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26 February 2011

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■ HOW TO MAKE CHEEKY MONKEY CUPCAKES

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES FROM THE PAPERS

LIFETIME GRAMMY FOR GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

George Beverly Shea, who sang at Billy Graham crusades for over 60 years, has been awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Shea received a Grammy Award in 1965 after being nominated ten times. He received the new award just after he celebrated his 102nd birthday.

Shea lives with his wife Karlene in North Carolina, not far from Billy Graham. In an interview shown on American television he told how he still sings and plays the organ every day as part of his personal spiritual discipline.

The Church of England Newspaper

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REFORM

Gay couples may be allowed to marry in register offices under government plans to create equality between civil marriages and civil partnerships. The Home Office will also end a ban on religious premises

being used for civil partnerships. Theresa May, the Home Secretary, said that the Government was committed to advancing equality. The moves will bring the Government into conflict with religious leaders.

The Times

THE PRIDE IN BEING HUMBLE

Dr Rowan Williams made a speech in favour of humility at Church House... while introducing the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for this year, *Barefoot Disciple: Walking The Way Of Passionate Humility*, by Canon Stephen Cherry.

Why do Oscar-winning actors and victorious politicians always say they feel

humble, I ask, when they mean the opposite? 'I do wonder,' said Dr Williams. 'I don't want to be cynical.'

Dr Cherry, who has a PhD in the theology and practice of forgiveness, explained how humility and pride are related. 'It's rhetorical humility,' he said. 'Of course they feel proud, but they know pride is not acceptable. They are saying "I'm still one of you".'

London Evening Standard

NEARLY HALF A MILLION 'HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM'

The Government is being urged to act after a Gambling Commission Report... suggested that the UK has about 451,000 'problem gamblers' – those whose gambling 'compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits'.

The report, of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010, suggests that the percentage of UK adults who were problem gamblers rose from 0.6 in 2007 to 0.9 in 2010 – an increase of about 167,000.

Church Times

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND PUBLISHING SECRETARY Major Leanne Ruthven



Language matters



'Great truths were explained, complex themes unravelled, in fewer and simpler words than most of us use to direct a visiting tourist to the railway station. No reader, surely, got lost following Leo Ward's directions!'

(From the preface to Commissioner Leo Ward's *A Beginner's Guide To The Bible*)

ANXIOUS to avoid any accusations of sycophancy, I must, nevertheless, draw your attention to the article written by Editor-in-Chief Major Leanne Ruthven on page 15. My gut feeling is that it will stimulate quite a bit of reaction. I hope it does, and you must feel free to write to us with your point of view.

My point of view is that Major Ruthven makes some important observations, and even goes so far as to challenge the linguistic legitimacy of the chorus 'I will make you fishers of men' (which, I have to confess, I and most members of a singing company to which I once belonged sang as 'I will make you vicious old men').

The Territorial Commander moves

us along in much the same train of thought – that of adapting our mission to a modern context – as does Captain Catherine Smith. (I love her story of the boy and the puddle.)

Change can be frightening. My sister, for example, has just given birth to her firstborn, and is already experiencing the changes (in more ways than one) that arrive as soon as a baby does! I have changed houses so often in my 45 years on this planet that, frankly, I've had enough of being on the move. My wife, Heather, on the other hand, can't get enough of flying around the world and seeing new places, all in the line of duty. Each of us reacts differently to the inevitability of change; some welcome it, while others resist.

What is unchanging, though, is our responsibility to convey the old, old story of Jesus and his love as clearly and as inclusively as possible – even, if needs be, laying aside our personal preferences for the sake of the gospel. I think it's called dying to self.

My bedtime reading at the moment is Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar Of Wakefield*. Goldsmith was a fascinating man – regarded when he was a schoolboy as 'a stupid, heavy blockhead, little better than a fool, whom everyone made fun of', who, for all that, went on to become a marvellous writer. Of his works, none other than Dr Johnson passed the judgment, *nullum scribendi genus quod tetigit non ornavit* ('he touched no kind of writing which he did not adorn').

When Judgment is passed on our endeavours for the Kingdom – and please remember, in the words of St John of the Cross, that 'in the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone' – may it be said of us that we touched no kind of gospel that we, with a passion to be relevant, did not adorn.

MAJOR STEPHEN POXON, EDITOR

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Winterised tents see people through the cold of winter

Pakistan

IN the north of the country people are facing the cold of winter in very trying circumstances. In 2010 floods destroyed villages across the country and families lost their homes and belongings. Despite aid provided by the Government and non-governmental organisations, many people still lack basic necessities. The scale of the disaster is huge and the needs are seemingly endless.

Just in time for the colder season, The Salvation Army obtained funds from the Canada and Bermuda Territory to purchase and distribute winterised tents. These have several layers of material to ensure there is as much insulation as possible. In the area near Peshawar, 700 families have each received a tent. A winterised tent will not provide luxury accommodation but the reality is that it could mean the difference between life and death.

The Army in Pakistan is also looking at longer-term sustainable development projects. A community assessment trip found out how people in affected communities want to change their situation. This includes community mapping – ensuring the views of the whole community are taken into account – community walks, interviews and discussions with men and



women. The process seeks to involve beneficiaries in all steps of the decision-making

process regarding their future. In the face of such adversity, people are demonstrating that

they have an abundance of strength, knowledge, courage and ideas. – D. F.

First Sunday focuses on MAF

Norwich Citadel

DAVID BALFOUR of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was the speaker at a First Sunday meeting. He explained that MAF shares the love of Jesus by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of isolated people in 42 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Eurasia and Latin America. He said that last year MAF carried 94,641 passengers in its 130 light aircraft.

Giving a brief history of MAF, David spoke about how the organisation supported relief work in Haiti after the earthquake and how families have been able to transfer from emergency tent encampments to houses that MAF rebuilt. He also described the fellowship's work in Madagascar, where the planes are the only means of conveying people to hospitals and remote villages.

He concluded his talk with a prayer and asked everyone for ongoing prayerful support.

Major Rosemary Dawson led the meeting, corps officer Major Sally McBride read a Bible passage and the corps music sections took part.

David is pictured with Majors Ian and Sally McBride. – B. C.



Residents raise £300

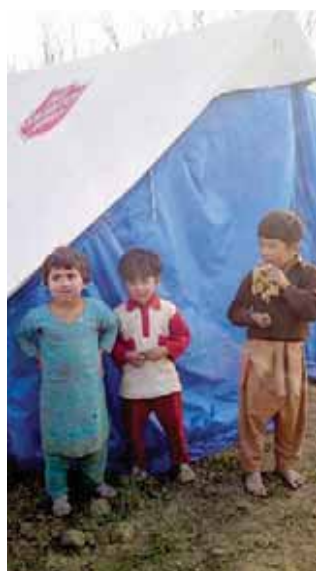
Providence House

OVER a period of three weeks the residents and staff of the Rochdale Lifehouse raised £300 for Chris Briggs, a medical student who worships at Rochdale Corps, who is planning a two-month trip to Nepal. He will do voluntary work in an orphanage there as part of his medical training and the money will be used to buy toys and resources.

The Lifehouse residents raised the money from coffee mornings, with some of the men baking cakes and flans to sell, and a second-hand goods stall in the market.

The residents were very interested when Chris told them how the money would be used and were happy that they could help in such a great way. One man said: 'It's good to give something back and to see the money going to such a good and worthy cause.'

The picture shows Lifehouse Chaplain Territorial Envoy Karen Ogden and some of the residents presenting the cheque to Chris (right). – K. O.





Territorial leaders open new hall

Sheringham

TERRITORIAL leaders Commissioners John and Betty Matear led the weekend for the official opening of the new worship hall and community centre. Celebrations began with a well-supported open-air meeting at the town clock. Saturday shoppers lined the pavements to watch an impressive march of witness by 300 people.

The Territorial Commander cut the ribbon for the official opening of the hall. At the service of dedication, led by corps officers Majors Alan and Carolyn Read, Divisional Commander Major David Jackson's prayer reflected a theme that ran throughout the weekend – that people, and not the building, are the Church. Council representatives, church leaders, building contractors, donors and visitors, as well as former corps officers Majors Adrian and Beth Madern (Peterborough Citadel) – who had the vision and faith to start the project in 2005 – attended the opening.

The TC based his message on 1 Corinthians 3:16 which led into the dedication song 'Holy Spirit, Master Builder'.

