

salvos

magazine

REFUGEE WEEK 18-24 JUNE

Facing the curveballs of life

Ensuring dignity for those
who are struggling



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FEATURE

Finding
freedom

FAITH TALK

The forgotten
ones

MY STORY

Lifting up the
vulnerable

*“May all that has been
reduced to noise in you,
become music again.”*

- David Feenb





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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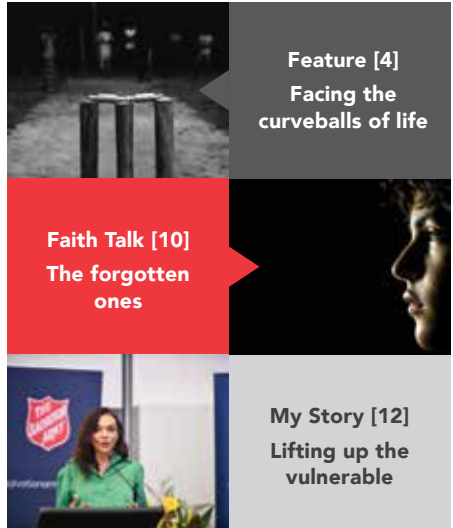
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Feature [4]
Facing the curveballs of life

Faith Talk [10]
The forgotten ones

My Story [12]
Lifting up the vulnerable

Our common humanity

Finding Freedom is the theme for Refugee Week 2023 (18-24 June). The theme aims to help make the week a national celebration, promote harmony and togetherness, and facilitate discussions around what it means to be a refugee and to be free.

Finding Freedom also promotes the reminder that, regardless of our differences, we all share a common humanity.

The UNHCR most recently estimated that by mid-2022 the number of people forcibly displaced reached 103 million, with more than 32.5 million refugees worldwide.

In this edition of *Salvos Magazine*, Tara McGuigan looks at the Salvos' work ensuring nobody, including refugees, struggles alone; Ameen and Darshini share their harrowing stories and the hope they have found through the Salvos; and Dr Anne Aly speaks about the importance of not shaming or judging anyone.

Sandra Pawar challenges us to advocate for the needs of refugees as she reflects on an experience that changed her forever.

For these stories and more, go to salvosonline.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Facing the curveballs of life

Ensuring dignity for those struggling
to get back on their feet

WORDS Tara McGuigan



My country of origin is Sri Lanka where nobody grows up without engaging in some shape or form with cricket.

In cricket, you get many types of bowling. Imagine you are a batsman. You have come to the crease in a Test match. The pitch is perfect. Your eye is in with the ball. You've hit some boundaries and a couple of sixes.

Suddenly, the bowler sends down a googly (a ball in cricket that spins in the opposite way to what the batsman expects). You didn't see it coming. You're out! You leave the crease and go back to the stands, but you know there is a second innings where you get to come back for a second go.

“

We are not animals.

”

I want to talk about the googlies of life. Sometimes we have those googlies bowled at us so unexpectedly. And we might get out, but some of us get to come back to the crease.

For people who come to the Salvos for help, those googlies come too fast, one after the other. They're continually getting out until someone gives them a hand and helps them.

One person every 17 seconds is the demand on Salvation Army services in Australia. That is three to four people every minute who are facing too many curveballs in life. Life has dealt them hard blows. They can't get up. We need to give them a hand.

Every time we stretch our hand out to help someone, we are stretching out our heart and showing compassion. That's what is at the heart of our work. That is what the Red Shield Appeal supports.

ENSURING DIGNITY

In September 2011, I worked with The Salvation Army on the island nation of Nauru where the Australian Government had set up a detention centre for asylum seekers. There were 10 of us in the first Salvos team to arrive at the camp. The Salvation Army's role was to look after the welfare of asylum seekers and bring dignity to people's lives.

Planeload after planeload of asylum seekers started arriving. The first was filled with Sri Lankan Tamils. The second plane was filled with Iranians – all men. When they arrived at the detention centre, the first man off the transfer bus looked around at the conditions and started screaming, "We are not animals. We are not animals." He was very, very upset. He was angry. He was afraid. He was dishevelled.

