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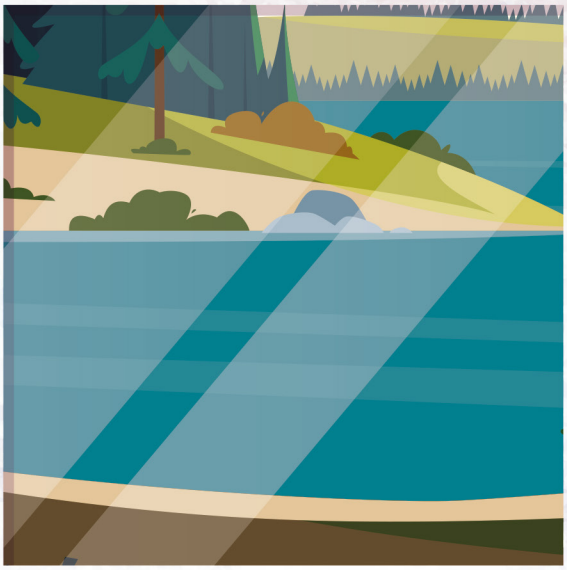
Salvation Army Life and Times

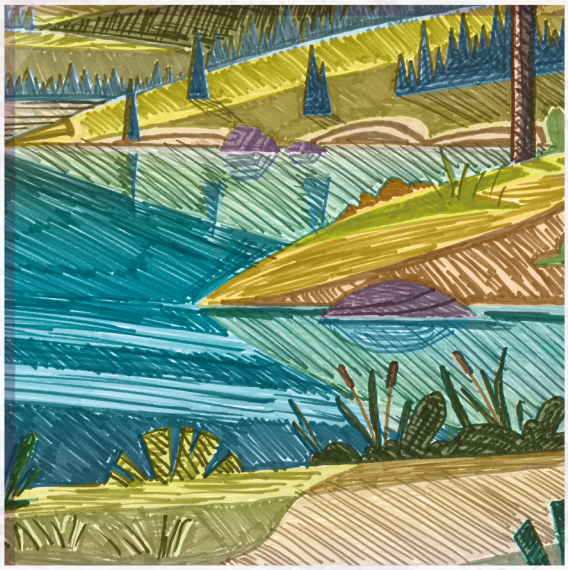
Learning to Swim
Prayer on the Footpath
Comfort in His Word
Treasures Across the Territory

November 2026 | saltmagazine.org.nz









Look Again

Finding a New Perspective

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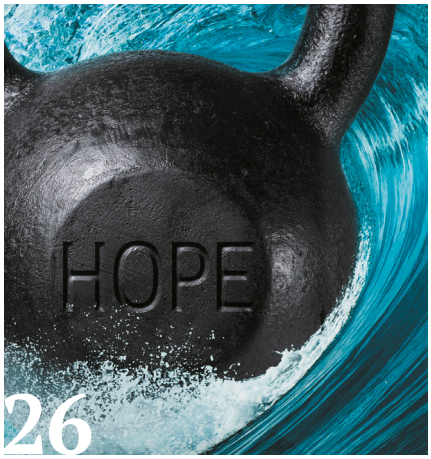
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SALT Magazine

The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

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SALT *and* Light—*and change*

Kia ora e te whānau,

If you've heard the news, you will know that this is our second-to-last print issue of *SALT*. From February 2027, we will move to a new-look *SALT* that will be primarily digital (so read online), however, for those who prefer to read hard copy we are designing it so it can be easily printed on a home or office printer.

The new *SALT* will retain the content readers told us they love but will be shorter with a stronger Army focus. To deliver on the desire for a tool that tells of the Army's work and faith we will launch, in March 2027, a new print publication, *Light*, that will come out quarterly and be available at most of our Army facilities.

I know that change can be difficult, but as followers of Jesus Christ we need to do as He did and go to where the people are using the channels they use. In Luke 7:22, He tells the messengers (the popular communications channel of the day) to report to John the Baptist what they had seen and heard.

In the Book of Revelation, the author, John, is told to 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches'. Again, the use of a popular communications channel, this time to send a more formal message.

Ninety-six percent of New Zealanders are online, and our website attracts 57,000 visitors per month, but data shows that people struggle to find what they need. We are fixing that, and in February 2027 we will launch a new website that tells of our services, faith and work but in a more dynamic way.

Changing *SALT* does not mean that we leave God behind because His presence is always with us, as Captain Emma Howan reminds us on page 8 as she shares about her cancer journey and the importance of prayer.

You can read about the impact of God's presence in Tonga at the 40th anniversary celebrations of The Salvation Army in the Kingdom of Tonga on page 20.

Finally, to reassure you that the new *SALT* is in good hands, on page 26 we introduce a new writer, Major Allan Bateman who from next April will be writing regularly for *SALT*.

Trina

Trina Saffioti
Editor



'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.' **REVELATION 1:11B**

INTERNATIONAL PRAYER

- **Syria**—Syria was once known for religious tolerance, compared to many other nations in the Middle East. However, since the civil war began in 2011, Syrian Christians have been caught in the crossfire of conflict between Muslim factions. More than 750,000 Christians have been driven from the country. Christian communities in Syria continue to worship and serve faithfully, although many still face significant social, economic and security challenges. Those who openly share their faith can face opposition from extremists and the government. Pray for Christians who have chosen to stay in Syria to serve as a witness for Christ.
- **North Korea**—Christianity is considered subversive and is brutally opposed in North Korea. All North Koreans are required to follow the Juche religion. Anyone discovered to be a Christian or have interest in the Bible is considered an enemy of the state. Christians are sent to prison and labour camps where they are starved, overworked and tortured. Despite the threat of persecution, Christians in North Korea hold firmly to their faith. Pray that the estimated 30,000 North Korean Christians in prison and labour camps will know the Lord's peace and presence.

SALVATION ARMY PRAYER

Ashburton Corps; Auckland City Corps; Auckland City Korean Corps; Ba Corps; Blenheim Corps; Blue Mountain Adventure Centre; Booth College of Mission; The Salvation Army in USA Western; The Salvation Army in Denmark and Greenland; The Salvation Army in Eastern Europe; and The Salvation Army in Finland and Estonia.







Christmas is better when it's shared

Christmas naturally makes us think about family, connection, generosity and caring for others. For many people, sharing food, gifts, time and hospitality is part of what makes Christmas special.

We know many families continue to face financial pressures throughout the year, and Christmas can add extra strain. For some households, there are difficult choices between food, gifts, bills and other essentials.

If we're fortunate enough to enjoy Christmas with our loved ones, we can help someone else experience some of that joy too. We can share a little of what we have to help someone else this Christmas.

Donations to The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal help turn generosity into practical support for people and families facing hardship this Christmas.