After a reception tea in the Bradbury Suite, a capacity crowd enjoyed the evening festival, during which the band played 'The Sheringham March' which was composed for the opening of the hall by former corps officer Major Ian Robinson (USA Western). Brian Hillson and Martin Blessett (both Peterborough Citadel) contributed vocal and tuba items, respectively.

The TC spoke at the morning open-air meeting and then the territorial leaders marched back to the hall with the band to lead the holiness meeting, during which Bandsman John Dennett testified on the subject Starting Again and the TC preached.

A faith tea preceded the salvation meeting when Commissioner Betty Matear challenged the congregation to be Possibility People. There were seekers at the mercy seat at the conclusion of the memorable weekend. – A. C.

Salvation Army teams respond to Cyclone Yasi

Australia Eastern

SALVATION Army Emergency Services (SAES) teams responded immediately in the aftermath of tropical Cyclone Yasi, which lashed the coastal region of Queensland, causing widespread devastation and destruction.

On the morning after Yasi struck, SAES teams served breakfast at Innisfail, which lost power and sustained severe damage. Access was initially cut to the worst-hit communities

along the coast but SAES teams went in as soon as the highway reopened. Two Salvationists from Innisfail Corps gained access to Tully on 5 February and fed 200 people. Teams from Cairns and Atherton assisted with catering to more than 600 people and a catering vehicle from the Sydney East and Illawarra Division was sent to the area to supplement the effort.

Townsville teams gained access to Cardwell on 6 February and a divisional catering truck was sent there. Divisional Commander Major Rodney Walters (Central and North Queensland) said: 'A team from Newcastle is supplementing the work and we also have evacua-

tion catering taking place at nearby Tully Heads.' SAES teams also catered for residents and emergency services crews in Innisfail and Ingham until all evacuation centres had closed. The teams were then diverted to Tully Heads.

In Townsville, The Salvation Army's Riverway Recovery Mission sustained some minor damage to the roof but SAES teams fed up to 150 people at the evacuation centres until power was restored and people could return home. Major Walters said: 'A four-wheel-drive vehicle and SAES trailer were deployed to Townsville to reach remote communities with damaged roads.'

Major Bruce Harmer, manager at the recovery mission, reported that the relief effort had moved to clean-up. The city council provided addresses of people who needed assistance. Volunteers included residents from the recovery mission.

In Cairns, SAES teams fed emergency services crews and people at the evacuation centres. Minor damage was sustained to the front and back gates of Centennial Lodge hostel. Envoy Simon Steele, The Salvation Army's Flying Padre, kept in contact with rural communities and provided help and support as required. – A. R.



Members of Plymouth Congress Hall Band visit Retired Bandmaster Ken Hooper at Torr Nursing Home; Ken chose the songs for the visit

Youth attend Sunday worship

Crook

FIFTEEN young people aged between 12 and 17 have attended Sunday worship for the first time. They belong to the recently set up Monday night youth drop-in, which attracts more than 40 people.

Divisional leaders Majors Melvin and Suzanne Fincham led a fantastic meeting, which included high-five greetings and challenges especially for the young guests. At the Monday night drop-in, the young people went around greeting each other with high fives and saying 'Jesus loves me'. They also asked the staff searching questions about the Christian faith.

The following Sunday 15 young people once again joined in Sunday worship. They sang with enthusiasm 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands' and helped with the young people's activity and the sermon illustration. – D. A.

Clowne: Children from the Monday evening Winners Club received certificates at the end of a Streetwise Café series. Each week they had visited homes mentioned in Luke's Gospel and listened to stories about them as well as enjoying crafts, games, food and worship. On the final evening more than 70 people attended a family service. – M. N.

Pangbourne: At a Sunday service Pangbourne College donated £568 to Action Africa. Bandmaster Jonathan Corry (Enfield), who is bandmaster and head of brass at the college, spoke briefly about Action Africa's work with the Army's Chikankata Hospital in Zambia. – A. R.

Pianist presents concert

Slough

THE corps fellowship and guests enjoyed a classical and romantic music treat when pianist Bravin Karunanithy presented a concert compered by Divisional Youth Worker Nick Ward.

Bravin brought Beethoven and Chopin to life, and also played his own fascinating composition based on Indian classical music forms. – J. W.



Messy Church success

Perth

FOLLOWING the great success of the first Messy Church at Christmas, a second was organised by the corps children's worker, Laura Barton. In keeping with Valentine's Day, the session followed the subject of Love – providing craft activities, worship and celebration. A shared meal consisted of red and pink food!

Doubling the attendance of the first Messy Church, nearly 50 people, aged from 2 to 88, enjoyed each other's company and found new ways to discover more about God and his love and how we should love each other. – J. G.



Children and leaders enjoy the second week of Planet Kidz Club at Peterhead; the corps recommenced the club as part of its mission focus on children and families and attendance has already increased from 14 to 21



Children at the mainly music parent-and-toddler group at Chatham celebrate Valentine's Day by making cards and gifts for the people they love

Outreach unit appreciates volunteers

Gibbonsdown

MORE than 40 people attended a volunteers appreciation evening. The outreach unit's programme depends upon the time and commitment given by volunteers.

The varied activities in which they assist include Little Stars parent-and-toddler group, Glo and Blast kids and youth clubs and initiatives such as Ground-force Gibby where people spend one day a week transforming areas of the community by painting, gardening, cleaning and litter-picking.

The event (pictured) was an opportunity for volunteers to relax, enjoy a hot buffet, listen to music by unit leader Tim Reynolds and Suzannah Delaney, watch a video montage of the past year and, generally, be looked after and pampered!

Welsh Assembly member Jane Hutt attended the event and spoke words of encouragement to the volunteers. – A. R.



Major Heather Poxon (Director, Salvation Army International Development, UK) receives a cheque for £2,858.50 from Songster Leader Juliet Parker (Ipswich Citadel); the corps initiated a missionary project last summer to raise funds for Mbagala Girls' Home in Tanzania, which provides a safe home for girls and young women who have been trafficked or who are at risk of being trafficked



Replacement bus for outreach project

Cardiff

A RECONDITIONED double-decker bus (pictured), refurnished and designed specifically to meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people has replaced an older vehicle used in the city project managed by Crichton House Outreach Services.

Divisional Commander Major Peter Moran participated in the handover ceremony supported by Major Sandra Moran, Divisional Director for Social Services Nick Redmore, Centre Manager Catrin Howells (Crichton House) and Mike Friel (Cardiff City Council).

The DC said: 'The Salvation Army is delighted to have secured a replacement bus to serve the needs of homeless and vulnerable people. We are grateful to the Welsh Assembly, Cardiff City Council and Cardiff Bus Company for their invaluable support.' – A. P-S.

Young musicians celebrate YP annual

Letchworth

AS part of the young people's annual celebrations, nearly 40 enthusiastic young musicians and their leaders from Hadleigh Temple, Harlow and the host corps gathered on the Saturday afternoon to sing, play and have a good time together. They also rehearsed for the evening festival.

Right from the first note of 'The Moment', presented by the



singing group, it was clear that the audience could expect an inspiring time. The group also sang 'Heavenly Aeroplane' and

'The Father's Song'. Harriet Carter (piano) and Emily Fisher (tenor horn) were the soloists and the band included 'The Lord Is

Near', 'Three Songs Of Worship' and 'Daniel' in its programme.

Prizegiving took place on the Sunday morning. – D. F.

Anniversary away day

Canterbury

CORPS members spent an Away Day in school premises at Ash in celebration of the 125th corps anniversary. Early arrivals were served with breakfast. Then Lieut-Colonel Gillian Cotterill (DHQ) led opening worship before Bible study and discussion groups explored opportunities for mission in the community using the theme, Where Do We Go From Here? After this Major Howard Webber (THQ) led a workshop on Sharing Our Faith.

In the afternoon Bandmaster Kevin Ashman (Maidstone) and Captain Susanna Hart (Canvey Island) led brass and choral classes respectively. Gemma Vickers (Sutton) led a drama workshop and the young children watched a film. A praise and worship session featured items by those who attended the various groups and the day concluded with a celebration meal.

Major Webber led Sunday meetings at the hall where there was a photographic display of corps events over the years and an anniversary cake. – G. B.

