

THE WAR CRY

Official Organ of The Salvation Army in Southern Africa - Registered at the Post-Office as a Newspaper - R5.00 - 129th Year - Issue No 5815 - April 2012



"But God demonstrates
His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

From the Editor



Jesus chose to engage with the local community. It cost him - his life, but his gain outweighed all the suffering - Eternal life for you and me.

We go to church - *in our community*. We shop - *in our community*. We even attend special events - *in our community*, but why is it that we do not engage *with* our community? We pull out of the driveway in the morning and zoom to work or jump in the taxi and return in the evening and we are perhaps oblivious to what is happening around us - *in our community*. Bill Hybels said: "The local church is the hope of the world." If we acknowledge that **WE** are the church and therefore the hope, because Jesus should be seen in us, then should this Easter time not be a turning point for us as amidst the busyness we remember that there is a whole wide world out there that is waiting to experience that hope - *in our community*.

In this edition we look at various places where ordinary people like you and me are making a difference and bringing hope by engaging with their communities.

We bid our Territorial Commanders a farewell as they depart to the United Kingdom as Commissioner André Cox shares his last TC talk with us. God has gone ahead of you to prepare the way.

Also I am really excited that as of this edition, our precious children readers will now have centre page priority. Each month we will have a competition running as they bring the colour to these pages. Look out for the new "Club 1" in the June edition.

It is my prayer that you will use this publication to go and have a conversation with your neighbour, the person selling vegetables down the road or when you visit the local hospital.

With much love and blessings
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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



THE WAR CRY

What's Happening

APRIL

6-9 Easter Weekend
12-15 Territorial Youth Leaders Conference (tbc)
17 CFOT Review (CFOT Staff & Cabinet)
22 Farewell of Territorial Leaders @ Orlando Community Hall
27 Freedom Day (Public Holiday)
Festival of Freedom (Anti-Trafficking Campaign)

MAY

1 Workers' Day (Public Holiday)
4-5 MASIC
4-6 TSP Synthesis Review
5-6 Junior Miss & Young Woman Rally (Northern Division)
5-8 Eastern KZN Divisional Review (TC, TPWM & Sec for Pers/THLS)
13 Installation of TC, TPWM, CS and TSWM
20 Mothers' Day
19-20 Junior Miss Rally (Central Division)
23-27 Discovery Week

Were You There?

The General's Easter Message 2012



It was my first Sunday at my new corps appointment. When the meeting came to an end, I was told that one family in attendance was facing the impending death of their 14-year-old daughter. She had been present with her parents that morning. This family undoubtedly had to be my priority for pastoral visitation. And so a journey lasting a few weeks began, with daily visits and the privilege of walking alongside a family in their darkest hour.

On a very hot, sticky Sunday afternoon in August, I was to visit Sherry for the last time. She lay on her bed agonising with the heat, the discomfort, the thirst and the pain. Her mother could only look on helplessly. Her dad sat beside her, raising her in his arms every few minutes to give her more ice to crunch, her only relief from the raging thirst. She was dying. We knew we were sharing her final hours. The window of her bedroom was open in the hope of getting some air. But what was coming through the window was the sound of children playing. The joyful shouts and laughter were in stark contrast to the moaning of a dying child. Somehow the sadness was all consuming and anything other than grief seemed so inappropriate. But beyond those bedroom walls life went on as usual.

It strikes me that we are so often unaware of the suffering of others. We hear of a trial and the news reports give the particular date of when a child went missing. We hear about the anguish of the parents, the details of the horrible crime, the months that went by before the perpetrator was caught. Being reminded of the date the crime happened may trigger a reflection: Where was I on that day? So often we have a happy memory. But then we realise that while life went on for us - that same day had ended tragically for others.

And so it did many years before when Jesus faced the most agonising crucifixion experience. A familiar song asks the probing question, 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' More than 2,000 years later, we have to answer 'no' if we are thinking in terms of time. But let's go there in our imagination.

In his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus confesses, 'my soul is deeply grieved to the point of death' (Mark 14:34 *New American Standard Bible*). He sweats drops of blood. His soul is in agony. He is tormented, but life goes on. The disciples fall asleep. During his arrest, his trial, his whipping, there is a suffering beyond the physical. The grief of aloneness is real. Where are his companions? Are they there? Yes, they are, at least they are in the vicinity. But Judas has orchestrated a betrayal, Peter is denying any knowledge of him and the other friends can't be seen for dust.

And for others in Jerusalem, life went on, business as usual. There was no awareness that beyond their patch, outside the city, the Son of God was to be crucified. It is the most important day in history but they are not 'there'. Even Simon of Cyrene had other plans. He was 'passing by on his way in from the country' when he was stopped and forced to carry the Cross and 'be there' (Mark 15:21-22 *New International Version*).

To be honest, even if time or geography were not factors, few of us want to enter into the suffering of others. We certainly shrink from suffering ourselves. Yet once we have experienced it, we are never the same again. In some ways, *we share in the fellowship of his sufferings* (Philippians 3:10) and enter into a knowledge of Christ we never had before. For Christians, the suffering of Jesus on every level - spiritual, emotional, social and physical, speaks to us in a deeper way. It tells us that he understands. He is not distant, remote, or unfeeling. He is 'there with us'. He knows pain. He knows rejection. He knows humiliation. He knows grief.