Donate online at:
SalvationArmy.org.nz/Christmas



Springtime Pasta

This is an easy-to-adapt weeknight pasta that balances the savoury bacon flavour with a fresh lemony zing. | 40 mins | Serves 2.

Ingredients

- 350g pasta
- 250 grams streaky bacon
- 1 medium onion
- 1 clove of garlic (or more)
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- Cracked pepper
- ½ tsp chilli flakes (optional)
- ½ Tbsp lemon zest
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice (or to taste)
- ½ cup chicken stock
- Frozen (or fresh) peas
- Frozen (or fresh) beans, chopped to size
- Parmesan, finely grated
- Handful of fresh parsley (chopped)

Method

Boil pasta in salted water until slightly under al dente, then put some of the pasta water aside and drain.

Chop bacon into slices and fry in a pan with a little oil until crispy. Remove bacon onto paper towel, leaving the oil in the pan.

Add chopped onion and garlic to the bacon oil and sauté until soft and slightly golden. Lightly salt.

Add chilli flakes (if using), cracked pepper, oregano and lemon zest, and fry for a minute.

Add lemon juice, cooking for a few minutes until slightly reduced. Add chicken stock and cook until reduced to about half.

Add the pasta to the sauce and mix. Add frozen peas and beans. If it is too dry, add some of the leftover pasta water. Mix until the veggies are slightly cooked. Continue to add a tablespoon at a time of pasta water to get a good sauce consistency.

Top with grated parmesan and mix, then add chopped parsley. Taste and adjust with salt, pasta water and lemon juice to taste. Plate up, topping with the crispy bacon, any leftover parmesan and a dash of salt.



INTRIGUING INDEX

Transformation

Transformation is a natural part of life, from the seasons to technological advancements. Here are some fascinating facts about change that might surprise you:

1 Cellular change

The human body is constantly changing, even when we do not notice it. Millions of cells die and are replaced every day, allowing our bodies to grow, heal and adapt. Different cell types renew at different rates. Some are replaced in days and others last a lifetime.

2 Living language

Over time, new words emerge, meanings shift and language adapts to reflect changes in culture and society. For example, the word awful, now used to describe something bad, once meant 'awe inspiring', while the word nice originally meant 'silly or foolish'.

3 Ways of working

The way people work has changed dramatically in recent decades. Remote and hybrid work have transformed how teams connect and collaborate. As technology continues to remove barriers of time and place, people are embracing portfolio careers, spreading their skills across multiple organisations.

4 Limitless learning

Online courses and distance education have opened new pathways for people of all ages and circumstances. Education continues to evolve, with nearly 40,000 New Zealand school students choosing some form of distance learning in 2024.

QUICK QUIZ

1 What process transforms grape juice into wine?

2 Who experienced a dramatic transformation on the road to Damascus?

3 What precious metal is formed inside exploding stars?

4 What is the process a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly?

5 Which Marvel character was the first to be transformed when exposed to gamma radiation?

Answers page 32

Thoughts on Thought Matters



Thought Matters 2026 was one of the best conferences I have attended. The relevance of the theme to our faith and practice was clear, as nearly 100 people attended in person with many more online. The weekend opened with a presentation from Major Campbell Roberts titled 'The genuine alternative society: global anxiety and what The Salvation Army could be'. Campbell acknowledged the climate of anxiety that characterises our world today and asked, 'do we live by the peace that we preach, or have we caught the anxiety of the age?' Captain Grace Duxfield's presentation addressed a challenge in The Salvation Army as a holiness movement—the comparison, concealment and curation associated with performative holiness. She notes the anxiety generated in trying to be 'good enough' to maintain belonging, posing the poignant question: 'what version of myself do I need to put forward to retain the belonging I need?' This question was brought into stark relief as others shared their own challenges around a Salvationist identity and mental health, sexuality or illness.

Caroline Jewkes, cultural development advisor (Mission Support)

What's On?

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

02 November



Day set aside for Christians to unite in prayer for believers who face persecution for their faith.

Online Spiritual Retreat

05 November

For more information, email your interest: **jules.badger@salvationarmy.org.nz**



Father and Kids Weekend | BMAC, Raurimu

06–08 November

bluemountainadventure.org.nz



Booth College Graduation

05 December

Booth College of Mission, Upper Hutt. Events will be live-streamed at **salvationarmy.org.nz/graduation26**

Ordination and Commissioning (NZ and Fiji)

11–13 December

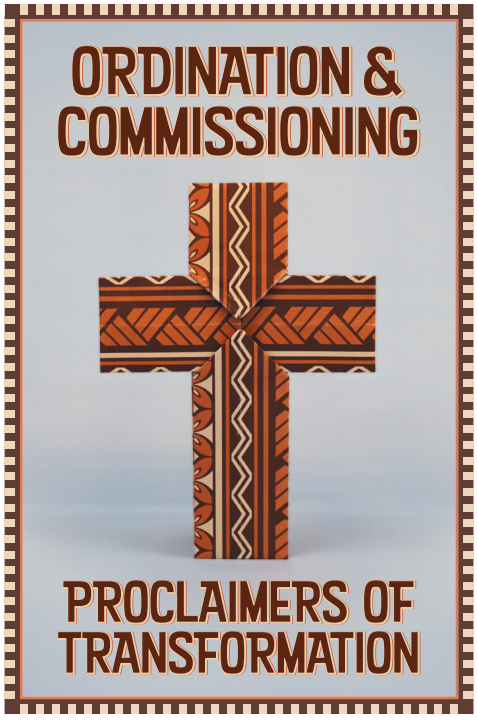
USP Laucala Campus, Suva. Events will be live-streamed at **salvationarmy.org.nz/commissioning26**

Aranui Corps 50th Anniversary

23–24 January 2027

For more information, contact: **helen.knowles@salvationarmy.org.nz**

Check out our full event calendar at **salvationarmy.org.nz/events**





All It Takes Is A Goal

Self-help | Jon Acuff | Baker Books

In *All It Takes Is A Goal*, Jon Acuff offers a practical and encouraging framework for developing your potential through three types of goals: easy goals, middle goals and guaranteed goals. Rather than starting with a vision for the future, Acuff challenges readers to use their past as a springboard into a purposeful future. Filled with his trademark humour and relatable stories, he breaks down goal setting into manageable steps. The book focuses not only on success and potential, but on building confidence and momentum. Whether you're feeling stuck, lacking direction or looking for a new way to approach your goals, *All It Takes Is A Goal* is an inspiring and practical read. (Reviewed by Kelly Cooper)



Coyote vs. Acme

Comedy, Kids & Family | Directed by Dave Green | PG

Looney Tunes were hit-and-miss for me as a child, but the one constant hit was Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner—the dialogue-free storytelling was brilliant, creative and unhinged. CS Lewis believed that a children's story which is only enjoyed by children is a bad children's story, and I'm happy to say that *Coyote vs. Acme* passes the test. Adults can enjoy both the nostalgia factor and the courtroom drama satire, while the slapstick humour of the original cartoon should keep children entertained. Oh, who am I kidding? I loved the slapstick elements as well. A welcome addition to the *Looney Tunes* catalogue. (Reviewed by Sam Coates)