Corps planters lead YP annual

Ripon

MAJORS Alan and Carol Young (Pill), who planted the corps 17 years ago, led the young people's annual and prizegiving. Members of the midweek clubs attended the meeting along with the Sunday school children, and they all received prizes. Tribute was paid to Young People's Sergeant-Major Stephanie Ruddy's excellent work. After the meeting there was a faith lunch. – P. C.

Cheltenham: The first Sunday Night Live event, a new monthly venture held in co-operation with Costa Coffee, was well supported by corps and church members and customers. Karen Ellis spoke movingly about her life-changing Christian journey and the event featured corps musicians Kevin O'Brien, Brett Riches, Tristan and Joel Thomas and friend of the corps Murray Orpin. – R. G.



At Newport volunteers with the Re-Generation feeding programme for homeless people achieve a five-star food hygiene rating through the Scores on the Doors scheme

Canterbury: The Canterbury Ladies Choir and Girls Choir joined the YP band for a concert, raising more than £450 for the band's planned tour of Sweden. Two hundred people, many of whom were attending their first Army event, enjoyed the varied programme. – G. B./C. S.

Horden: Guest singer Audrey Flynn (contralto), supported by The Kool Kids + Choir and Band, took part in a Café Night, as part of the First Saturday programme. The young people took orders and served food in the style of an old-fashioned café. – M. S.

Students play music for pleasure

Alton

STUDENTS from the Hampshire Specialist Music Course based at Peter Symonds College, Winchester, gave a recital at the monthly Music For Pleasure concert.

Ellen Nugent (flute), a member of the National Youth Orchestra, played 'Night Soliloquy', 'Orange Daw' and 'In Ireland'. Chris McKay (French horn), a member of the CBSO Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Chamber Orchestra, played 'Horn Concerto No 1, Op 11' by Richard Strauss.

Roger Owens, Head of Keyboard Studies at the college and a visiting Professor of Piano at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, accompanied Ellen and Chris and also joined Elinor Sherwood (clarinet) as she presented the final items, 'Sonata For Clarinet And Piano' and two of the 'Five Bagatelles' by Gerald Finzi. Elinor is a member of the Hampshire County Youth Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra.

The large audience, which included a number of people who had attended previous Music For Pleasure events, heard the students speak about the inspiration they have received from their musical experiences. – T. U.



Retired Corps Sergeant-Major Tom Saunders supported by Bandmaster Eric Gaze presents a band reserve certificate and badge to Band Librarian Cliff Pyke as he transfers to the reserve after 54 years as a bandsman at Plymouth Congress Hall



Meeting focuses on Noah

Southsea

MATT SMITH and Chloe Griffiths (both Hedge End) led the morning meeting of the young people's annual and prizegiving. Matt works with the H2O (Homeless to Opportunity) project in Southampton and Chloe is at DHQ. The meeting, which focused on Noah and the ark, started in a bright style with all the Sunday club, primary children and young people's workers singing and praising God (see picture).

The singing company sang 'I Want To Sing You A Song', the young people's band played 'My

God Is So Strong' and Shannon Lunn and April Sharp led prayers. All the children were delighted to receive their prizes of books.

Matt reminded everyone that being a Christian takes courage and trust. Two pairs of children assisted Matt by demonstrating trust as one of each pair was blindfolded and the other gave directions.

Evening worship took the form of Kids Alive! and opened in rousing style with 'Crown Him With Many Crowns'. The prayer time was based on a multimedia presentation, using the song 'When You Are Lost'. Cee-Jai Lunn and Esther Jennings led the spoken prayers.

Jaylen Evans, April and

Cee-Jai presented a modern dance, 'Hallelujah Anyhow!' and Jaylen read the Bible passage. In her first solo, Mani Noor Spencer (tenor horn) played an arrangement of the *Pink Panther* theme. Another first was David Irish's performance of

a street dance, 'We Dance On'. Young People's Sergeant-Major Cheryl Morris spoke about how God is always there for his children, and the meeting concluded with the Sunday club and primary children singing 'Wonderful Lord'. – T. M.



Children find themselves on God's team

Tadley

DIVISIONAL Children's Officer Major Michelle Woodhouse (Anglia) led the young people's annual, themed Being On God's Team. On the Saturday, 16 children – more than half of whom had been contacted through a recent holiday club – attended

The Challenge Party. They took part in many challenges involving sports and team games and enjoyed a meal together.

During Sunday family worship, the children were asked to put together their 'dream team', based on football and pop stars. They also took part in leading prayers, singing and games. The whole congregation entered into the lively and challenging occasion. The day concluded with café church. – T. E.



On a cold Sunday afternoon Frank and Hannah Thouless, and family members, enjoy listening to Norwich Mile Cross Band in their back garden; the couple's family invited the band to their diamond wedding celebration

■ Excellent resource for a sensitive subject

IN July last year *Salvationist* ran Claire Anderson's interview with Rachel Welch from Selfharm.co.uk highlighting the issue of self-harm from a Christian perspective.

Having read that article and the accompanying book review, I engaged Rachel to deliver two sessions at a recent four-day course that SISTAD ran concerning Mental Health Issues In Congregations.

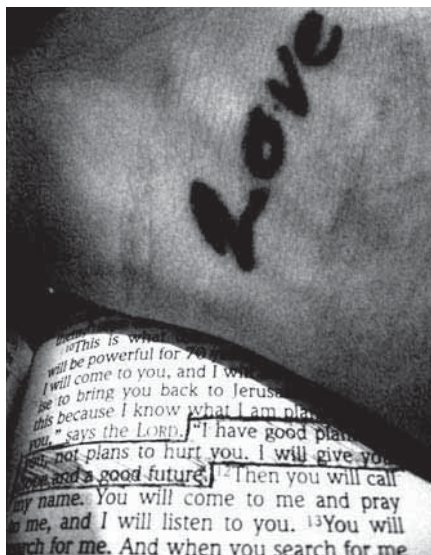
Rachel's sessions received nothing but praise. In spite of the fact that the subject material was, by nature, very sensitive and harrowing, Rachel's personality, her emphasis on the whole person and her sound biblical basis made the experience informative and equipping.

I commend to readers of *Salvationist* the use of the excellent resources this church-based charity produces and ask them to support their work in any way possible. The most important message I would want to get across is that if you experience self-harm – yourself or in those you love and minister to – visit the website and learn!

Thank you for covering such relevant issues in *Salvationist*.

*Wendy Knott,
Major,
West Wickham*

■ Editor's note: *Salvationist* will shortly be running an update from Selfharm.co.uk



Picture: JERRY PENROSE

READERS SENDING LETTERS BY EMAIL SHOULD INCLUDE THEIR NAME, FULL RANK IF APPLICABLE AND FULL POSTAL ADDRESS

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- Please remember, letters for publication in *Salvationist* should be carefully thought out, logically presented and charitably expressed
- The Editor reserves the right to edit letters or print extracts
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■ We should welcome community bands

WITH regards to Liz Smith's letter regarding community bands (*Salvationist* 12 February), I have just finished reading Bob Getz's biography of the fine Army composer Emil Soderstrom.

He quotes Emil as saying that he found it easier to turn musicians into Christians than to make musicians out of Christians.

*Eric Smith,
Cardiff*

■ Would rebranding help the ISS?

IN a recent radio broadcast from Staines the speaker was introduced as 'the Executive Officer of the International Staff Songsters' – a bit meaningless to the non-Army listener. Is it time to consider rebranding this lovely group?

I notice that the National Songsters in New Zealand rebranded themselves as 'SpiritSong'. The staff songsters' new CD, *Heart Songs*, is, in my view, the most appealing all-round recording produced by them. Is there potential here? 'Heartsong', for instance, might be more user-friendly than their present rather prosaic, unromantic-sounding name.

*Fred Crowhurst,
Birmingham*

■ Why should the Devil have the best stories?

I THINK that we, as a church, should not be afraid of using Harry Potter as a way to help aid biblical teachings for younger people. The Harry Potter books centre on the main themes of good versus evil, and of love, and are teeming with biblical references and connotations.

After Peter Pettigrew's betrayal, Lily and James Potter die so that their son Harry can live, echoing Judas's actions leading to the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Harry's scar and its subsequent protection could relate to the sign of God (Revelation 9). Harry and his friends do not discriminate against House-elves, and treat other 'undesirables' such as giants and werewolves with respect in much the same way as Jesus mixed with sinners and Samaritans (John 4). Harry and his friends break school rules for a higher purpose, in the same way that Jesus broke Jewish law by preaching and healing on the Sabbath.