However, the Easter season calls us to the deepest level of reflection regarding his suffering. We have to understand the purpose for it. It means we must go beyond contemplating the pain endured. We have to face ourselves, our part in his suffering. No wonder the songwriter says, 'Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble'. Whether we realise it or not, we *were there* when they crucified our Lord. With all our sin, with all our shortcomings, with our rebellion, we *were there*. And he took our sin upon himself. He bore its awful penalty. He opened up the way for us to come to the Father, reconciled, redeemed and restored. Now we share his life in a new way. Because of his atoning sacrifice, we are truly never the same again.

This is not a bad news story. This is the good news, the best news! This is a love story! This is the demonstration of the love of God, said the apostle Paul, 'in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8 *New International Version*). The Cross is not the end. It is the beginning and the Resurrection of Jesus announces it in most dramatic fashion. Jesus is alive! This is a story of *God with us* and *God for us*.

The amazing consequence of this is our salvation. But it also calls us to seek the salvation of the world. We are a people who share his heart for others, their suffering, and even their apathy, and most certainly their need of a Saviour. We serve. We intercede. We seek justice. We tell the Good News. We believe in transformation for we are also a resurrection people. We share his hope for the world.

Linda Bond
General

Photo by Major Ivan Wild (USA Western Territory)

Golgotha today



Easter- What a clear reminder that God desires to have a relationship with us

TC Talk - By Commissioner André Cox



As our hearts and minds focus once again on the Easter message, it is with a sense of gratitude that once again I realise the tremendous love of God in that He sent His Son Jesus into this world because He cares enough about me and He cares enough about you to want a personal relationship with us. In John's Gospel we read: ***"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*** (John 3 v 17-18)

When we contemplate the cross and the suffering of our Lord and Saviour, there is a deep sense of sadness and injustice. Why did Jesus who had committed no crime and done no wrong, have to suffer in such a way? In the words of the well-known song we are however reminded that: "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of Heaven, and let us in." So Easter is not about defeat but victory, for we know that it was on the cross that the power of sin was finally defeated.

As Christians, we are not just called to proclaim this wonderful message; we are called to live it and experience its reality in our everyday lives! In our Territorial Strategic Plan one of the significant components is that of "Community Engagement." We are not called to live far from the public eye but to be "salt and light" wherever we are. Our priority has to be developing and growing relationships with people in the communities in which we live, worship and serve. It is as we "come alongside communities" that we have a wonderful opportunity to share what we have discovered to be true for ourselves namely that Easter is an irrefutable demonstration of the immeasurable love of God for all mankind! Have you experienced it? Then share it with someone today!

It is not about something that may happen in the future, it is about the wondrous message of salvation in the here and now! Christ has won the victory over sin and we can be set free not only from the consequences but also from the power of sin!

The cross was not the end but the beginning of God's great plan of salvation for the world. What a privilege that He calls us to be co-workers with Him to bring about change and transformation in the lives of others! Jesus said: ***"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."*** (John 15 v 14-16)

I believe that The Salvation Army in the Southern Africa Territory has a great future. God has an urgent task for us to do. He is calling us to rise up and proclaim the Good News of His love and plan of salvation. This is not something for one or two but wherever Salvationists are present throughout this great land, it is our calling to proclaim this great truth.

Sadly this will be my last opportunity to share my thoughts through this regular column. It has been truly a privilege for us to serve here in these past three and a half years. We shall be looking, albeit from afar to see the might way in which God will use The Salvation Army here in the years to come. We know that if we as Salvationists will be faithful to the promises and covenants that we have signed, that this Army will indeed become that ***"vibrant movement with people of integrity, coming alongside communities, together enabling growth and transformation of the whole person through the full expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*** May it be so!

THE WAR CRY

Community Conversation in Orlando Community

THE SALVATION ARMY



ORLANDO CORPS

Ntombekhongo Mkize



Nompumelelo Mabasa



Cadets Ntombekhongo Mkize and Nompumelelo Mabasa, currently serving as *cadets on the field* at Orlando Corps and community under the supervision of Major Mary Sithole, have embraced their community. I spent some time with them as we spoke about their service there.

- 1. Why do you think Community Engagement is important?**
As a church we do not exist to serve ourselves as a community on its own but to serve the community as a whole. If it was not for the community attending, we would have no Corps here.
- 2. Before you went to College, did you think about Community Engagement?**
We did not think of it at all. I was always comfortable within the culture of my own Corps. As a church: no, but where I worked, I felt part of the community.
- 3. How has intentionally “taking a walk” changed how you minister?**
It has broadened my perspective as before I was not familiar about other organisations and churches. I intentionally get to know the people now and it helps me to know the challenges that they face. It has opened my eyes to the cultural diversity here in Orlando East. I have received such positive responses to The Salvation Army as I walk in the community.