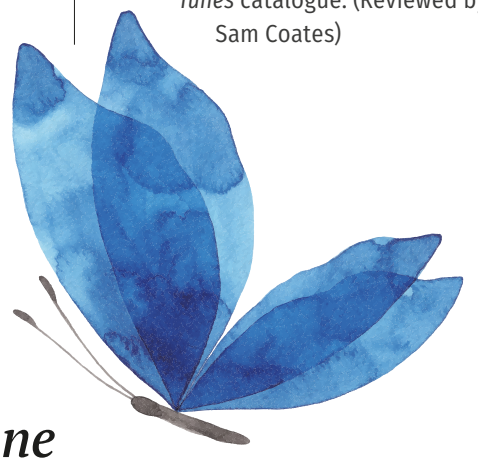


The Dog Stars

Post apocalyptic, Drama | Directed by Ridley Scott | R

The Dog Stars is a slow-burning, post-apocalyptic drama that feels more interested in loneliness, grief and meaning than action. While there are moments of violence and an explosive climax, much of the film unfolds at a measured pace that may test modern viewers. The most interesting element is the community of Mennonites who have befriended the protagonist. Part of the Anabaptist tradition, they are known for simple living, peace and faith-centred communities. In a world marked by chaos and violence, their quiet way of life provides the film's moral vision. *The Dog Stars* suggests that hope may be found not in rebuilding the old world, but in community, faith and connection. (Reviewed by Kai Sanders)

> *"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."*
>
> MAYA ANGELOU



WORD OF THE MONTH

Liliu

(Tongan, noun) change.

Source: glosbe.com

Do You Know These People?

If you recognise the people in this photo, we'd love to hear from you. Email: **archives@salvationarmy.org.nz**



Learning to Swim: Prayer, Anxiety and the Presence of God

'The waters are rising, but so am I.' These words from Catherine Booth have stayed with me over the past year in ways I never expected.

WORDS *Captain Emma Howan*

For much of my Christian life, I assumed faith and anxiety sat at opposite ends of a spectrum. Faith meant trust, confidence and peace. Anxiety meant fear, worry and uncertainty. If my faith was strong enough, surely anxiety would diminish.

Then in 2020, at age 29, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatment, I was told there was no evidence of disease. I celebrated. My family celebrated. We thanked God and moved forward with life.

Five years later, that story changed.

What began as some unusual symptoms became scans, tests and eventually words I never imagined hearing: the cancer had returned and spread to my bones, liver and lungs. This time it was stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. This time there would be no cure.

Suddenly I was living in a world filled with uncertainty. How long would treatment work? What would happen to my family? What would ministry look like? What would life look like a year from now?

Anxiety became an almost permanent companion.

As I began reading books and memoirs written by people living with advanced cancer, I noticed something interesting. Very few spoke about conquering anxiety. Most spoke about learning to live with it.

They described anxiety as something that rose and fell like the tide. It accompanied scan results, hospital appointments, new symptoms and difficult decisions. It wasn't a problem to be solved once and for all. It was part of the landscape.

I found myself wondering whether Christians sometimes create expectations God never intended us to carry. What if faith does not always mean freedom from anxiety? What if faith can co-exist with fear?

Most importantly, what does prayer look like when anxiety refuses to leave?

When prayer doesn't fix everything

I have prayed more during the past year than perhaps at any other time in my life.

I have prayed in oncology waiting rooms. I've prayed lying awake at 3am. I've prayed before scans and after phone calls from doctors. I've prayed through tears, confusion and exhaustion.

And if I'm honest, prayer has not removed my anxiety. At least, not in the way I expected.

There have been moments when God's peace has felt tangible and overwhelming. But there have also been many moments when I finished praying and the anxiety was still there. For a while, I thought this meant I was doing prayer wrong.



Perhaps I wasn't praying hard enough. Perhaps I lacked faith. Perhaps there was some spiritual secret I had missed. Over time, however, I began to realise that I was approaching prayer as a solution rather than a relationship.

I wanted prayer to eliminate uncertainty. God seemed more interested in accompanying me through it. Prayer became less about controlling outcomes and more about remaining connected to God in circumstances I could not control.

I stopped trying to bring God polished prayers and began bringing Him honest ones. Sometimes those prayers sounded remarkably unspiritual:

'God, I'm scared.'

'I don't know what happens next.'

'I don't think I can do this.'

'I need help.'

I discovered that prayer does not require courage before we come to God. Prayer is often the place where we bring our lack of courage.

The Psalms are full of this kind of honesty. They remind us that faith has always included lament, questions, tears and uncertainty. God does not seem threatened by our fear. Nor does He require us to hide it from Him.

God does not seem threatened by our fear. Nor does He require us to hide it from Him.

The gift of Catherine Booth

As I wrestled with these questions, I found myself returning repeatedly to the life of Catherine Booth.

In 1888, Catherine was diagnosed with breast cancer. Doctors initially gave her only a short time to live. For the final years of her life, she lived with increasing pain and physical decline.

When we tell Catherine's story today, there can be a temptation to remember only her courage. We often celebrate her determination, her preaching and her influence on the early Salvation Army.

All of that is true. But Catherine was also profoundly human.

Her letters and recorded conversations reveal someone who grieved deeply. She worried about her husband William. She worried about her children. She worried about the future of the movement she had helped build. She knew what it meant to face uncertainty.

Yet what strikes me most is not the absence of anxiety in Catherine's life. It is her refusal to let anxiety have the final word.

Again and again, she turned towards God.

Again and again, she continued praying.

Again and again, she continued serving.

Even when cancer eventually robbed her of the ability to write with her right hand, she learned to write with her left.

Even when cancer eventually robbed her of the ability to write with her right hand, she learned to write with her left. When she could no longer do that, she dictated letters and messages from her bed.

Her circumstances narrowed, but her faith continued to find expression.

The image that stays with me most is not Catherine triumphantly standing above suffering. It is Catherine remaining faithful in the middle of suffering. That feels far more relatable.

The waters are rising

One of Catherine's most famous statements came near the end of her life:

'The waters are rising, but so am I. I am not going under, but over.'

For years, I interpreted those words as a declaration of victory. Now I hear them differently. The phrase begins with an acknowledgement of reality. The waters are rising. Not might rise. Not could rise. Are rising.

Catherine did not deny the seriousness of her illness. She did not pretend things were easy. She didn't call the waters something else. She named them.

For me, the waters have often looked like anxiety. The anxiety of scan results. The anxiety of saying goodbye to people as they leave a hospital room. The anxiety that appears unexpectedly when life feels normal and then suddenly doesn't.