It should not be overlooked that the forces of good are encapsulated by a phoenix, a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection, and Harry's patronus [a conjured protection shield that takes an animal form] is a stag, a medieval symbol of Christ, which is normally depicted trampling a snake – coincidentally the symbol of evil as portrayed through Harry's nemesis Voldemort and Voldemort's former school house group, Slytherin.

It is important to note that author J. K. Rowling is a Christian, attends the Church of Scotland and quotes the Bible on two gravestones in Godric's Hollow: first Matthew 6:21 (Kendra and Ariana Dumbledore) and then on the Potters' grave: 'The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death' (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Of course, Harry Potter is not Jesus! But these books have become entrenched in popular culture. We should use them to highlight biblical themes, and as a gateway into scriptural teaching that is relevant for today's young people. After all, why should the Devil have the best stories?

*Adam Hall,
Maidenhead*



Change is a constant

by Commissioner John Matear,
Territorial Commander

HOW are we to be an effective Salvation Army in today's rapidly changing world? I hope that such a question is not asked just by me but by every officer, cadet, soldier, adherent member, recruit and employee. The question is most effectively answered honestly – free from any arrogance, subjectivity, individualism or negativity. It is a question that I ask myself daily.

We must serve the present age. I value the past; indeed I have more past behind me than future before me! It is important for us to understand our past, its significance, influence and lasting value and to be secure enough to explore our strengths and weaknesses.

It is arrogant to think that all is certain and defined and not to be critiqued. If we have a faith worth sharing and are a church worth joining we have to stand up to probing, otherwise we will lose effectiveness.

We must learn from our past and build on our past to become a cutting-edge Army that holds out the message of Jesus – a message of salvation that is worth dying for.

To be an effective Salvation Army we must have the Spirit of Jesus and be able

to see today's world through his eyes. We are, for the most part, very ordinary people but we have met with Jesus who has entrusted us with the commission to go to the world and take the gospel to all people.

We must also be a holy people. It is important to understand why we are a 'salvation' Army for it will impact on our preaching and teaching – we must ensure

*What is anchored
in our soul is the grace
of Jesus, unshakeable
in a dark, stark, failing
and fallible world*

the message of Jesus is central. It will impact our work and witness – this is the gospel that is personal, embodied and contextual. We have to be assured of the salvation that we have in Jesus and be secure to share that with others. We fail if we merely present a moral framework.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we have to be witnesses to his death and resurrection

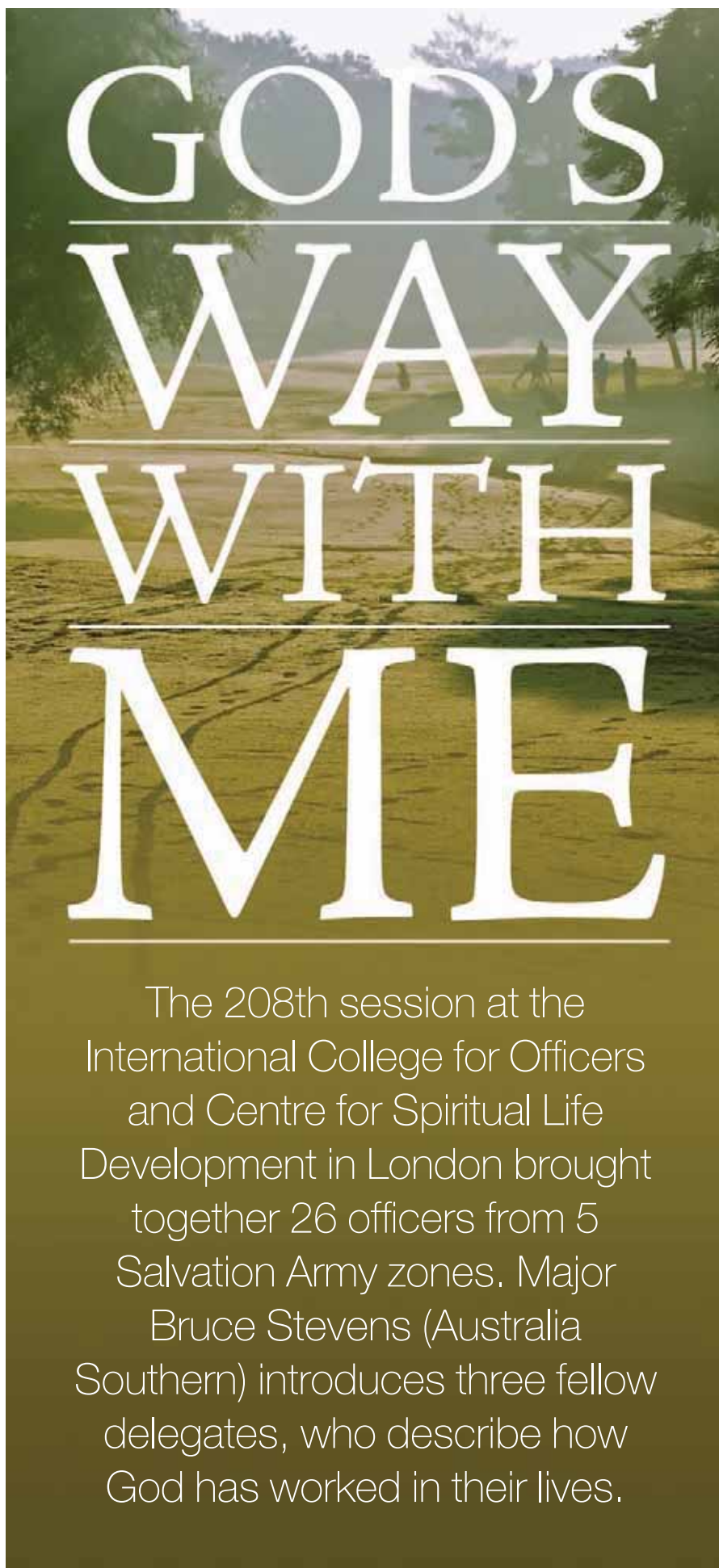
and we do this by loving and reconciling individuals and communities. The love of Jesus is always effective and always contemporary – this is central to our effectiveness and relevance.

So much of the framework for this age is completely opposite to what we would describe as our core beliefs. We need to be a Salvation Army that is biblically literate and theologically confident. We cannot be absorbed by internal issues; we have to be an outward-looking people who can articulate what Jesus means for today and how our faith is relevant.

Our theology matters. Never believe that The Salvation Army doesn't 'do doctrine' or see it as an anachronistic irrelevance. This can never be the case. I strongly believe we have to ensure we are all better equipped to know what we believe and how to apply it where we are – relevant to our own experience and the experience of others. We must apply ourselves to this in the production of our discipleship material, but it is not just for the 'professionals' or for the dedicated and keen – it is for every one of us. It is not enough to provide resources or rack up presentations and roadshows, or pray for revival. We must work to live the mission and enable the conversations that explore questions and doubts. Often I speak of 'possibility thinking' and I have the deepest ambition to make God and faith possible for those of no faith or little faith.

I believe that there are great possibilities and potential in sharing and telling our story – our personal faith journey and our corporate faith journey. As we speak and listen we must be able to think through what it means for us to be Christians in The Salvation Army in 2011. In character and behaviour we must be a holy people marked by compassion for all – inclusive, committed to good works and social justice and concerned with the values of God's Kingdom and his divine justice.

It is our privilege and responsibility to rise to the challenges of this age. Nothing is static, yet what is anchored in our soul is the grace of Jesus, unshakeable in a dark, stark, failing and fallible world. The message that 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16 *NIV*) is the unchanging message that can change and direct lives today. ■



The 208th session at the International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development in London brought together 26 officers from 5 Salvation Army zones. Major Bruce Stevens (Australia Southern) introduces three fellow delegates, who describe how God has worked in their lives.



**CAPTAIN DAVID KOTRIKADZE,
EASTERN EUROPE**

THE captain grew up in challenging times amid political and religious intolerance. Families couldn't freely speak about God, but this didn't quell his inquisitive mind. Around the age of seven, he suggested to his mother that God wasn't real – only to be quickly told: 'We don't say that.'

However, God had a clear plan for David and his family. When a degree of freedom finally existed, a schoolteacher was significant in first sharing Christ with him. Although he didn't respond at that time, this proved to be a seed of faith that matured in later days.