- 4. How has engaging in the community changed your environment?**
Being more visible has attracted lots Sunday School kids. People have realised that the Salvation Army is mobile (eg. Community kids club and kraal meetings). People are returning to the Corps and a number of men are now coming back to the Corps.
- 5. Where do you see this going?**
With our initial visits, we said: “we are here”, now we want to move to: “what can we do for you”. It’s a natural process - “church” does not necessarily need to be indoors. It requires us to redefine what community is. To engage with the community, your community becomes part of your life and by observing things, you then start to realise what a community needs.
- 6. What would you say to people who are a little apprehensive to be more visible or active in their community?**
“It’s like chilling with your neighbour you don’t have to go with a questionnaire.” Start with what you have - a police station, community centre etc. We are fortunate that our uniform helps us to have those conversations. Go with anticipation you are going with God and going with a purpose. It has made a difference in our community.

Do Something!

We often feel helpless when faced with great needs. But God calls us to take a fresh look at what we have to offer.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.” While political theorist Edmund Burke (1729-1797) had a point when he made this assertion, one has to question what factors really shape society’s “do nothing” mentality. Is it lack of insight into societal struggle, insufficient resources or perhaps a lack of confidence in our own ability to really make a difference?

We find evidence of this dilemma within our own Salvation Army history. William Booth had experienced a sleepless night following a revelation that men were sleeping out in the cold under the city bridges. The Founder’s conscience had been quickened. How could he sleep in a warm bed while others suffered outside? “Did you know about this?” William asked his son, Bramwell, the next morning. “Yes, General,” Bramwell replied. “And you did nothing?” the Founder questioned.

Bramwell had a quick defence. The Salvation Army could not undertake to do everything that ought to be done in the world. As well, one had to be cautious that charity was not expressed indiscriminately. “Oh, I don’t care about all that stuff!” the Founder said. “I’ve heard it before. But go and do something! Do something, Bramwell, do something!”

It is the tension between the phrases “do nothing” and “do something” that calls for our attention as dignity workers in The Salvation Army. To understand our missional challenges, it is critical that we identify what informs our “do nothing” response. Perhaps Bramwell had a point. We can’t undertake everything that ought to be done in the world. We must pick and choose what dragons we have the power to slay. The danger is that our response can become selective and conditioned by what project we deem to have the most potential for success. Consequently, that which requires risk-taking and hard labour may be passed over for that which seems easy or manageable.

There is also the perspective that says “we do nothing because we have nothing of value to offer.” Maybe this was the dilemma the disciples encountered in Luke 9:10-17, as they faced 5,000 people in need of food and lodging. Would they do nothing? Would they do something? What was within their power to give?

As Luke unpacks the scene, we see immense challenges. When was the last time any of us ever tried to make hotel reservations for 5,000 people? (Note: Luke’s count only included the men. We can only guess how many women and children were also present!) When was the last time we tried to rustle up a few leftovers to feed this kind of a crowd? With no online connections to Google available to find accommodation in remote Bethsaida,

Do Something!



the disciples found themselves with quite a situation on their hands. They finally went to Jesus (see Luke 9:12) and said, “Master, we’ve got a problem and here’s what you need to do!

You need to send this crowd away now so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find their food and lodging because we are in a remote place.” Note the emphasis: the disciples told Jesus that he needed to do something! Not one of the Twelve was ready to assume a personal burden for this crowd.

What is wrong with this picture? At first glance, we might not think anything is misplaced. After all, Jesus was the greatest teacher and healer of all time. He’d had this crowd’s attention for most of the afternoon. It was reasonable to expect Jesus to take care of this situation. Jesus, however, turned the tables and challenged the disciples to take care of the problem themselves. “You do something,” Jesus said. “You give them something to eat” (see Luke 9:13). Suddenly this became a teaching moment for the disciples as they were challenged to see how the needs of the masses were their problems to own and solve.

The disciples’ response is classic: “But Jesus, we have only five loaves of bread and two fish.” -Otherwise translated, “Jesus, that’s about one loaf for every thousand people and we won’t even begin talking about the fish. That pretty well takes us off the hook, doesn’t it? Do the math, Jesus! What’s in this basket is not going to feed this crowd!” Here we see another dilemma. Often our response to human need is inhibited because we place limits on the resources with which we have to work. Jesus had to be smiling and thinking, “OK, you just wait till I show you what can be done with what’s in your basket!”

The disciples, however, weren’t really grasping the big picture. Luke adds their after-thought when they suggested they could go out and buy food for the crowd (see Luke 9:13). I imagine Luke laughing heartily! Just where did these crazy disciples think they were going to buy food in remote Bethsaida? What corner store at the intersection of nowhere and nowhere was going to have enough provisions to feed over 5,000 people? Where did these disciples reasonably think they could buy this food?

Then add into this story one other significant speed bump. Look back to what Luke tells us in verse 3 of this chapter. Jesus commissioned these disciples to declare their complete solidarity with the poor and to place their total trust in him to provide for their needs. And so Jesus said, “Take nothing for the journey no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.” So who would buy food for the masses, given the disciples’ pockets were empty?

The reality of the moment, however, was that the disciples actually did have the power to make a difference. Luke told us this at the very beginning of the chapter, that Jesus had given the Twelve the power and authority to drive out demons, to cure diseases, to preach about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. They had been resourced for this very moment in Bethsaida, but failed to see what they could contribute.

Packing up the picnic baskets in Bethsaida and taking inventory of all that was left behind, we recognize that “little is much when God is in it.”



