingredients

1 mango, 1 avocado, 200g cherry tomatoes, ¼ cup coriander leaves, 2 tbsp lime juice, salmon or fish of your choice (optional)

Method

- Peel and seed mango and avocado.
- Cut mango, avocado and cherry tomatoes into similar size pieces.
- Chop coriander and combine with lime juice in a bowl.
- This summer side dish goes well with grilled fish.

HAVE A LAUGH



Why does everyone like snowmen?
Because they are so cool!

What happened to the thief who stole an Advent calendar?
He got 25 days!

Why are Christmas trees more noticeable at Christmas?
They have more presence.

What did the Christmas tree do after its bank closed?
It started its own branch.

SIGNING IN



Sudoku

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

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



1. Where did Santa originate?
2. Why a partridge in a pear tree?
3. Christmas Island features an annual migration of which animal?
4. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
5. What is the tallest Christmas tree ever?

Tum-Tum



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

Bible byte

"Don't be afraid! ... I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere."

Luke chapter 2, verse 10
The Voice Bible translation

Quiz answers: 1. The legend of St Nicholas, born around 280 AD in Patara, (Turkey). 2. The partridge symbolises Jesus and the pear tree in Seattle was in the 1950 tree in Seattle was 67.36m high. **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the corn flakes on page 9.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Japan, Christmas cake is a sponge cake decorated with strawberries and whipped cream. The shortcake emoji 🍰 is Japanese Christmas cake.

Every December in Thessaloniki's Aristotelous Square, a three-masted sailing ship is featured along with a huge Christmas tree. Decorated ships are an old tradition in Greece.

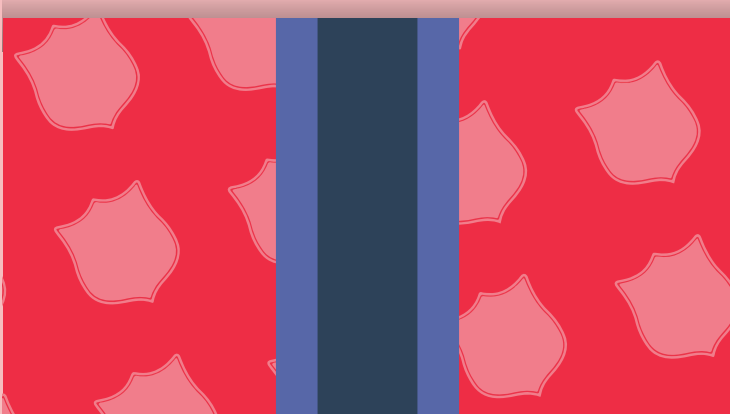
In Vietnam, it is more common to give presents of food, with a Christmas 'bûche de Noël' (a chocolate cake in the shape of a log) being a popular gift.

In Honduras, Christmas Eve is when the main celebrations and meal take place. You may enjoy 'nacatamales' containing chicken or pork, rice, potatoes, olives, vegetables and raisins. For dessert, 'rosquillas en mil' which are donuts soaked in honey.

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



**Give a
gift that
means
more**



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STORES