Amazingly, it was his mother who first joined and became a soldier of The Salvation Army, having herself personally encountered Jesus. She was eager for her son to go along, but he thought the age difference would be too great. What could possibly interest a mother *and* a young teenager?

Attending an Army youth camp led to a complete life-change. He enjoyed the companionship of others, but also heard the gospel clearly shared. Although this was a pivotal experience, initially he struggled to comprehend the connection between God and The Salvation Army.

God broke through at camp the following year. The caring ministry of an officer, who boldly asked if he would like to receive Christ, changed everything and he accepted Jesus as his personal saviour.

The chorus 'We Are Marching In The Light Of God' became significant in helping him understand the Army's mission.

Once he was committed to Christ, the unique characteristics of the Army ceased to be a major concern but smoking remained a barrier to his

soldiership. How wonderful that immediately after acknowledging before God that he could not break this addiction, the Holy Spirit took away those cravings! He testifies: 'It is God's miracle that I was delivered from this.'

Becoming a soldier, he quickly became involved in corps ministry and sensed God's calling to officership. He soon recognised that God required him to commit his whole life to Christ.

Captain Kotrikadze previously served in various corps appointments, together with his wife. At present he is the Regional Finance and Property Officer in Georgia.



**CAPTAIN MICHELE MATTHEWS,
USA SOUTHERN**

FROM her earliest memories, Michele always knew she had been adopted by her officer parents. Blessed with a caring Christian family, she also knew without any doubt that she was truly loved. When people asked if she wished to know her birth parents, she would intuitively respond that she knew who her parents were.

During her formative years Michele participated in many corps sections and revelled in the experience. She first knelt at the mercy seat at the age of 6 and asked Jesus to come into her life. Aged 13, she knelt at the mercy seat during youth councils and fully committed her life to the Lord. Her own background of being adopted made it easy for her to understand adoption by God into his family, with the unconditional love that accompanies it.

After leaving school Michele completed a BA degree in Psychology and Social Services and pursued a BSc in Nursing – followed by work in the medical intensive care unit of a hospital in Tampa, Florida.

In 1996 – while attending a conference in Fort Lauderdale – she reconnected with Ward, an old friend. This proved to be a 'God moment' in their lives and eventually led to marriage. There were challenges to work through, but Michele knew a real sense of God's peace about her future and trusted him with the days ahead.

The biggest challenge was the fact that Ward was an officer. Michele had never sensed a call to officership herself, yet God quickly made it abundantly clear this path was also for her. They married the day after her commissioning in 1999.

Before their present appointments the couple served together as corps officers and area commanders, and were in Kingston, Jamaica, for four years.

Michele says that she would never have thought her life would go in the direction it has. 'I've had amazing opportunities, and really can't imagine doing anything else with my life.'

**MAJOR KEITH CONRAD,
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

ONE of six children in apartheid-era South Africa, the major grew up in a very simple home. His first involvement with The Salvation Army came as a nine-year-old, while on holiday with his uncle and cousins. It was a life-changing experience for him.

'I remember one Sunday morning when my uncle was preaching. I knew exactly what happened when I knelt at the mercy seat. When I got up, I knew I was saved.'

Even at this tender age there was no doubt in his mind that God was calling him to minister, like his uncle. He went

*I knew exactly
what happened
when I knelt at
the mercy seat.
When I got up,
I knew I was
saved*

home and enthusiastically shared his story, but 'my family poured cold water on those dreams. They were Christians, but saw my future securely positioned in another church.'

Despite his family's perspective, the Army band and singing company particularly attracted him – but he was forbidden to visit the Army on Sundays. So he would prepare as if going to church, but instead actually went to the Army. This lasted until he was found out by his grandmother, and promptly banned by his parents from going to The Salvation Army.

At the age of 16, his feelings about becoming an officer were still strong. Although Keith followed through with formal church membership, God confirmed to him that that day would be his last at the Methodist Church. He knew with absolute clarity where he was called to be.

'One Sunday I lay on my bed, crying my heart out to the Lord that I would receive my family's blessing to start attending The Salvation Army.' How amazing that, in answer to that prayer, his family also decided to start attending the Army themselves.

God provided him with a beautiful wife, who had also been called to be an officer. Commissioned in 1988, they were members of the first joint training session of cadets in South Africa.

Having grown up with apartheid in South Africa, they enthusiastically embraced the challenge of reopening a corps in what had once been a 'white' area. The results were wonderful, and great things were achieved for the Kingdom through their ministry.

Major Conrad has served in a variety of corps and DHQ appointments. At present he is the Divisional Commander, Northern. ■



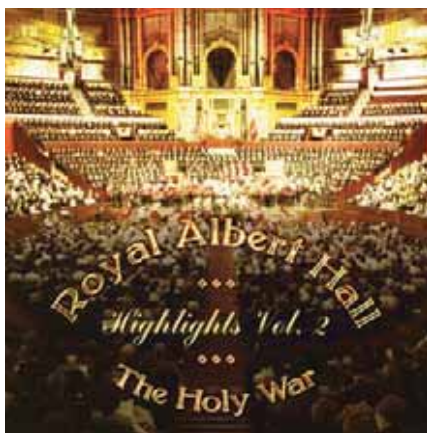
CD HAS IT ALL

Jim Ballantyne (Paisley) reviews *Royal Albert Hall Highlights (Vol 2) – The Holy War*

FOR Salvationists the idea of highlights from the Royal Albert Hall conjures up pictures of top bands and songsters, the grand organ and talented soloists all making ‘a joyful noise unto the Lord’ while occasionally wrestling with the lively acoustics of this historic building.

This second compilation in the series has all of the above plus several items that are unique. The Chicago Staff Band’s ‘Jericho Re-visited’ is well worth the journey, showing that brass bands and comedy are not mutually exclusive, while Stephen Bulla’s ‘Jazz Trilogy’ showcases the exceptional talents of trombonist Herb Bruce.

Tracy Bearcroft’s assured vocal



performance of Handel’s ‘Let The Bright Seraphim’ is matched by Kevin Ashman on trumpet and Richard Phillips at the piano. The classical theme continues with a modern arrangement of ‘Joy To The World’ featuring the numerically strong and talented Staines Songsters.

The booklet accompanying the disc provides interesting insights from some of the participants. This enhanced my enjoyment but some traditional programme notes, particularly in the context of the major works, would have been helpful. This would equally apply to Enfield Band’s sparkling

performance of ‘Song Of The Eternal’, Ray Steadman-Allen’s compositions ‘A Childhood Suite’, where the powerful Festival Chorus can be heard to good effect along with an impressive combination of piano and flute, and the inspirational performance of the title track, the tone poem ‘The Holy War’ with its theme ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God’, played by the International Staff Band. The last work is to be recommended to a new generation of listeners as well as to those already familiar with the piece.

The disc concludes, as it began, with solo voices – initially Jude Gotrich and the familiar words of ‘Amazing Grace’, followed eventually by Bill Davidson with Joy Webb’s ‘There Will Be God’ rising with a crescendo as chorus and band join in for the wonderful affirmation: ‘Somewhere amidst the confusion, there will be hope, there will be love, there will be God.’ ■

■ **Royal Albert Hall Highlights (Vol 2) – The Holy War is available from SP&S priced £9.99 (plus £2.95 postage and packing) or download from spstunes.co.uk for £9.99**

connections

SING HALLELUJAH!

Gordon Taylor looks at the development of the Army songbook

WHEN The Christian Mission became The Salvation Army, the first Salvation Army songbook was a revision of the Mission’s hymnbook, with a few contemporary songs added from various sources. At that early date, few songs had been written by Salvationists.

As Salvationists began to write new songs, a number of small ‘penny’ songbooks were issued for congregational singing. The number of songs increased so quickly that, by the end of the 19th century, more than 10,000 songs were considered for inclusion in a new edition of *Salvation Army Songs* published in 1899. This became the standard songbook for corps meetings, and corps in the UK were instructed to purchase a supply for regular use.

During the first half of the 20th century new songs continued to be

written and published in *The Musical Salvationist* and Salvation Army periodicals. New editions of the songbook were published in 1930 and 1953, combining the best of the old with a selection of new songs, many from living authors, including Albert Orsborn, Sidney Cox, Will Brand, Catherine Baird and Doris Rendell. These Salvation Army songbooks helped to strengthen our distinctive identity as a movement, in the same way as Baptists, Methodists and Anglicans had their own denominational hymnbooks. I think that I probably absorbed as much doctrine from our songs as from Scripture.