Our struggle to “do nothing” versus “doing something” will continually be undermined by the evil one who wants us to believe that our gifts and resources are not enough. Christ calls us as dignity workers to take fresh inventory of what we have to offer our community. We may not have immediate solutions to homelessness, gang violence or the malnourishment and neglect of children in our neighbourhood. But through our conversations, our relationships and our interactions, we can draw attention to the injustices surrounding us. It all begins as we start to speak our own story of faith into the circumstances before us.

Evil will continue to flourish if good people do nothing. But if good people do something, imagine how this could change the landscape of our country. While our “doing something” should be calculated and intentional, let us not underestimate the power of the five loaves and two fish that may already be sitting in our baskets.

Reprinted with permission from the Canadian “*Salvationist*” Major Julie Slous, (D.Min), is a corps officer, with her husband Brian, at Winnipeg’s Heritage Park Temple. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the College for Officer Training.



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Age:

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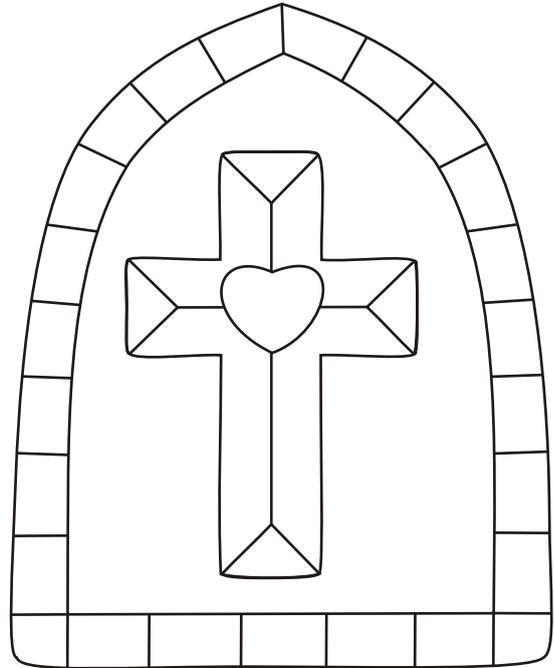
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WORDSEARCH:

Resurrection Sunday - a time for rejoicing!

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- ALIVE
- ANGELS
- BEATINGS
- BLOOD
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- DARKNESS
- DEATH
- DIE
- EMPTY
- FORGIVENESS
- JESUS
- KING
- LIGHT
- NAILS
- PAYMENT
- RESURRECTION
- ROCK
- SACRIFICE
- SAVIOUR
- SOLDIERS
- SUBSTITUTION
- THORNS
- TOMB



Jesus is love!

Math Worksheet:

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We are so convinced that you are the best at colouring in your special pages that we've turned it into a competition. If your entry is selected, you will soon be receiving a great prize. Please complete all the puzzles and decorate this page. Then send it in with a little photo of yourself to:

The Editor
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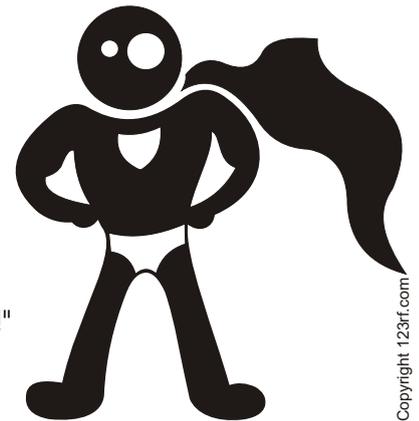
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The entries should reach me by 15 June 2012

Sallyman and Shmoosh Solve the Salvation Mystery

Sallyman: Shmoosh! Look what I found!
Shmoosh: Jumpin' Jellybeans! What is it?
Sallyman: I'm not sure, Shmoosh... it looks like a pamphlet with some kind of message in it.
Shmoosh: Leaping Lizards, Sallyman! We've got to figure it out!
Sallyman: To the Shmelly-Cave, Shmoosh!
Sallyman: O.K., Shmoosh, let's figure out the hidden message. On the cover it says: "The Gospel!"
Shmoosh: Wowzers, Sallyman! Definitely a code! What do you think it means?!?
Sallyman: Let's run it through the "Define-a-Word-Decoder and see what it comes up with!
Shmoosh: Great thinking, Sallyman! ... Is anything coming up?!

Sallyman: Yes, Shmoosh! It is coming up on the screen now!
Bobbin: Great Smelly Tennis Shoes! What does it say?!?
Sallyman: It means "GOOD NEWS: Information that is positive. The Opposite of Bad. Something worth knowing!"
Shmoosh: Jogging Giraffes, Sallyman! We must read it!
Sallyman: It says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."
Shmoosh: Parachuting Parakeets! That means US, Sallyman!
Sallyman: Yes, Shmoosh, it does. According to this, WE have sinned!
Shmoosh: What are we going to do?! READ ON!
Sallyman: It says, "The wages of sin is death!"
Shmoosh: Bungie-Jumping Baboons, Flatman! We're gonna die! Even though we're the Schmelly Duo! We're finished! DONE FOR I tell you! History! What kinda GOOD NEWS is that? We're gonna change from SUPER HEROES to SUPER ZEROS!
Sallyman: Shmoosh! Take a chill pill! There's more! That's not the end! It says that God's Son, Jesus, died for us!
Shmoosh: FOR US?!?!?
Flatman: That's what it says, "But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Shmoosh: Wowie, Sallyman, that was nice of Him! He must really love us A LOT!
Sallyman: I think so, Shmoosh! But it says we must accept Him as our Savior, or we'll have to die for our sins ourselves!
Shmoosh: Then there's only one thing to do! We gotta accept Jesus as OUR SAVIOUR!
Sallyman: Let's pray, Shmoosh...