Our team got around this man and we sat and talked with him. He calmed down and started crying. He shared his story, and it broke my heart. I am still so moved when I think of this scene, witnessed by hundreds of others on this remote island out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

But Ahmed [not his real name] now has residency in Australia. He's established and set up his own business. His children and his family are here. The children are doing well in school, and they will be leaders one day, giving back to this country.

And that's what it's like for us who come from overseas. We leave so much behind, but we come to this country and



PHOTO BY KELLY SIKKEMA ON UNSPLASH

this country treats us well. So we are here to give back to Australia.

The Salvos, with the help of funds raised through the Red Shield Appeal, are establishing a community in Australia where anyone facing the googlies that life throws at them doesn't have to face them alone. Nobody should struggle alone. We are with them. You are welcome to join us on the journey.

Captain Tara McGuigan is a Salvation Army officer (pastor), who serves as Relationship Manager for the CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) communities in NSW/ACT.



Scan here for more information on the Red Shield Appeal.

Finding freedom

Salvos help refugees and asylum seekers find freedom, hope and a family

Finding Freedom is the theme for Refugee Week 2023. The theme aims to highlight aspects of the refugee experience and help the broader community understand what it is like to be a refugee.

The Salvos, both in Australia and around the world, are actively engaged in supporting refugees and asylum seekers through a broad range of services. Below are the brief stories of Ameen and Darshini who have found freedom, hope and a family through the help of the Salvos.



AMEEN'S STORY

Ameen shares how he found true hope and life in Australia through his faith after being an asylum seeker for 12 years.

Thanks to the help and support of the Salvos' intercultural ministry, he gained the confidence to enter society and, two years ago, opened his own business.

"The journey I found Jesus ... it's been something that always calmed me down through these 12 years," he says. "Being an asylum seeker didn't let me think. Having a title of asylum seeker make me think I'm not human. The Salvos always helped me to break

that fear and to go into the society and find a lot of friends and families from different backgrounds through their intercultural ministry.

"So slowly, slowly, I found out I can do things by my own and they gave me that confidence to go for my own. They helped me to open an Australian business account. I started my own business two years ago. Very busy. Salvation Army doesn't help you only about the financial things or like finding a job or English classes or whatever. It helps your spirituality as well and gives you hope and not the fake hope. Real hope."



DARSHINI'S STORY

As a result of a family dispute, Darshini went through a period of great personal distress after arriving in Australia. She shares her story of how The Salvation Army's guidance and support have helped her become the woman she is today.

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**Future looks bright,
supportive, along with The
Salvation Army family.**

”

“Before coming to Salvos, I came as a dependent visa and starting is all good,” she says. “But then after family dispute happened, I become separated with the one child and one is nearly coming. I go to the doctor to consult about the pregnancy and stuff. There is a lady in reception. I really need support because I try to give up on my life and stuff.

“And that reception lady supports me to guide me to The Salvation Army. So, from 2010 I'm still with The Salvation Army. I do some volunteer work, collections and catering as well. That experience is good because that's where we know about more and more people, different cultures, food. We serve them. They give us feedback that this food is delicious. What ingredients you include makes it taste nice. So it feels so proud on us as well, that people are accepting our food as well and we are accepting their support.

“The Salvation Army guides me, motivates me, supporting my kids whenever in need. They are supporting me with the groceries, house chores, and to become a woman who I am today. Future looks bright, supportive, along with The Salvation Army family. We are happy, we are one and always there for each other.”



Scan here for more stories of hope.

A safe haven

After leaving war-torn Ukraine, Val finds friendship and support at the Salvos

WORDS Lauren Martin

Just over a year ago, Valentyna Yevtushenko locked her Kyiv apartment and walked away, not knowing when or if she would return. The Russian invasion of Ukraine had begun, and her son was picking her up to flee the city. One week later, she was in Australia, sheltering at her daughter's home.

"It was so stressful," she remembers. "It was only God who allowed us to come safely to this place." Her son and grandson remain in Ukraine. She prays for them every day.

Not long after arriving, Val noticed the Shire Salvos Miranda building near where she was living with her daughter's family. A former employee of The Salvation Army in Ukraine, she says she was happy to offer her services here in Australia to the country that had taken her in during her time of need.