Prayer has not removed those waters. Instead, prayer has helped me remain afloat within them. I suspect many people reading this know exactly what I mean. Perhaps your waters are illness. Perhaps they are financial pressure, relationship breakdown, grief or uncertainty about the future.

Many of us spend enormous amounts of energy trying to push anxiety away. Prayer invites us into something different. Prayer teaches us to acknowledge the waters honestly while trusting that God remains present within them.

Learning to swim

Over the past year, I have started thinking about faith as learning to swim. Swimming does not stop the water existing. It does not change the depth. It does not remove the waves. What it does is teach us how to move through them.

That is increasingly how I understand prayer. Prayer is not always a rescue boat arriving to carry us out of difficult circumstances. Sometimes prayer is learning new strokes. A whispered prayer before an appointment. A deep breath while waiting for results. A text message asking others to pray. A decision to attend church when anxiety says stay home. A choice to trust God's character when we cannot trust our circumstances.

These may seem like small things. Yet they are often profound acts of faith. When anxiety tells us we are

When anxiety tells us we are alone, prayer reminds us of God's presence.

Yet I am learning, slowly and imperfectly, that prayer is not about pretending the waters aren't there. It is about discovering that God is there too.

alone, prayer reminds us of God's presence. When anxiety tells us the future must be controlled, prayer teaches surrender. When anxiety tells us to retreat inwards, prayer opens us outwards towards God and towards others.

Learning to swim does not mean becoming fearless. It means discovering that fear does not have to determine our direction.

Praying anyway

One of the greatest lessons I am learning is that prayer is valuable even when it doesn't immediately change how I feel.

Much of contemporary Christian culture is understandably attracted to breakthrough stories. We celebrate miraculous answers, dramatic transformations and instant peace.

Those stories matter. But they are not the whole story. Sometimes faithful prayer looks less dramatic. Sometimes it is simply turning up. Opening Scripture when concentration is difficult. Whispering a few words when we cannot manage more. Allowing others to pray on our behalf when we have run out of words ourselves.

Prayer is not measured by eloquence or certainty. It is measured by relationship. Some days my prayers feel strong and confident. Other days they feel fragile and incomplete. I am learning that God receives both. The value of prayer is not found in our ability to perform it perfectly. The value is found in the God who listens.

The presence beneath the water

The promise of Scripture is not that believers will avoid deep waters. It is that God will meet us there. That promise has become increasingly precious to me. I would never have chosen this journey. I would never have chosen the lessons anxiety has taught me.



Above: Captain Emma Howan.

But I have discovered something beautiful within the struggle. God's presence is not reserved for the moments when we feel peaceful, confident or strong. His presence extends equally into our fear.

Into our questions. Into our uncertainty. Into the middle of the night when anxiety wakes us before dawn.

The waters may still rise. There are days when mine certainly do. Yet I am learning, slowly and imperfectly, that prayer is not about pretending the waters aren't there. It is about discovering that God is there too.

And perhaps that is what faith has been all along. Not the absence of anxiety. Not certainty about the future. But the daily decision to keep turning towards God, to keep praying and to keep swimming.

The waters are rising. But by the grace of God, so are we. ◆

Treasures Across the Territory

As we wrap up Tino Taonga Month, we hear from the four countries in our territory around how they see children and young people as 'precious treasures'.

Treasured in te ao Māori

Tracey Cooper, communications/writer, Te Tai Hono

Tā te tamariki tāna nei mahi wāwāhi tahā—It is the job of the children to smash the calabash—acknowledges that children make mistakes and push boundaries as they grow and learn.

In te ao Māori, tamariki and rangatahi are regarded as taonga, the most precious things. They are the living link between our tūpuna and the generations yet to come, and they will be the ones who carry our whakapapa into the future.

As such, our young people are nurtured, protected and guided with care and aroha. Their wellbeing is inseparable from the wellbeing of our whānau, hapū and iwi, now and into the future.

These beliefs closely align with the values of Te Ope Whakaora, which sees each child as a gift made in the image of God, inherently valuable and worthy of safety, opportunity and belonging.

When taken together—te ao Māori belief in the sacredness of our young people and the values of Te Ope Whakaora to provide safe and supportive environments for them to thrive as God intended—the deep reverence we have for young people comes to the fore as they forge a future in Christ for all of us.

Treasured in Samoan culture

Aitu Perelini, corps assistant, Samoa Corps

I totonu o le aganuu Samoa, e fa'atauaina tele tamaiti ma tupulaga talavou ona o i latou o le lumana'i o aiga, nu'u ma le atunuu. E talitonu Samoa o fanau o se meaalofa mai le Atua, ma o le tiute a matua, aiga ma le nuu atoa le tausia, aoao ma taialaina i latou i auala lelei o le olaga.

I totonu o aiga Samoa, e galulue faatasi tagata uma e lagolagoina fanau ina ia ola a'e ma avea ma tagata lelei ma aogā mo le sosaiete. E aoaoina tupulaga talavou e fa'aaloalo i matua ma ē matutua, auai i galuega a le aiga ma le ekalesia, ma fesoasoani i taimi e mana'omia ai.

O le mea lea, e manatu Samoa ma le Autau o le Faaolataga o tamaiti ma tupulaga talavou o se oa tāua e ao ona alofagia, puipuia ma faamalosia ina ia ausia lo latou gafatia atoatoa i le olaga, ma avea ai ma taitai ma auauna lelei mo le Atua, aiga, nuu ma le atunuu.

In Samoan culture, children and young people are highly valued because they represent the future of families, villages and the nation. Our people believe that children are a gift from God, and it is the responsibility of parents, family members and the wider community



to nurture, teach and guide them in the right ways of life.

Within Samoan families, everyone works together to support children so that they may grow into good and responsible members of society. Young people are taught to respect their parents and elders, participate in family and church activities, and help whenever they are needed.

Both Samoan culture and The Salvation Army regard children and young people as precious treasures who should be loved, protected and encouraged to reach their full potential in life, becoming future leaders and faithful servants of God, their families, communities and the nation.



Treasured in Fijian culture

Laite Naviko, assistant youth leader, Savusavu Corps

In our Fijian cultural context, yau talei, or 'treasure', is a powerful reminder that children and young people are of great value, not only to their families but also to the church and wider community. It reflects the deep respect in our culture for nurturing the next generation, recognising that they carry the future of faith and tradition.

Within Savusavu Corps, where diverse cultures come together, yau talei is seen in the way youth and children are encouraged, taught and given opportunities to grow.

Through Bible teaching, devotions and community involvement, they are reminded that their worth is not measured by possessions but by their faith, character and service.

Youth leaders who actively walk alongside them see how being considered yau talei inspires young people to take responsibility, show leadership and care for others. In simple terms, yau talei means seeing our young people as precious gifts entrusted to us, and the corps shows this by investing love, time and guidance into their journey of faith, ensuring they know they are valued treasures in God's kingdom.