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Dear Jesus

Thank you that you died on the Cross for me.
Sorry for the wrong things that I have done that have hurt you.
Please come and be my Friend and Saviour.

Amen

Jesu othandekayo

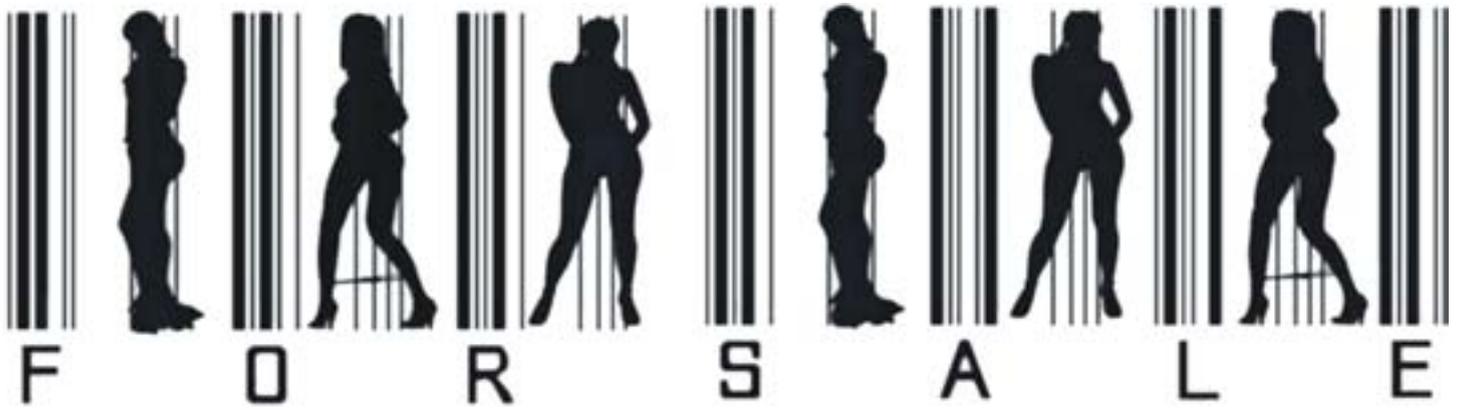
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Amen

Sallyman: Wow, Shmoosh! We are now saved!
Shmoosh: That's a change! Usually WE do the saving around here!
Sallyman: Only Jesus can save people from their sins Shmoosh!
Shmoosh: That must make Jesus the SUPEREST SUPER HERO of ALL!
Sallyman: I hope all the kids that have read our story here have decided to accept Jesus as their Saviour and will tell their Officer, Pastor or Sunday School teacher about this wonderful news...



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City Camping



When I first heard about this team who Urban Camped outside a brothel, part of me thought “That is so awesome” and the other part thought: “That is insane. Who is crazy enough to do something like that?” Well apparently me and some wonderfully dedicated people!

Over a year and a half ago has passed since that first fateful trip to one of the initial Urban Camps with my outreach team during the World Cup period, and I have since joined in on several of the Camps. I still can’t make it right up to 4am, but have so enjoyed the time of ministry spent out on the streets of Rosettenville.

One thing that really strikes me about the Urban Camp team is their commitment and consistency. Every month without fail, they are there in force - ready and willing to engage in fellowship, ministry, prayer and spreading the Good News to a part of society that desperately needs to hear it.

I love how Major Allister Wood and the team have not only reached out to the ladies, but also to the “pimps” (agents of the prostitutes) and on occasion, clients too. It is so easy to be angry with the men involved in this lifestyle, but quite another thing to have a heart of compassion for them just as much as for the ladies.

Their heart for the ministry has spread, so that not only members of the South come along but people from as far as North-West of Johannesburg and even on occasion Pretoria too. It is such a blessing to see the Body of Christ working together to spread Light in places of Darkness and I would love to see the concept spread and grow throughout South Africa, bringing seeds of hope and life to those whom Jesus loves just as much as He loves us.

Diane Hall
National Freedom Network Co-ordinator

24 hour
Toll free
number



08000 RESCU



THE WAR CRY

Welcome to the Eastern Cape Division

Salvationists from the Eastern Cape Division came in their numbers to witness the installation ceremony of their new Divisional Leaders Captains Themba and Nokuthula Mahlobo. This event was led by Lt. Colonels Robert and Janine Donaldson (Secretary for programme and Assistant secretary for personnel).

Captain Nokuthula assured all ladies that she is here to serve them with love and respect. She will also partner with



them in fulfilling the vision plan of the General (One Army, One Mission and One Message). She pointed out the importance of togetherness which strengthens the work of God in her words of encouragement, taken from Acts 2:47.