Val, left, and Eileen have become firm friends.

NEW PURPOSE

"I come twice a week," she says. "I have made beautiful friendships here. I can share openly and honestly, and it gives me purpose."

Val assists the team at Shire Salvos Miranda food relief and assistance centre. During these busy days, she can be found packing food hampers for people in need, sorting donations of fresh fruit and vegetables and grocery items, and sharing in conversation with members of the community who drop into the centre. She has also been able to use her bilingual skills to translate on a few occasions.

“

I can share openly and honestly, and it gives me purpose.

”

"I worked at The Salvation Army [in Ukraine] for nearly five years," she says of her previous job as a translator and assistant there. "I was involved mostly in the missionaries' life. I had to be the mediator between people and the missionaries, change currencies and so on."

Val says she stumbled across the job – and Jesus – quite by accident (although, in hindsight, she realises it was through



Val, right, has found friendship and belonging through volunteering alongside Marika and Eileen at Shire Salvos Miranda in Sydney.

God's grace.) A friend of hers wanted to emigrate and needed to learn English. She had heard that the local Salvation Army offered free English classes, so she convinced Val to accompany her.

"I didn't want to," remembers Val. "I was too far from the religion. I was baptised in the Orthodox Church when I was a baby, but that's all. I respected everything to do with church, but I was not a believer."

Despite her misgivings, she reluctantly began attending and stayed even when her friend dropped out. By that stage, Val was enjoying learning English, and the course led to volunteer work translating and eventually a job. "I started to read the Bible," she says, "only because I wanted to understand what the missionaries were talking about; it was not me seeking God.

FAITH JOURNEY

"I asked a lot of questions. Then step by step, I started to be involved in the Bible study learning, and I appreciated The Salvation Army because otherwise I would never be saved. Saved not only

in the spirit but also saved in the physical because I was supported greatly."

Val says her faith has deepened through her involvement as a volunteer. Having experienced severe poverty, she struggled to see people in Australia getting help when they didn't look like they were in severe need.

"But David [Lieut-Colonel David Godkin, Mission Leader] told me that every person has their own story, and we can't judge. In Australia, people have more, but they spend more. And because the country is wealthy, it can support people well."

Val is grateful because, over time, "God has been working in my heart" and allowing her to see people the way he sees them.



Scan here for more stories of hope.

The forgotten ones

Bringing hope and care to heartbroken children

WORDS Sandra Pawar

One hot and humid Tuesday evening in Athens, Greece, I found myself at a cafe in Omonia Square for almost two hours. Sitting outside drinking my Diet Coke, I was enveloped in cigarette smoke from other cafe diners.

The smell of smoke bothered me, but I found myself transfixed, unable to move. I was both fascinated and horrified by what I was seeing happen around me. I was sitting in one of the busiest squares in Athens, just yards from Omonia station, and many people were passing by me – tourists getting off open-top tour buses, business people rushing home from work, shoppers heading to the stores. It all looked very normal, but as the sun began to set there was something happening that was disturbing and unsettling.

“

**Unaccompanied minors
are often the forgotten
ones in the refugee crisis.**

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Among the people coming and going I saw many young teenagers wandering the area, yet they never seemed to go anywhere as the Greek locals did. Instead, I saw them waiting around corners, sitting on ledges, circling the same area again and again. They had no joy in their eyes,

they were not laughing and they seemed focused on only one thing, which was getting the attention of the older men who were wandering around the square. Now and then I saw them approach these older men, or the older men approach them. These encounters did not resemble familiarity or friendship – they looked like business transactions.

INSIDIOUS TRADE

During those two hours, I must have seen at least four older men take off with younger boys. At one stage I saw an older man standing among five young teenage boys, and he stayed with them for at least 30 minutes. I could not hear the conversation he was having with them, but I saw his interactions and the way he touched these boys. He was touching their faces, their chests and their buttocks, making gestures about shaving, walking with them to places around the square, introducing them to other men and handing them money.

This man eventually came over to a young man near me who said “No” and shook his head. The older man persisted and started to get angry. He spoke very sternly to the young man and finally coerced the teenager to go with him. Another young man, so thin his collar-bones protruded, wandered past the cafe at least five times. The last time he walked past, some expensively dressed older men had just arrived. They asked him to sit with them. They bought him a meal and then left, taking him with them.