Treasured in Tongan culture

Lieutenant Sekilini Vasu, regional children's secretary

In Tongan culture, children and young people are koloa mahu'inga (precious treasures) given by God to families, churches and communities. They are seen not only as the future of the Church but also as an important part of God's mission today.

In The Salvation Army Tonga Region, we intentionally create opportunities for children and young people to be heard, seen and included. They regularly share testimonies, take part in creative ministries, lead worship and preach throughout the year, not only during Sapate Fakame (White Sunday). They are encouraged to grow as disciples by serving in music ministries, praying, helping with offerings, and participating in ministry and age-appropriate decision-making.

As a region, we are continually learning and working towards ensuring that children are not only present but are genuinely listened to, valued, empowered and protected. We believe that when this happens, we honour them as God's precious treasures and equip them to become faithful disciples and leaders for His kingdom. We may not have everything perfect, but we are intentionally working to balance all these areas so that every child and young person can flourish in God's love and purpose.

Get Out of the Fridge, Stay Fed and Stay Bubbly

As I write this, here in New Zealand we find ourselves in the thick of an unusual election with an uncertain outcome. Around the world, politics continues to polarise, long-standing alliances are being tested, and conflict and division never seem far from the headlines. Closer to home, our own movement continues to walk through the tension of change, adapting to new structures and ways of being together as we seek to respond faithfully to God's call in a rapidly changing environment.

In that context, I want to pause and simply say thank you. Thank you to you all for your ongoing faithfulness to God's call on your life and also the calling He has for us together. Specifically, thanks to those who have engaged so positively in the Financial Principles journey we have been on together over the past 18 months. The thoughtful conversations, questions, feedback and willingness to participate reflect our shared commitment to strengthening the mission God has entrusted to us.

Amid all the noise, uncertainty and change, it is important to continually pause, and remember that we serve a God who is constant. He encourages us to 'be still, and know that (He is) God' (Psalm 46:10). Before we react, strategise or worry, we remember that God is still God of the nations. Nothing taking place around us has taken Him by surprise.

At the same time, being still is not the same as retreating. We cannot withdraw into a comfortable existence (even within our church life) and disengage from the world God loves. We are called to remain active participants in His mission of grace, hope and reconciliation.

This brings me to a hobby I have recently taken up: sourdough breadmaking. One thing I've discovered is that a sourdough starter can't stay hidden away in the fridge. To thrive and have influence, it needs to come out, be fed, and get active and bubbly ready for the dough.

Perhaps there is a lesson there for us. In a world marked by division and uncertainty, God's people are called to stay spiritually nourished, actively engaged and full of life. As we remain close to Jesus, His influence works through us like yeast through dough, quietly but powerfully bringing transformation wherever we find ourselves.



Major Bryant Richards
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

Psalm 46:10

He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' (NIV)

Kia āta noho, ā, kia mātau ko ahau te Atua; e whakanuia ahau i waenganui i ngā tauiwi, e whakanuia ahau i te whenua. (PT)

Dou tiko lo, mo dou kila ni'u sa Kalou: Ka'u na vakalevulevui e na veimatanitu, ka'u na vakalevulevui e vuravura. (FOV)

"Mou tuku, 'o 'ilo ko au Elohimi, Te u hiliō 'i he ngaahi kakai, te u hiliō 'i māmani." (TMB)

Ina soia, ma ia outou iloa o a'u lava o le Atua; e viia a'u i nuu ese, e viia a'u i le lalolagi. (SOV)





Above: Catch Network training participants in Fiji.

Mission Team Inspires Island Dreams

Penny Harding hears about the Catch Network training in Fiji, encouraging leaders to dream up different ways to follow Jesus in their communities.

A farmer in Korovau, a remote village in the north of Fiji's main island Viti Levu, is imagining what it would be like to be part of a faith community with his friends and neighbours.

A group of believers in Levuka, a small town on one of Fiji's smaller islands, is also dreaming big dreams, which started with a village clean-up in Natokalau.

In September, The Salvation Army teamed up with Catch Network Aotearoa to travel to Fiji to imagine creative new ways of following Jesus in different contexts.

Leaders and ministry workers came together for training at the School for Officer Training in Suva for learning, reflection, worship and fellowship. The programme focused on strengthening leadership, understanding mission and ministry, developing spiritual practices and encouraging participants to continue growing together in their service to God.

The team was led by Salvation Army Pioneering Coordinator for Mission Captain Steve Molen and Manurewa Corps Plant Officer Captain Faye Molen, and facilitated by Catch Network's Reverend Scottie Reeve and Reverend Alison Robinson.

Steve says the group explored different types of faith communities



Above: Captains Steve and Faye Molen.

that people can experiment with. The teachings focused on Jesus being Lord; the spiritual hunger of people searching for more; and being a sent people.

'We also looked at discovering who are our evangelists, apostles, teachers, shepherds and prophets and how to use them in ministry.'

'They have got this passion to do new things and are passionate about Jesus,' he says.

Steve says he was encouraged by the excitement he saw among the participants. 'They have got this passion to do new things and are passionate about Jesus,' he says. 'People were getting excited and starting to dream about what they could do.'

A good catch

Catch Network founder Scottie Reeve says he welcomed the chance to take their training to Fiji. 'We have been partnering with The Salvation Army

for quite a while, training church planters.' He says establishing faith communities doesn't necessarily require a big budget or staff. 'We can make disciples wherever we are. When we got the invite for Fiji, we thought that was a really good learning opportunity for us.' Planning for the training in Fiji involved adapting the Catch approach for the local context, looking for Fijian examples and working on different metaphors to describe things.

Scottie used fishing as a metaphor to illustrate different faith communities—how different types of fishing required different skills. 'The key thing being that they know more about fishing than we do.'

He says they found the Fijian participants to be warm and passionate people. 'We had someone there from the Highlands of Fiji. It took them longer to get there than it did for me to get there from New Zealand.' It would have involved eight to 10 hours on a bus and was a measure of their commitment.

'I would say that the desperation and hunger for Jesus at the base level is deeper than what we see in Aotearoa New Zealand.'

Not standing still

Aside from the training, Steve Molen also visited Levuka and Korovau. 'I went there to support and encourage new faith communities that are emerging.'

Levuka is an historic town on the island of Ovalau, part of the Lomaiviti archipelago of seven main islands.

Tour companies urge visitors to Levuka to take a trip back to a Fiji 'frozen in time' behind its mountains, still untouched by mass tourism and commerce. Levuka was Fiji's first capital from 1874 until 1883 when it was replaced by the more accessible Suva.

But believers in Levuka are not content to stand still; they are ambitious to spread the good news of the gospel. Travelling hours by ferry and truck, Levuka representative Savenaca Tamani joined the group of 19 officers, soldiers and other lay people in Suva for the Catch Network training.