The Divisional Commander challenged Salvationists to 'Rise up and do more'. He used Nehemiah 2:11-20 to emphasise that by working together and by faith in God they can better the future of the Eastern Cape

Northern Division



OFFICERS PRAYING FOR THEIR NEW LEADERS



WILLIAM EADIE WORSHIP GROUP



THE TSWM DANCING WITH THE HL LADIES BEFORE INTRODUCING THE DDWM

The installation of the DC and DDWM (Majors Thomas & Doris Dlamini) was led by Lt. Colonels W & T Langa at Khubvi Corps.

A march of witness and a meeting was held where representative speakers across the gender and generational line promised to love, listen, respect and support the Divisional Leaders. They also raised their expectation of their leaders: that they love all, be like parents and be Godly leaders.

The DC used as his theme "The Spiritual House" from 1st Peter 2:3-5. He spoke about Christ being the living stone that is needed to build that house. He reminded all that God is our rock and said that all must be of the Spirit, surrender, be committed, forsake worldly things and listen to God and our leaders.

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COMARO CHRONICLE
29 Feb 2012, p 12

Underprivileged children need your help

THE Salvation Army is asking the community to utilise its SMS service to help children who cannot afford to attend school this year, due to poverty and the high cost of uniforms and books.

"We are appealing to you to assist in making this country a better place, particularly for children and other vulnerable members of our society," said Major Carin Holmes, The Salvation Army's Public Relations Secretary.

The Salvation Army is inviting the public to take advantage of their SMS service. By SMSing the keyword SCHOOL to 42290, the community can contribute R30 towards assistance provided by the organisation to the schools, homes and impoverished communities in around South Africa.

In the news

ELEDORADO URBAN NEWS
02 Mar 2012, p 1

'Churches can also take part in eliminating poverty'

By Nkhaya Magangane

The Salvation Army's Territorial Commander Andre Cus says that religious groups should claim the same responsibility as politicians and local decision makers to reduce poverty and inequality in South Africa.

On February 28, a commemoration of World Day for Social Justice, Cus said inequality and unemployment are the main problems facing South Africa.

He said that the day may not be a public holiday or commemorated widely, but its objectives are important.

-To encourage the international community to recognise the need to promote efforts to eradicate poverty.

-To uphold equality and focus on achieving higher levels of employment and support for social integration.

"Churches and religious organisations like The Salvation Army, as well as other religious communities, have the responsibility to participate in

all the efforts, led by local government and other institutions, against poverty.

"The aim should be to ensure social welfare and sustainable development programmes for the communities affected by poverty," he said.

Cus suggested that religious groups should form joint ventures with different departments of the government, with the intention to create policy frameworks that are crucial in combating poverty, exclusion and unemployment.

"In doing so, these ventures will provide con-

sistent development programmes for members of communities around South Africa.

"The process of eliminating poverty and inequality in our communities requires thinking from all religious groups, affected communities and the country," said Cus.

He said that it is everyone's duty to help make South Africa a better and safer place, especially for vulnerable members of our society.

To assist in supporting the Salvation Army's work contact their offices on: 011 718 8746.

Community Engagement - sharing in suffering and weeping with those who weep



"I'm so grateful to God that we live in this country, and in this day and age, have access to the kind of medical technology that has made it possible for my husband to keep his eyesight, when he might otherwise have gone blind."

It's Sunday morning at the Cape Town Citadel, and Salvationists are encouraging one another with testimonies of God's goodness and providence. As the story is shared, the Corps responds with appreciative nods and gentle smiles. It is, after all, a time to rejoice with those who rejoice. And healing is always a reason to rejoice. But if The Salvation Army is to participate in joy, then it must also share in suffering, and weep with those who weep.

The Corps has continued to venture into the neighbourhood around its building, spurred by the success of the Christmas Eve dinner in December 2011. Small signs of response are emerging: for the homeless community, The Salvation Army hall grounds and Corps building are beginning to be identified as a place of help and support, with increasing numbers of people from the community approaching the corps in different ways for financial help, food or clothing. There have also been a few extra visits to the Sunday Morning meeting, often with a humble request for assistance afterwards. Although the requests cannot always be met, people know there is a space for conversation and to be heard, with the possibilities of assistance.

Such possibilities grow with each conversation and casual greeting in the street. Still tentative and unsure, without many answers for the too-many difficult questions, the Corps is nevertheless stepping out.

And, as it steps out, it learns. It is discovering that genuine community engagement in the inner-city goes far beyond occasional charity; instead, it exposes Salvationists to experiences of pain and vulnerability; it confronts our ideals of justice and fairness; it sharpens our sense of mission. As one senior local officer sees it: *"the implications of where we could go with this are the chasm that we as a Corps have not wanted to face or cross for a long time."*

Rachel is helping the Corps to learn. She has become a familiar face as teams of Salvationists have entered the neighbourhood over the course of a few months.

Living within an easy two hundred meters of the corps, this fifty-six year old woman has made her home on the streets of Cape Town for almost thirty years. Like so many of her peers amongst the homeless, she is a character: witty and disarmingly charming, with a street-smart wisdom and a childlike sense of mischief.