A generation later, after the publication of the supplementary songbook *Keep Singing!* in 1976, a further revision of the songbook was undertaken. This was published in 1986, at a time when corps were beginning to look for resources beyond the official Salvation Army publications. *Mission Praise* and *Songs Of Fellowship* were introduced in some corps, and in many cases printed songbooks were being abandoned in favour of overhead projectors and other multimedia equipment.

Clearly, there is now no shortage of material to enrich our worship and many corps have developed their own worship style and repertoire of songs and choruses. Will Salvationists ever again all sing from the same hymn sheet?

Today, there are probably around 20,000 hymns, songs and choruses readily available electronically or in printed form, compared with the 1,250 songs and choruses in the 1986 songbook; with such a diversity of resources, a new international songbook for the English-speaking Army world is now being produced. ■

■ **Gordon is Historian and Associate Director for Historical Services at the International Heritage Centre**

Mind your language

Major Leanne Ruthven calls for the use of inclusive language so that the gospel really is for everyone

It was Christmas morning at the corps. The congregation was singing 'and man will live for evermore because of Christmas Day' when a woman noticed her four-year-old daughter crying. 'What's wrong?' she asked the child, reminding her that Christmas is a happy time because we celebrate the birth of Jesus. 'It isn't fair,' her daughter replied. 'Why do men get to live for evermore and we won't?'

It's a true story. Childish innocence? Maybe. Important question? I think so. Most of us who grew up in the Army will have readily sung words from our songbook such as 'angels and men before him fall' (SASB 60) or the line from a Sunday school chorus, 'I will make you fishers of men'. Then there's the well known 'We wonder why he tolerated men' (SASB 274)! However, while such wording may have been appropriate for its time, I suggest the 21st-century Salvation Army now needs to leave it behind and use language that literally includes everyone.

I know that in some of our songs and Bible translations the words 'men' and 'mankind' mean people in general, and that 'brothers' often means sisters as well. Early Salvationists knew this too, but their literature, understandably, reflected

the idioms of the day. For example, the September 1905 edition of *The Field Officer* includes a suggested sermon for use when swearing-in soldiers which says: 'There is no mistaking a Salvationist who flies his colours: that is, he who wears his uniform.' Even Catherine Booth, who championed the rights of women to preach, said in a March 1883 lecture: 'We teach that a man cannot be right with God while he is doing wrong to men...' But while that kind of language was used then, culturally it is not used now.

Next month the print edition of the latest *New International Version (NIV)* is scheduled for launch, having already been released in digital format. Commemorating the 400th anniversary of the *King James Bible*, the translators of this new edition obviously believe in the importance of gender-inclusive language.

'For this revision to the *NIV*,' say the notes from the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT), 'particular attention has been paid to external feedback in the area of gender language.' In this new edition, then, some of the gender-language changes that appeared in the last major revision (*Today's New International Version*) are retained, some revert to those used in the 1984 edition

and some have been reworded altogether.*

The CBT's charter is 'to render God's word in English as it is spoken and understood by the broadest possible audience'. So, if gender-inclusive language is the language understood by this audience, isn't that what the Army should be using? I know some of our song lyrics won't rhyme if we change the words, but there are times we could substitute inclusive words such as 'all' for 'men' and 'child' for 'son'. And when Scripture is read from the platform, I believe an inclusive language translation should be used.

'Does the language we use in our church settings really matter?' asks Major JoAnn Shade, an American officer and author, on the Rubicon website (therubicon.org). 'Again and again I find myself convinced that it does matter. Language is important, both to me and to 12-year-old girls in our pews...

'While gender is a complicated issue in our culture, and perhaps even more so in the culture of our churches,' the major continues, 'the use of "people" instead of "men" seems like a no-brainer way of including all the people of God in the Body.'

I wonder what the person new to the Army thinks – the one unfamiliar with church hymns or God's word. For that matter, I also wonder what those who are not so new think. Surely the good news is for everyone who comes through our doors, regardless of Army background, age, race, socioeconomic status – or gender!

And it wouldn't take a lot; a word changed here and there, a Bible reading from an inclusive translation. A new set of Bibles for a corps or centre will be expensive, but if current ones need replacing then surely we should be looking at a translation that will reach the 'broadest possible audience'.

Does the good news apply to that child who cried during the Army carol service, thinking the Christmas message wasn't for her? Yes, we say, it applies to her.

We know that. Does she? ■

* For further information, including how some of the significant texts on gender roles now read, visit www.nivbible2011.com

■ Major Ruthven is Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Secretary at THQ

Certainties

Captain Catherine Smith looks at how to cope with change and challenge

STUDY PASSAGE HEBREWS CHAPTER 11

IN this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes,' wrote Benjamin Franklin. How gloomy! As Christians who live in a constantly changing world, we can celebrate a greater conviction. Hebrews chapter 11 gives us a team of people to demonstrate how to face change and challenge through faith.

Abel (v4) discerned a right way even before direction was given. His testimony lives on today.

Enoch (vv5 and 6) pleased God by looking for and walking well with him, even in a terrible society.

We find faith as we seek Jesus. We see such conviction expressed by King David when he says to his son: 'And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind... If you seek him, he will be found by you' (1 Chronicles 28:9 all quotations from *New International Version*).

Noah (v7) acted in 'holy fear' and was prepared, in spite of those who mocked him.

Abraham obeyed (vv8–12; 17–19). He went to an unknown earthly destination inspired by his heavenly home. He trusted God to make the impossible possible. He was willing to sacrifice his

most precious gift because he knew God's faithfulness.

Isaac, Jacob and Joseph (vv 20–22) prophesied to a future generation. We need to pass on God's gifts to the next generation to demonstrate our commitment to God's continuing plan.

Jacob (v21) worshipped God. As we position ourselves in his presence, we are assured by the one who is 'the Beginning and the End' (Revelation 22:13).

The parents of Moses (v23) took a great risk in the face of danger. 'Perfect love drives out fear' (1 John 4:18).

Moses (vv24–29) himself persevered through many uncertain challenges because he saw the invisible things of God as though they were visible. Asking God for a picture of his certain truths can give us the assurance we need to face uncertain days ahead.

A boy was listening to the story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. 'Hallelujah!' he shouted. The teacher was irritated by the disturbance: 'What is it?'

'Wow!' said the boy. 'God is amazing. He pushed back the sea to let the people through.'

'Don't be silly,' said the teacher. 'All that can be explained by science. The water was much more like a puddle than

an ocean.' The teacher continued telling how the Egyptians were swallowed up as they pursued the Israelites. Again, the boy shouted out, 'Hallelujah!'

'What is it now?' asked the exasperated teacher. 'Praise God! He managed to swallow up a whole army in a puddle!'

Our certainty comes from our perspective and confidence in the living God.

Rahab (v31) is mentioned for her obedience. Most only knew her as a pagan prostitute. God is not discriminative in who he uses. In this team, there are men and women of every background. Rahab was not trusted by anyone, and without doubt found it hard to trust others. But she discovered that she could trust God's certain leadings.

Can we say we have trust, hope, confidence, belief and certainty when redundancy is threatened and finances are challenged; when our children are mixing with unhelpful influences; when people doubt us and disgrace us? Can we keep going when the pain feels too much and the anxiety is overbearing?

Our team of witnesses encourage us to say we can be certain, and picture Jesus who 'is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

As we face change and uncertainty in our communities, churches, families and workplaces, take direction from Hebrews 12:1–3: 'Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.'

When facing areas of uncertainty, take one or two of the characters mentioned in our study passage and, using the principles they learnt, pray and push on through your own circumstances.

Take hold of the promises of God which are 'Yes' and 'Amen' (2 Corinthians 1:20). And finally, look to Jesus himself. ■

■ **Captain Smith is corps officer at Southwark**

Irene Batters
Nick Goodwin
Adherent members
Sale

IRENE, who had not attended church for some years, was introduced to the Body and Soul group by a friend and decided to attend Sunday meetings. She found the friendliness so welcoming that she knew she had found a church again.

Already a committed Christian, Nick started to attend meetings at the Army and enjoyed the fellowship, which is something he desired in a church.

Corps officers Majors Aubrey and Irene Draycott welcomed Irene and Nick as adherent members. – A. D.

Toyin Iserhienrhien
Soldier
Prescot

CORPS officer Lieutenant Annette Booth enrolled Toyin as a soldier. Toyin's husband, Martins, was enrolled as a soldier and their children Sandra, Cynthia and Raymond as junior soldiers last year.