It was this evening spent at a cafe in Omonia Square that broke my heart and spurred me to research the plight of unaccompanied minors, first within Greece and then globally. Unaccompanied minors are often the forgotten ones in the refugee crisis, slipping through support mechanisms and getting erased by overwhelming and impersonal statistics. My experience in Omonia Square haunts me to this day and is a constant reminder that these young people, these children, are more than just a statistic – they are very real people, with very real stories, experiencing real heartbreak.

ADVOCACY

I went to bed with a heavy heart, broken over all I had witnessed, and I knew without any doubt that God was inviting me to care about his children, especially those who are refugees and asylum seekers.

He reminded me that night that those young boys in Omonia Square matter to him and they need to matter to me too. You might not have unaccompanied minors from Syria, Iran or Pakistan in your community, but you have children, teenagers and young adults who are just waiting for you to care for them, to advocate for them.

Ask God to show you them this week and ask him for opportunities to bring hope into their lives. If you ask him, I know he will do it.

Captain Sandra Pawar is an Australian Salvation Army officer (pastor) serving in the USA.



Scan here for
more information
on Salvation
Army services.

Lifting up the vulnerable

Dr Anne Aly, Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth, spoke from the heart at the recent launch of the Red Shield Appeal in Canberra

WORDS Dr Anne Aly

In 1974, my parents had been in Australia for seven years, after arriving here as Egyptian migrants. Dad was an engineer and Mum was a nurse, but here they took the jobs they could get. That year we moved to Brisbane, and for three weeks the rains came, leading to devastating floods.

That was the very first time we encountered The Salvation Army because it was then that my parents felt the weight of having to ask for help.

“

**We need to be a society
that lifts up our most
vulnerable ...**

”

We were evacuated from our home and, even as a seven-year-old at the time, I still remember the generosity of The Salvation Army and how they helped my family, who had spent seven years building a life and saving for a house, a car, a television. The generosity of the Salvos during the floods showed my family there is more to making a life than possessions – and that is that human connection and human touch in time of need.

FIRM FRIENDS

The Salvos became a permanent fixture in our life from then on, even though we were a very traditional Muslim family. A Salvo named Mrs Radcliffe became part of our family and throughout my teenage years Mrs Radcliffe was always there.

Fast forward to 1994 and I was married with two young sons but had endured three years of physical, mental and emotional abuse from their father. One night I decided that enough was enough, so I left with a three-year-old and a one-year-old.

I wasn't working at the time and I had nothing. I went to the Centrelink office and was told it would take five weeks for my payment to come through. I remember walking out of that office, leaning against the wall and breaking down in tears. I felt utterly alone. Walking into the Centrelink office that day I felt shame, and I felt shame and humiliation every time I had to put an item back at the checkout counter, because I knew I couldn't afford it.

Every time I had to say no to my children I felt shame, but I learned to make ends meet. I learned how to sew so I could make my boys' clothes. I learned how to live off the leftovers of my children's food, because I couldn't afford to feed the three of us.



Dr Anne Aly shares the impact the Salvos had on her family when they arrived as Egyptian migrants. Photo: Greg Donovan.

NEVER JUDGED

I learned how to survive, but every single day I felt shame and humiliation. And here's the thing about shame. It leaves an indelible mark on you – it scratches itself into your DNA. And unfortunately, too many Australians are made to feel shame for circumstances they find themselves in, over which they have absolutely no control.

We need to be a society that lifts up our most vulnerable, that doesn't keep kicking them while they're down.

I have come a long way, obviously, since then, and I recognise the privileges that allowed me to lift my family out of poverty. The opportunity for education, for gainful employment, and the people I was surrounded by who didn't make me feel ashamed – the people from The Salvation Army. Their generosity, their kindness, and the way they didn't judge me in my darkest times of need.

I have immense gratitude to The Salvation Army for what they have done to make

me who I am today, and the way in which they helped my family without prejudice and without judgment.

“

I have immense gratitude to The Salvation Army for what they have done to make me who I am today.