Not surprisingly, life has been tough for Rachel. Most obvious is a large, round mass extending out from her belly, about the size of a soccer-ball. She has an abdominal hernia, where a weakness in her stomach muscles has allowed sections of her bowel to protrude. Although painless at present, Rachel has to hold the bulge when she coughs, experiences discomfort when she moves around too much, and is increasingly at risk of life-threatening complications. She has suffered with her condition for fifteen years, having been turned away from at least four health facilities over that time, all declining to treat her, some expressing obvious prejudice, and several giving her dangerously inaccurate medical advice.

Healing *is* always a reason to rejoice and, while the Salvationists of the Cape Town Citadel celebrate every successful health outcome amongst its membership, there is a growing awareness - an awkward realisation that those same options are not equally available to all in the physical community of the Corps. First steps into genuine community engagement are leading down the road of social justice, and defending the rights of the poor.

As the Cape Town Citadel wrestles with how best to accompany Rachel, it does so with the conviction that transformation may yet be ahead, but that it must be hard-won, made possible only by the power of a restorative Gospel. The course of Rachel's life can be changed; and in that, so might that of our Corps. All Glory to God!

By Ricardo Walters

Johannesburg City Band goes to Windhoek



A group of bandsmen and women travelled to Namibia for the handing over of brass instruments, donated by The Craig Foundation in the UK. Mr. Craig together with his wife and daughter travelled to Namibia to witness the handing over of the instruments.



We arrived in Namibia on Thursday after a very long and drive from Johannesburg that took us through Botswana. Saturday morning we did two Open Air ministry concerts, one in Otjomuise and the other in "Soweto" township. Both these concerts drew the crowds to listen to the music and we were able to have some conversations with them and share more about the work of The Salvation Army in Windhoek.



The Band then prepared themselves for an evening concert "Worship with Brass Instruments" which was held in The Lutheran Church in Windhoek West. This concert was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by approximately 150 people in attendance.



Sunday morning we gathered for a March in Otjomuise, followed by an Open Air and then we lead a Sunday Morning Service where the presence of God was felt in a mighty way as people sought God's face at the Mercy Seat. It was at this meeting that the handing over of the instruments took place.



There is just so much potential and the young people, who are the strength of the Corps at the moment, are extremely enthusiastic and eager to learn to play the instruments donated. The area of Otjomuise is poverty stricken. Unemployment in Windhoek is rated at 51% and they face issues such as Human Trafficking. Windhoek Corps is culturally diverse with at least 5 language represented and this make for a conscious effort from the leadership to have the message available in as many languages as possible through translation. However there is a great spirit of togetherness and a willingness to proclaim the Gospel to the people of Namibia.



One of the bandsmen commented: "We were excited to travel and be part of this weekend, but somewhere during the weekend something changed for us. The unity that we felt in ministering here helped even with the quality of our sound. It was a spiritually significant time for me. It changed us as we "passed" on those instruments, knowing that not only did we share knowledge with those young people, but as they looked to us as role models and even spiritual brothers and sisters, we felt that responsibility to live a life that is worth copying."



The Jesus Effect Vs. The Judas Attitude

(Another side of the Passion of Christ)

By Major Kervin Harry



The Holy Week traditional activities are usually dominated by Christians recognising God becoming incarnate in Jesus Christ, sacrificing his first-born son to accomplish the reconciliation of God and man, which had separated themselves from God by their sin.

Sermons and dramas during Easter usually focus on the denial of Christ by Peter; Judas' betrayal, the high priest, Pontius Pilot, the commoners, relatives and Barabbas. I always wonder about Judas. Jesus knew Judas's intentions, yet, like a lamb to be slaughtered he never resisted. Satan, man's greatest adversary was the mastermind behind Judas's actions. The enormity of Judas's actions portrayed him to be a terribly upset man with a cold heart, who was being driven by his own selfish attitude.

What would you do if you know that someone close to you is about to hurt you? Our natural reaction is to protect ourselves. Jesus, knowing fully well that he was going to be betrayed by Judas, loved him tenderly and unconditionally.

How can we respond to a hurting and sinful world that hurts us in return? Let us take Jesus's example of not reacting negatively. In our fallen world, it is often acceptable to tear people down verbally or to get back at them if we feel hurt.

We could feel as though the revenge is somehow justified. It makes most of us feel devilishly good inside to see someone suffer in the same manner as they made us.

It is said: "Revenge is sweet"...Or is it? The reality is that by taking revenge in our own hands, we hold onto the pain and it ends up hurting us more...the desire does us no good. A grudge destroys us with hatred and bitterness and revenge.

In God's Kingdom, revenge is not an acceptable behaviour, as is insulting a person, no matter how indirectly it is done. Instead, Jesus says we should do well to those who wrong us. Our desire should not be to keep score, but, to love and forgive. This is not natural - it is supernatural. Only God could give us the strength to love as he does.

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

"Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing well." (Romans 12:17-21)

It is my prayer this Easter that our love for our friends and enemies will be evident to all and so doing will draw others to Jesus.

Effective 2 April 2012

Captain Stephen Malins (Corps Officer Cape Town Citadel) is appointed Divisional Commander Western Cape Division.

Captain Theresa Malins (Corps Officer Cape Town Citadel) is appointed Divisional Director of Womens' Ministries Western Cape Division.

Captain Mthokozisi Thwala (DYS - Central Division) is appointed Corps Officer of Cape Town Citadel in the Western Cape Division.