Above: Reverends Alison Robinson and Scottie Reeve.

The Levuka locals are focused on what their community needs and this year have already constructed a new bus shelter and public toilets in the village.

Salvation Army Divisional Secretary for Mission Major Limaina Turaga says a group from the Lomaivuna Corps in Suva went to Levuka in June for three days. 'They did visitation and community work. In the day, they did the clean-up in the whole village and at night then it was the open-air crusade, and it was filled with a lot of people. Out of that, two men came to attend the fellowship.'

In July, the bus shelter was built.

'We are The Salvation Army, and we need to reach out and make Jesus known through practical ways. And that is what we do best, by rolling up our sleeves,' Limaina says.

Just one dreaming

Korovau is a remote village in the rural north of Viti Levu. Unlike Levuka, there is not a group of worshippers, but so far just one farmer, Waisale Cikavira and his family, dreaming.

Waisale is working with the district headquarters to see what the faith community could look like, and Laimaina says this is what motivated him to attend the Suva training. Now he plans to invite a group to meet in his home.

The Salvation Army in Fiji covers 17 corps and corps plants, alongside three Family Care Centres, a court and corrections ministry, youth rehabilitation programmes, Kauwai Youth Restoration Service, corridor ministries, soup kitchen ministries, and work with street workers.



Comfort in His Word

Cassidy from Levin Corps reflects on how Easter Camp and a growing love of God's word has changed her life.

Hi, my name is Cassidy. I am fifteen years old and live in Levin with my mum, stepdad and my three younger siblings. As a child I attended a Catholic school, and I enjoyed hearing and learning stories from the Bible at Sunday school.

As I grew older, I experienced some difficult times with friendships and bullying, and with family sickness and loss. I started doubting God and couldn't feel Him anymore. I didn't read my Bible and I felt very alone. I tried to figure out who God was and if He was real. I felt myself slipping into a dark place. When I finally opened up to my mum, her love pulled me back.

Things began to shift for me when my family began attending The Salvation Army corps in Levin. One day, I was in my room and the wind from the open window blew my Bible open to the book of John.

I remember knowing in that moment that God was trying to get my attention and that He needed me to hear His words. I began reading the Bible again.

As time went on, I met Vanessa, who was the youth leader at Levin Corps. I decided to attend Easter Camp in Hamilton, and this is where things really changed for me. When one of the worship songs was playing, I began to feel something different. I went to Vanessa and asked her if we could pray and she told me that feeling was the Holy Spirit.

I'd never felt anything like that before. Encountering Jesus in this way has changed my attitude. I'm more polite towards people and situations. I feel happier and my relationships with my family have improved.

Surrounded by support

I'm so grateful for the people who have supported me in my faith. From the very start when I told my mum about experiencing the Holy Spirit's presence, she was there for me. She was very positive and continues to support me in the same way.

My stepdad Lafi has been really good to me since he came into my family. Looking back, our relationship was a bit weak, but now it is more like a father–daughter bond. We've definitely grown closer.

Vanessa, my youth leader, has been amazing. When I shared what had happened to me at Easter Camp, she opened the door I needed. She jumped up and down saying, 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' She has continued to encourage me.

When things are hard or tricky, I lean towards my Bible. I never used to do that. When I read the Bible, I find comfort and wisdom, and I feel closer to God. My favourite verse is from Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

I look forward to youth group every week. I enjoy the worship time and going through the Bible one book at a time. We open and close in prayer and also pray for one another. I love the feeling of everyone coming together for one reason—Jesus.



A Growing Faith

Most nine-year-olds spend their afternoons drawing, playing sports or enjoying entertainment. **Hope** does these things too, but she's also bringing children together each week to read the Bible, pray and learn more about Jesus.

My name is Hope. I'm nine years old in Year 4 at school. I'm the oldest of five sisters and live at home with Mum and Dad. I love crafting, drawing and playing hockey. I also love being with friends and family.

I have been at Christchurch City Corps my whole life and I gave my life to Jesus in May this year. I'm grateful for my mum and dad, kids church leaders, teachers and family and friends who have helped me grow in my faith. I know that even when things feel hard, I have Jesus with me all the time.

Earlier this year, I decided that I wanted to run a Bible study for kids. I watched my mum do it with adults and it looked like a lot of fun. I watched them learn more about the Bible and I wanted to learn more too. My mum helped me to set it up. A group of eight- and nine-year-olds come to my house for Bible study each week. We design prayer books and read the Bible together. We pray for each other and watch videos that help us learn about the Bible.

The thing that made it difficult was that I wanted to set up a Bible study for kids without people thinking I'm in charge. We're all in charge—we're all praying together and we're all reading together.

I'm excited for the future. I want to keep running this Bible study and inviting more children. I love helping people to learn more about the Bible and Jesus.

Above: Tristan, Hope and Megan Pattinson.

Forty Years of God's Glory in Tonga

October in the Kingdom of Tonga started with a celebration of 40 years of faith, service and partnership between The Salvation Army and the community.

WORDS *Trina Saffioti*

The anniversary celebrations brought together members of the Tongan Royal Family, dignitaries, church and community leaders, Salvation Army officers and corps members, staff, volunteers and supporters. Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u Tuku'aho was warmly acknowledged for the support she and the Royal Family have extended to The Salvation Army over many years.

Preparations began in early 2025, with small groups of officers prayerfully appointed to coordinate worship, music, decorations, media and the practical details. Behind the scenes, regional headquarters staff and officers stepped in where needed, working late into the night to make sure everything was ready. Salvationists opened their hearts to welcome guests, bringing hospitality and teamwork.

Prayer was at the heart of this shared effort. Countdown prayers were launched in April 2026, with every corps contributing prayer points so Salvationists across Tonga could pray for the same topics each day. For the regional leaders, this daily rhythm became the heartbeat of the preparations, uniting the region in faith and purpose.

A wonderful weekend

The celebrations began with an officers' council and continued with a Friday evening gathering, a Saturday prayer breakfast and cultural night, and a thanksgiving Sunday service. Music was a strong feature throughout the weekend, with Tongan musicians joined by brass players from Aotearoa New Zealand, while the cultural programme gave corps and community groups opportunities to share songs, performances and expressions of Tongan identity and faith.

The celebrations had a powerful impact on Chief Secretary Colonel Jennifer Groves. 'This was my first visit to Tonga and I was so richly blessed. The sincere and life-transforming testimonies affirmed that the spirit of God is moving in Tonga. The enthusiasm and joy of the young people reflected their happiness in being followers of Jesus—their singing was amazing! The weekend provided so many opportunities for people to express their culture and their passion for God. Tongan Salvationists have a beautiful spirit, a heart for God and a desire to see God's kingdom grow. It was a privilege and a delight to share in this celebration. My life has been so enriched. Thank you Tonga.'