The family arrived at the corps for the first time only to find the building knocked down. They returned a year later to the opening of a new church and community centre and have been attending ever since.

Toyin spoke about asking God for three things when they were looking for a church: the presence of God, love and somewhere close to where she lived. She praised God for making it all happen and answering the prayer. She affirmed her strong desire to serve God as a Salvation Army soldier. – A. B.

May Liddell
Adherent member
Kilmarnock

ATTENDING meetings with her neighbour, May soon made friends within the fellowship. Learning more about the Lord, she decided she wanted to make the corps her spiritual home. May was welcomed as an adherent member by corps officer Major Harry Stirling.

Friends and neighbours from the supported accommodation in Prestwick where May is a tenant were present to witness her commitment to God and the Army. – E. F.

Keyra Edwards
Junior soldier
Rock Ferry

WHEN Keyra's aunt and uncle, Lieutenants Alison and Gavin Friday (Kirkcaldy), led the morning meeting, Keyra's aunt had the privilege of enrolling her as a junior soldier. Family and friends were there to support Keyra and she testified that she wanted to serve Jesus as a soldier in his Army and to be able to witness at school. – J. L.

Ruth Laycock
Soldier
Blackpool Citadel

IN her testimony, Ruth said that it was her sister who had taken her to the corps and that, as she had been attending for some time, she felt she had to make a further commitment to God through the Army.

Corps officer Major Ian Harris enrolled Ruth as a soldier. – S. W.

Gemma Clark
Adherent member
Grays

GEMMA, whose grandparents are soldiers of the corps, began going to the Army as a child and takes an active role in corps life. Corps officer Major Dawn Evans welcomed her as an adherent member. – H. E.

NEW COMMITMENTS IN FEBRUARY

23 Soldiers

25 Adherent members

6 Junior soldiers

Totals for this year so far:

Soldiers: 86
Adherent members: 64
Junior soldiers: 39

Out of 54 new commitments reported in *Salvationist* in February, 5 were invited by a friend or relative; 5 attended the opening of new corps premises; 4 joined children's activities; 3 were volunteer workers; 3 went to a coffee morning; 2 attended a Friends and Neighbours meeting; 2 attended the dedication to God of a friend's child; 2 received support through a difficult time; 2 joined the Home League; 1 went to a corps car boot sale; 1 contacted the Family Tracing Service; 1 joined a craft club; 1 joined a lunch club; 1 met an officer in a nearby town; 1 attended a Christmas Day meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARMY PEOPLE

LOCAL OFFICERS APPOINTED

CSM Glyn Evans, Sheffield Citadel;
SL Major Ray Irving, Bromley.

MARRIAGES

Daniel Scott to **Stacey Lee** at Tiverton by Captain Diana Green; **Bandsman Tim Hynd** (Enfield) to **Lyndsey Adams** at Castleford by Lieut-Colonel Lincoln Parkhouse; **Frantisek Horvath** to **Andrea Racova** at Armáda spásy at Margate by Majors David and Kathryn Blowers; **Mark Mellor** to **Joanne Shipp** at Stapleford by Major Richard Crowe.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Platinum (70th): **Tom and Mrs Freda Raine**, Chester-le-Street (15 March).
Blue sapphire (65th): **Ken and Mrs Glad Worgan**, Boscombe.
Diamond: **Ed and Mrs Meg Beattie**, Brechin (3 March).
Golden: **Bandsman Ray and Songster Mrs Elizabeth Todd**, Norwich Citadel (11 March).

DEDICATED TO GOD

Robert Daniel Calvin Manyange, son of Ann Kay Maposa, at Castleford by Major Anthony Colclough; **Michaela Mary-Ann**, daughter of William Colvin and Julie

Sadler, at Worthing by Major Peter Leech; **Tashaundra Zion Muzangaza**, daughter of Maryline Jiro, at Edmonton by Major Stuart Downham; **Adam Thomas**, son of Chrna Taylor, at Hastings Citadel by Captain Stephen Baker.

BEREAVED

Major Wendy Lutman of her brother Richard; **Jenny Turner**, Guisborough, of her mother Edith Mildon, **Major Mrs Lilian Wylie** of her sister.

RETIRED OFFICERS

Birthday congratulations: **Commissioner Frank Fullarton**, [REDACTED], Berne [REDACTED], Switzerland (80 on 3 March); **Major Bernard Stock**, [REDACTED], Bournemouth [REDACTED] (85 on 4 March); **Major Dennis Ward**, [REDACTED], Southport [REDACTED] (80 on 6 March).

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Jean Banks, Boscombe; **Joyce Rolls**, Stockton; **Norman Cutler**, Exeter; **David Brunskill**, Darlington.

Commissioner Arthur Pitcher from Canada on 28 January.

Arthur Pitcher entered training from St John's 2 Corps, Newfoundland, and was a Salvation Army officer teacher for

six years following commissioning in 1939. He married Captain Elizabeth Evans in 1942 and served with her in several appointments in Newfoundland and Canada before becoming Provincial Commander for Newfoundland.

Four years as Chief Secretary in South Africa and a short period as acting Principal of the Officers Training College in Toronto preceded his appointment as Territorial Commander, Caribbean, in 1976. With the rank of commissioner, he became Territorial Commander, USA Southern in 1979 and three years later Territorial Commander, Canada and Bermuda.

Commissioner and Mrs Pitcher entered retirement in 1984. Mrs Commissioner Pitcher was promoted to Glory in 2009. Salvationists and Army friends in many parts of the world will remember and thank God for the influence of Commissioner Arthur Pitcher. He was noted for his Bible-centred teaching, preaching and writing throughout his service.

A son, Major David Pitcher, lives at [REDACTED], St Catharines, Ontario [REDACTED], Canada.

Mrs Commissioner Marjorie Marshall from Illinois, USA, on 5 February.

Marjorie Kimball entered training from New York Temple and was commissioned in 1944. Later that year she married Captain Norman Marshall and served with him in corps appointments and youth work in Portland, Maine and Western Pennsylvania. Marjorie was responsible for the development of the Guards and Sunbeam sections during this time.

During her husband's appointment as Training Principal, USA Central, Marjorie served as teacher and music leader at the School for Officer Training.

Her other appointments included Chaplain for retired officers in the USA Central and USA Eastern Territories, Territorial Secretary of the Order of the Silver Star and Nurses Fellowship Secretary. In 1978 the Marshalls were appointed to International Headquarters to lead the Americas and Caribbean Zone and, in 1982, became territorial leaders of the USA Eastern Territory.

The following year they were appointed National Commander, USA, and National President of Women's Organisations, respectively. They retired from active service in 1986. Commissioner Norman Marshall was promoted to Glory in 1995.

A gifted vocalist and accomplished pianist, Mrs Commissioner Marshall will also be remembered for her grace of dignity, warm personal touch and dedicated leadership.

A daughter, Ms Tanne Santa Maria, lives at [REDACTED], Des Plaines, Illinois [REDACTED], USA.

ENGAGEMENTS

GENERAL SHAW CLIFTON AND COMMISSIONER HELEN CLIFTON:

ICO, Tu 1 Mar*; IHQ (farewell), Th 24

THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF (COMMISSIONER BARRY SWANSON) AND COMMISSIONER SUE SWANSON:

ICO, Fri 4 Mar; IHQ (farewell to General Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton), Th 24

THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER (COMMISSIONER JOHN MATEAR) AND COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH MATEAR:

Swanwick (social services conference), Wed 2 Mar; Horsham, Sat Sun 6; William Booth College, Wed 9; South and Mid Wales (divisional congress), Sun 13; Mozambique, Tu 15 - Tu 22

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (COLONEL BRIAN PEDDLE) AND COLONEL ROSALIE PEDDLE:

Sunderland Millfield, Sat Sun 27 Feb; Swanwick (social services conference), Mon 28*; Morriston, Sat Sun 6 Mar; Sunbury Court (London North-East officers retreat), Tu 15 - Th 17; North-Western (divisional officers retreat), Mon 21 - Th 24

Commissioners Larry and Gillian

Bosh: Thurso, Sat Sun 6 Mar

Commissioner William Cochrane:

Sunbury Court (International Moral and Social Issues Council), Th 10 Mar - Sat 12

Commissioners James and Jan

Condon: Hong Kong, Fri 25 Feb - Mon 28

Commissioners Kenneth and Jolene

Hodder: USA Southern, Th 24 Feb - Sun 27; Kenya East (retirement of territorial leader), Th 3 Mar - Mon 7; Sunbury Court (International Moral and Social Issues Council), Th 10 - Sat 12*

Commissioners Lalkiamlova and

Lalhlmpuii: India Eastern, Th 24 Feb - Fri 4 Mar

*wife will not accompany

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

UK Territory

PROMOTION

To major -

Captain Kenneth Sandison, Erskine.