Cadet Fezile Thwala (Gauteng Corps) is appointed as Cadet in appointment to Cape Town Citadel in the Western Cape Division.

Captain Dumisani Fakude (Corps Officer Langa Corps) is appointed Divisional Youth Secretary in the Central Division.

Effective 01 May 2012

Major Albert Shekwa (Divisional Commander - Eastern KZN Division) is appointed to International Headquarters, London, UK as Under Secretary for Africa, with responsibility for the East and Southern Africa Regions.

Major Peggy Shekwa (Divisional Director of Women's Ministries - Eastern KZN Division) is appointed to International Headquarters, London, UK as Assistant Under Secretary for Africa.

Major Keith Conrad (Divisional Commander Central Division) is appointed Secretary for Programme - THQ Southern Africa Territory with promotion in rank to Lieutenant Colonel.

Major Yvonne Conrad (Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Central Division) is appointed Assistant Secretary for Personnel - THQ Southern Africa Territory with promotion in rank to Lieutenant Colonel.

Major Shadrack Ntshangase (Divisional Commander Mid Kwazulu-Natal Division) is appointed Divisional Commander Central Division.

Major Rosannah Ntshangase (Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Mid Kwazulu Natal Division) is appointed Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Central Division.

Major Solomon Mahlangu (Divisional Commander Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division) is appointed Divisional Commander Mid Kwazulu-Natal Division.

Major Mercy Mahlangu (Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division) is appointed Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Mid Kwazulu-Natal Division.

Major Herbert Ngcobo (Divisional Youth Officer Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division) is appointed Divisional Commander Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division.

Major Elizabeth Ngcobo (Corps Officer Steenbok Corps) is appointed Divisional Director of Women's Ministries Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division.

Major Robbie Mair (Divisional Secretary for Business Administration) is appointed Assistant to the Divisional Commander in Central Division and Corps Officer of Germiston Corps *effective 01 May 2012*.

Captain Hamilton Zulu (Divisional Youth Officer) is appointed Divisional Youth Secretary in the Northern Division *effective 01 May 2012*.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS**Effective 1 July 2012**

Majors Manuel and Irene Nhelenhele, officers of the Southern Africa Territory currently serving as Divisional Leaders in the Central North Division in the Mozambique Territory, are appointed respectively as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries in that Territory. They take up their appointment responsibilities each with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Captain Elizabeth Garland (Social Programme Development Officer) is appointed assistant Extension Training Officer in addition to her present appointment effective 01 March 2012.

Captains Thanda and Sibongile Muyanga (Themba Memorial Corps) are appointed Divisional Youth Officers in the Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division in addition to their present appointment effective 01 May 2012.

Captain Heather Rossouw (Administrator at Ethembeni Place of Hope) is appointed Emergency Service Officer in addition to her present appointment effective 01 March 2012.

DEPLOYMENTS

Major Paul Khantsi is redeployed as Corps Officer of Durban Central Corps in the Mid Kwazulu-Natal Division effective 02 April 2012.

Major Margaret Strydom is redeployed as Territorial Family Tracing Officer effective 01 May 2012.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Philemon Netshimboni (R) was promoted to glory on 23 February.

Captain Doreen Bond (R) was promoted to glory and laid to rest on 7 March.

Choose



Warn



Scenario 1:

You are seated in a friend's living room when their 2 year old walks in a wobbly fashion toward an open fire.

Do you:

- A) leap up and shout warning while trying to stop them
- B) leave them to find out for themselves that fire burns
- C) hope that they make the right choice even though they are uninformed

God has told us - people on earth - that WE are walking willingly, like the uninformed, unwise child, toward the fire. Not just a fire we would fall into and pull away from, but the eternal pit of fire that those who enter - never leave.

WHAT IS SIN? Sin is when you disobey God's instructions and commandments by failing to do what he has told you to do or doing what he has said is wrong.

Lying, stealing, coveting, sleeping around, swearing, getting drunk, hurting and hating others are all sins.

If you have broken one commandment, God says you have broken them all. You are guilty and you are going to have to be punished.

WHAT IS THE DEBT WE OWE? Sinning against a Holy, infinite and eternal God is no small matter. Each time we do it we put ourselves into more debt than we previously had. The debt is going to be paid by you (and all people) upon the moment of your death for all eternity. Crime or breaking of laws equals punishment, eternal damnation.

This sounds harsh, but it's true.

So back to our scenario... Let's assume you went for option a - which brings us to

Scenario 2:

The mother of the two year old enters the room just as you leap up and shout out words of warning to her two year old, causing the child to stop and reconsider its actions.

What would you expect her reaction to your efforts might be?

Does she say:

- A) "Thank you so much for warning my child! I am so glad you saved him from the fire."
- B) "Mind your own business! My child can choose for himself whether he lives, or burns to death."
- C) "How dare you use scare tactics to save my child from burning to death!"

How do YOU respond to being told that without the salvation found in Christ, who took on the punishment of hell for his people, you will suffer God's Just anger and punishment?

There is hope for SINNERS (like you) deserving hell. That's why the gospel is THE GOOD NEWS, not just a nice story.

This message to you is firstly a WARNING OF IMPENDING DANGER, and secondly THE GOOD NEWS OF RESCUE.

Which path will you choose?