Territorial Secretary for Personnel Major Kylie Tong also had some reflections from the celebrations: 'Looking back on all that God has done was inspiring, but what struck me most was seeing the life and energy of the Army today. It was especially encouraging to see so many children and young people actively involved and to get a glimpse of the wide range of ministries making a difference in communities every day.'

Starting out

When the Army arrived in Tonga in 1986, it was a new denomination in a nation where other churches had











Clockwise, from top right: Lieutenant Peter Otainao and Major Petuliki Mosa'ati leading the march on Saturday; children performing an item during Culture Night, Saturday; Regional Headquarters officers and staff performing their item on Culture Night, Saturday; Vaini brass band perfrorming their item on Friday night; Major Sevanaia Wawa praying over the weekend.

deep roots. The early years required patience, prayer and a willingness to listen and learn. Relationships were built as Salvationists connected with communities, earned trust and sought to understand how the Army's mission could be expressed in a distinctly Tongan context.

Over time, the mission took root in ways that reflected values deeply held across Tonga: faith, family, community, respect, service and love for one another.

Today, the Army serves people across Tonga through four corps—Fua'amotu, Nuku'alofa, Talasiu and Vaini—and two developing corps plants in Kolovai and Vava'u. These faith communities provide worship, Bible study, Sunday school, women's groups and opportunities for people to connect, grow and serve together.

Practical support remains central to the Army's work, from food and clothing assistance, kindergartens and services for older people to children's activities, addiction support, court and prison visits, and emergency response during natural disasters. Initiatives such as shared gardens also build self-sufficiency and resilience, reflecting the Army's commitment to meeting physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.

Always in partnership

Reflecting afterwards, regional leaders Majors Vakatoto and Sevenaia Wawa say the credit belongs to the team around them and to God. 'It was the prayerful unity of officers, soldiers and Salvationists that carried us all through,' says Vakatoto. 'Above all, we give glory to God for His faithfulness and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to deeper unity, greater service and the Army being an even stronger witness for Christ.'

'Above all, we give glory to God for His faithfulness and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to deeper unity, greater service and the Army being an even stronger witness for Christ.'



Above: Vaini Corps brass band performing their item on Culture Night.

Throughout the celebrations, one message stood out: the Army's story in Tonga has never been one of working alone. It has always been a partnership with the people of Tonga, who made space for the Army, offered guidance and support, and opened their arms to embrace its mission.

Jennifer took a moment to thank all who have given their time, skills, resources and prayers to the mission in Tonga, saying that 'Our officers, soldiers, corps members, volunteers and supporters devote countless hours to serving others. Their commitment is often demonstrated quietly and humbly, without seeking recognition or reward. Yet the impact of their work is felt by many.'

As the celebrations looked back with gratitude, they also looked forwards with hope and a prayer that the Army will continue walking alongside the people of Tonga for generations to come. ◆











Clockwise, from top: the regional choir singing on Sunday morning; Viliame Vaea (Fua'amotu Corps) on the drums; Chief Secretary Colonel Jennifer Groves presenting a gift to Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u Tuku'aho; Fua'amotu Corps youth on Saturday after the march; Stephanie from Nuku'alofa Corps singing worship.

Prayer on the Footpath

WORDS *Darylann Sim* | ART *Sam Coates*

Before the sun, Father God
Step by step I run with You
On this footpath guide my feet
Lead me in all I do

Bless this town, Lord open hearts
Let them see Your face
Thank You for this brand-new day
For life, for breath, for grace

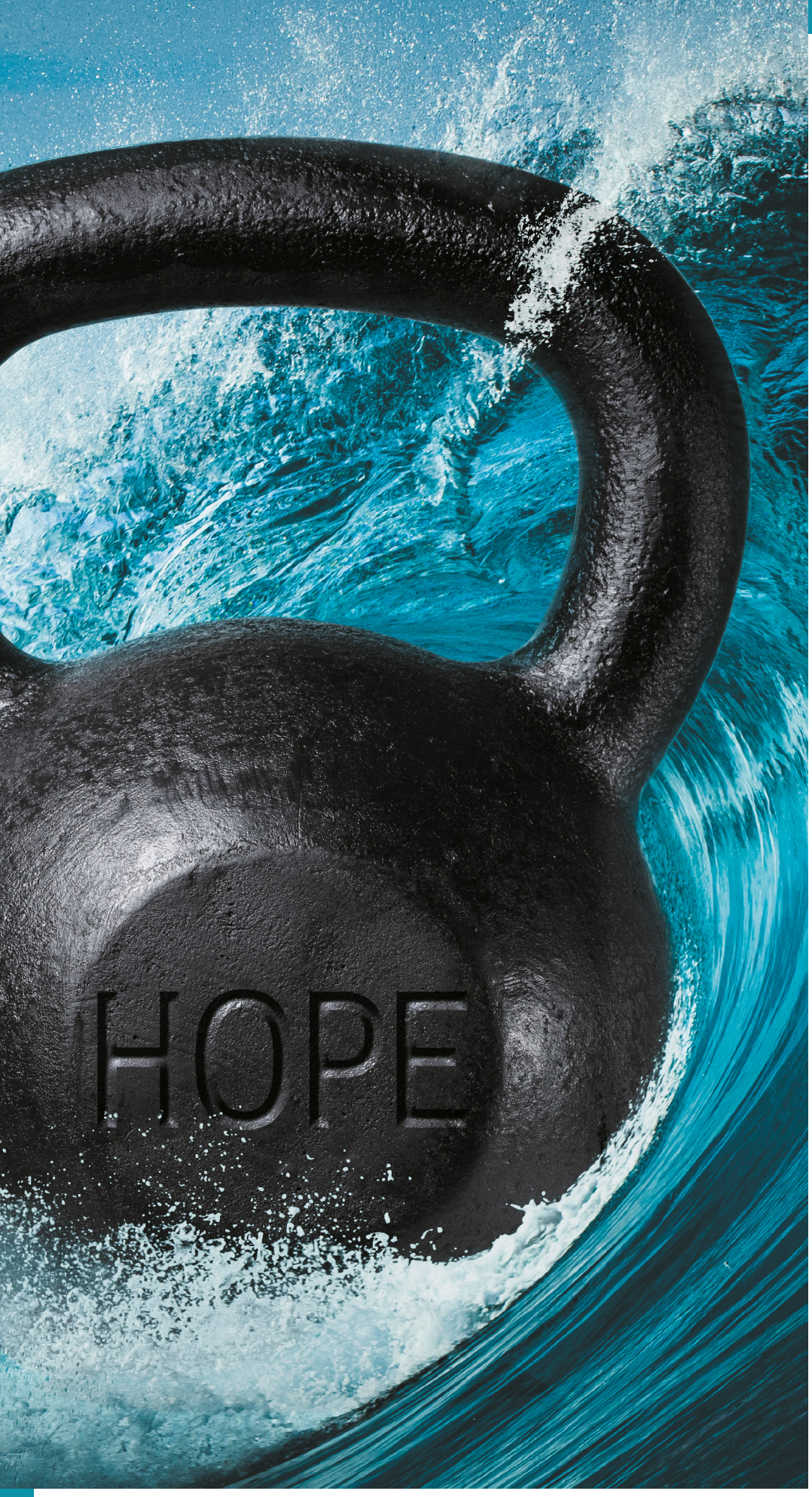
The music plays, my thoughts align
I am your child, I belong
This is the moment. Lord right now
You make me steady, You make me strong

A new day brings a fresh new start
Old things gone, hope awakes
What an awesome God You are
With every step I take

As I run I choose Your truth
Let it rise and let it lead
Louder than every other voice
Your word is all I need

This is the day the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will be glad
And walk with You through all our days
Amen





Hard Hope

Major Allan Bateman reflects on hope, transformation and surfing.