”

I urge you to give generously to the Red Shield Appeal because not only do I know how much The Salvation Army does, I also know how much it means to the individuals they help.



Scan here for more information on the Red Shield Appeal.

Sri Lankan fish curry



Ingredients

1 tbsp peanut oil; 2 cm piece peeled ginger, finely chopped; 2 long green chillies, chopped; 1 tbsp curry powder to taste; ¼ cup dried curry leaves; 400 ml can coconut milk; 1½ cups chicken stock; 700g firm white fish fillets; 2 limes, juiced; warmed naan bread; lime wedges

Method

- Heat oil in a wok or large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add ginger and chillies. Cook, stirring, until softened.
- Add curry powder and cook for 30 seconds.
- Add curry leaves, coconut milk and chicken stock. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes.
- Add fish and 2 tbsp lime juice. Simmer for a further 2 minutes or until fish is cooked. Spoon curry into serving bowls. Serve with naan bread and lime wedges.



Quick quiz

1. What sets the *Trigona* and *Austroplebeia* species of native bees apart from other species?
2. What are male bees called?
3. How many bees can an average honeybee beehive hold?
4. What is the word for the study of bees?
5. How fast can a bee fly?
6. About how much honey does each honeybee make in its lifetime?

Bible byte

“Kind words are like honey
– sweet to the taste and
good for your health.”

Proverbs chapter 16, verse 24
Good News Translation

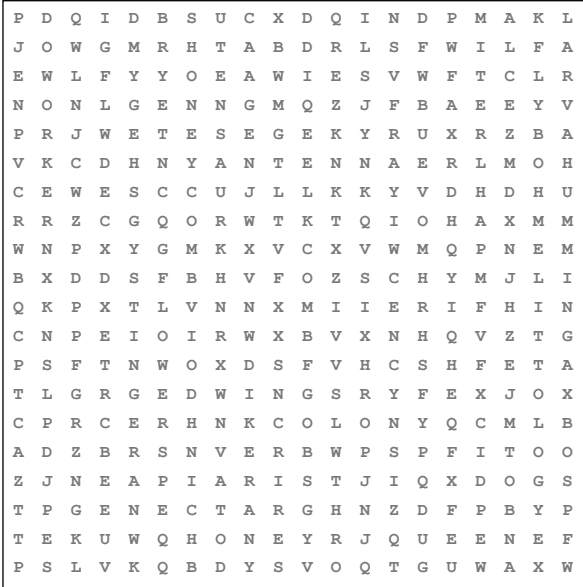
Tum-Tum

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



Wordsearch

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



- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Antennae | Insect |
| Apiarist | Larva |
| Bee | Melittology |
| Colony | Mite |
| Comb | Nectar |
| Drone | Queen |
| Egg | Pollen |
| Flowers | Stamen |
| Fly | Stinger |
| Honeycomb | Swarm |
| Hive | Wings |
| Honey | Wax |
| Humming | Worker |

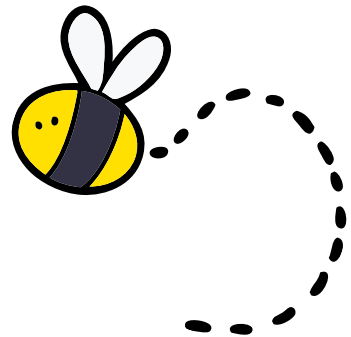
HAVE A LAUGH

Why do bees hum?
Because they can't remember the words.

Where did Noah keep his bees?
In the ark hives.

Which singers do bees love?
Sting, Bee-yonce and the Bee Gees.

What's another name for a baby bee?
A little humbug.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 1500 species of native bees in Australia. Early European settlers introduced honeybees into Australia to ensure a supply of honey.

Bees belong to the insect order Hymenoptera, which includes wasps, ants and sawflies.

Quiz answers: 1. They are stingless 2. Drones 3. 50,000 4. Melittology 5. Up to 25km/h

Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the piano on page 9.
6. About 1/12th of a teaspoon

NEW TO *Who?*



Proceeds from the sale of your donated goods help to fund vital Salvation Army programs & services.

When donating this winter consider
'Would I gift this to a friend?'



salvos
STORES