JOHN MATEAR,

Commissioner,
Territorial Commander

TRIBUTES



MAJOR VERA TURNER

VERA was born in 1935 and started attending The Salvation Army in her teenage years. She entered the training college from Castleford in the 1954 Soulwinners Session and a year later was commissioned and appointed to goodwill work, initially at Birmingham.

In 1957 she was appointed to work with Brigadier Lilian Riches and together they served at various goodwill appointments including Newcastle and Falmouth Road. The major also spent time at National Headquarters, where her final appointment was as secretary to the Chief Secretary.

Throughout her officership she lived up to her sessional name, winning many souls for Christ. In her retirement with Brigadier Riches, the major was an active corps member at Uxbridge.

Sadly, in recent months she was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and had many periods in hospital. Throughout her illness, her faithfulness and trust in God did not waver. She was ready and wanting to be with the Lord.

Major Turner was a lady with a great sense of humour, full of love, gentleness and kindness for all. For those who knew her, it was a great privilege. – S. H.



SONGSTER MRS IVY SAVILLE, WOODHOUSE

IVY first attended Attercliffe Corps. She moved to Sheffield Park after marriage to Clifford in 1945. Ivy loved children and always had an active role in Sunday school as a company guard. She also served as YP treasurer and singing company sergeant.

In 1974 the family transferred to Woodhouse where Ivy again shared her knowledge of the Bible with the young people. She loved to sing and was a loyal songster and home league member. When illness prevented her attendance, she continued to sing at home – bringing blessing to family and friends.

Ivy was promoted to Glory on Christmas Day after living a life of love and devotion to the Lord, to her husband and family and to the Army. – M. S./C. S./D. S.



MRS EDITH MACKERETH, GATESHEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

PROMOTED to Glory at 94, Edie was a second-generation Salvationist at Wrekenton. She transferred to Gateshead Citadel, taking over from her mother as home league treasurer. A prayer partner to several young people, Edie

was a quiet person with a great influence on many. She had a similar effect on care home staff during the last four years; some were visibly moved when they attended her funeral, for which Andrew, her eldest grandson, composed 'The Angel Of The North', based on two notes, 'E, D', representing her name, which he and his family played.

Edie is greatly missed by Ray and Mavis, Bryan and Sylvia, her five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren and all who knew her. – R. M.



MRS EDNA PINDRED, DONCASTER

BORN in 1918, Edna was a fourth-generation Salvationist and No 1 on the corps roll. She married Wesley in 1939, a partnership that lasted 52 years until his promotion to Glory.

Edna was a lady who preferred to work in the background, supporting her husband as the bandmaster's wife. She was known for her baking and needlework and was a lovely Christian who loved the Lord.

Her faith remained strong and was evident to the staff in the care home where she lived the last months of her life.

She is greatly missed by her family, but is now in Heaven with the Lord. – C. E.



MRS ELAINE CROWHURST, EXETER

ELAINE was born in 1922. When she became a widow, a concerned friend took her to the home league in 1985. Elaine was soundly converted three months later through a sermon on backsliding, which led her to correct her life and seek the Lord's forgiveness.

From that moment Elaine became a kinder person, able to tell of her experience. She testified to many answered prayers and to the assurance of being able to pray when things went wrong and know that the Lord was always there.

Elaine made a real impact on people. They described her as a lovely, supportive lady, whom it was a privilege to know. She advised anyone lonely or feeling down to 'come to the home league'. – L. B.



MRS MARION PARKIN, WINTON

MARION was born at Kelso, Scotland, in 1920. She was 'born again' in Glasgow, and served there within a youthful corps. She met and married Len, an RAF trainee. Both were called to Salvation Army officership; Marion trained in the 1942 Valiant Session.

Marion was the home league secretary at Tottenham before moving to Winton, where she was the cradle roll sergeant and, later, the

corps cadet guardian. During this time the brigade won the National Banner and four went into officership.

Her husband Len recalls that she recited the opening chapter of John's Gospel from memory, while standing by the writer's tomb in Turkey.

She was a loving and caring mother of three children, and her smiling face always spoke sincerity. – L. P.



AGNES (NANCY) KERR, ABERDEEN CITADEL

PROMOTED to Glory at the age of 90, Nancy was born into a Salvationist family and attended the Army from birth. She progressed through Sunday school, becoming a junior soldier, senior soldier and songster. She was also a life-saving guard and gained the distinction of achieving the General's Guard Award.

Nancy is sadly missed by her only daughter, Maureen. – M. R.

CYRIL BUSH, YEOVIL

A LIFELONG Salvationist and valued corps member, Cyril was promoted to Glory at the age of 90 after a short illness.

During the war he joined the Royal Navy and served in various parts of the world, including the North Atlantic on the treacherous Russian convoys. His ship was in Plymouth when that city was bombed, and Cyril helped Exeter Hall Salvationists clear the damage. He also served during the Korean War.

In his earlier years Cyril played in the YP and senior bands, and latterly offered warm friendship and practical service in many different ways. His faith in the Lord sustained him through recent difficult times, and he remained strong to the end. – A. W.



MRS JOYCE BUSH, YEOVIL

JOYCE was promoted to Glory, aged 89, eight days after her husband Cyril. They were married for 63 years but Joyce spent the last 18 months in a nursing home, separated from her childhood sweetheart. They are now reunited in Heaven.

During the war Joyce was a driver in the ATS. She drove staff cars during the D-Day landings, with heavy lorries with guns in tow.

In her younger days Joyce was captain of the torchbearer cycling club and played tennis and badminton. With a friend, she started the ladies fellowship at the corps and – until illness prevented her attendance – was part of the flower-arranging and catering teams. Her faith remained strong to the end. – A. W.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Surprised By Grief – A Journey Into Hope by Janine Fair,
Inter-Varsity Press, £7.99

THE fact that there are many reviews placed at the beginning of this book, by Christians in notable positions of responsibility, indicates that it is a book to be commended. The author had the horrendous experience of waking in the middle of the night to discover that her husband, an Anglican minister, was dying. Within hours the terrifying truth dawned on her that she had been left alone in this world to bring up two small children.

This is the start of a journey that is recounted by a remarkably brave and honest woman. She carefully and sincerely captures the journey in words which clearly express her intense, emotional experiences – words that also highlight the care of the Church and how difficult it was to embrace such kindness through her own grief.

In an incredibly self-giving manner, the writer is willing to share with her readers her feelings of anger and fear, her sense of

isolation and brokenness. However, she also shares the way in which the undergirding of the love and presence of God made a difference to her and gave her strength.

The journey takes time and leaves the reader understanding that bereavement cannot be rushed through. It is a book that leaves us in no doubt that pain is real. None of us can truly empathise with the writer unless we have stood in her shoes, experienced the continuous pain of feeling alone. Yet through it all she writes: ‘There are not words enough to express the gratitude I feel [towards God]. That he could use even the devastation of my grief to draw me closer to his side is a marvellous mystery that I can never hope to fully understand.’

This companionship of God is not forced upon her, but is a continuous awareness that God is present and desires to lead her forward.

This is a powerful story of one person’s journey from death into life. – J. S.

■ *Surprised By Grief – A Journey Into Hope* is available from good book stores and online at amazon.co.uk

BIBLE VERSE

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38 and 39 *New International Version*)

QUOTE

Those of faith are aware that death is merely a gateway into eternity, a comma in a continuum. The questing mind, outside of faith, may allow the possibility of further dimensions of existence. Christians know that Heaven is our eternal home!

Quote and prayer (below) taken from
On A Winter’s Mourning by Lucille Turfrey

A PERSONAL PRAYER

Father, I thank you for the hints of Heaven that you have implanted in my heart. By faith, I know there is an eternal home for the human soul. Prepare my heart for eternity so that, in the ultimate, I may share in the reunions and the fellowship of Heaven. I trust in your unfailing love. Amen.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Snowdrop Valley, Exmoor. Picture: KEN BOVEY