Welcome to that season of the year when the winter is past and we are facing forward to summer. New possibilities are on the horizon, and in the near future is the blank page that a fresh new year offers.

The pattern of renewal and second chances is hardwired into the human experience. Creation itself insists, even shouts, with the rising of the sun each morning, that another chance has come, another gift is given.

I want to reflect on hope as it relates to transformation. Becoming people of hope is a sign of transformation as well as being part of the transformation God intends for us. But are we aware of the power of hope? Have you considered how countercultural it can be to be a person of sure and certain hope these days?

Hope seems to be a 'soft' thing, but I wonder how hope got that reputation. A hope that can hold us facing forward with expectation in the face of some adversity—isn't that a hard, Hebrews 11:1 sort of hope? 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'

Changed by hope

I believe God calls us to be a people who are transformed by the hope we receive—a tangible hope. Saul was changed by hope. Having persecuted so many for following Christ, he became Paul after his encounter on the Damascus road and the key to so many after him to encounter the

Our Salvation Army story the world over is crowded with characters forever changed for good when they came to know the love of God.

risen Christ. Our Salvation Army story the world over is crowded with characters forever changed for good when they came to know the love of God. Tangible hope making tangible change.

The kind of hope that we receive when we're redefined as loved by God has the power to turn how we see ourselves and others on its head. Before we had relationship with God, we were painfully aware of what separates us from Him. When we learn that God wants to relate to us as His own children, that is what now defines us rather than our shortcomings. That's the power and promise of hard hope.

The writer of Lamentations, who himself apparently held a great hope even in a time of great sadness (clue: the book is called Lamentations), testified and proclaimed, 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end;

I have had to learn to use the muscle of hope in my own faith journey and I learned that hope itself brings transformation.

they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'. (Lam 3:22–23). This kind of hard hope might be infectious.

A new wave

Let's put some skin on this; I'm no lover of gyms, but people tell me that repeated exercise of certain muscles and muscle groups eventually shows. I have had to learn to use the muscle of hope in my own faith journey and I have learned that hope itself brings transformation.

I owe John Ortberg—a pastor and writer about spiritual growth and encounter—a debt of gratitude for his word-picture of the Christian life. It has become part of the hard hope I hold on to. Ortberg says living the life of a follower of Christ is a lot like surfing; we're up on the board, but then we fall and we're in the water. We get that part of the analogy easily. But too easily we miss the next bit which is truly transformational; the grace is that God sends another wave.

I'm no surfer, but I'm familiar with the pattern of falling in the water and the temptation to focus on failure. It came as a revelation to me that every time I fail, I'm not drowning, nor am I back at the beginning or on the beach all over again. The fresh wave is sent along and the God-sent wave itself is my invitation to get up on the board and try again. I can get back on board right where I fell off and go again. In his analogy, Ortberg says that the goal of Christian life, of discipleship, is to figuratively spend less and less time in the water.

I find this to be a grace-and-truth-filled picture of how God actually deals with me, offering me daily and persistent hard hope right in the moment even when I'm failing. It's powerful enough hope to answer

...every time I fail, I'm not drowning, nor am I back at the beginning or on the beach all over again.

the accusations of failure, shame or feelings of disabling inadequacy.

Holding hope for others

The idea of spending less and less time in the water encourages me that I can, over time, more and more consistently be a faithful image-bearer of Christ and for Him. That's the goal, right?

The knowledge that God will faithfully gift me another opportunity to go it again, as surely as another wave is coming, reminds me that His inclination is never to judge or condemn me, but gift me fresh grace. His pattern of doing that with me enables me to express that same patient resilient care for others—to hold hope for them even when they don't claim it yet.

I'm encouraged in this process that He works to bring His transformative work in me to fulfilment or to completion; 'Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'—Philippians 1:6.

Building Hope on an Historic Foundation

There was a palpable sense of joy and anticipation in the air on 14 October as The Salvation Army officially opened a newly completed wing at Addington Supportive Accommodation in Christchurch. **Kai Sanders** was there to take it all in.

Guests gathered at the longstanding Addington site to celebrate not only a beautiful new facility, but also 130 years of ministry and service from the Addington site, which has been supporting vulnerable people in the Christchurch community since 1896.

For those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the project to fruition, the day represented the culmination of years of planning, collaboration and commitment.

A place of welcome

The afternoon began with a warm welcome and karakia, setting a tone of gratitude and reflection.

The building itself drew admiration from visitors, but speakers throughout the afternoon repeatedly returned to a simple truth: the project is ultimately about people.

Supportive accommodation is about creating stability. It is about offering hope and practical support to people working to rebuild their lives.

At Addington, many residents are men transitioning back into the community after time in prison. For individuals navigating that significant life change, safe accommodation combined with consistent support can make an enormous difference.

Looking to the future

Among those addressing guests was Territorial Commander Commissioner Janine Donaldson, who reflected on both the significance of the new development and the extraordinary history of the Addington site.

'This building is a wonderful achievement', she said. 'But more importantly, it represents lives that will be changed. It represents people who will have the opportunity to find safety, support and a pathway forwards.'

Janine also reflected on the enduring mission that has shaped Addington for more than a century.

The new wing, she said, was evidence that The Salvation Army continues to adapt and respond to changing needs while remaining faithful to its mission of caring for people and sharing the love of Christ.

'Every person who comes through our doors has a story, strengths and potential. We walk alongside people as they work towards their goals and build a more positive future.'



Jono Bell, Social Mission stream lead, said the new wing represents an investment in people as much as infrastructure.

'Every person who comes through our doors has a story, strengths and potential. We walk alongside people as they work towards their goals and build a more positive future.

'In this facility we can provide access to all our wraparound support services that help address barriers to independence. Whether it's through financial mentoring, employment support, driver licensing programmes, housing advocacy or connecting people with other services in the community.'

Continuing a unique legacy

Minister for Mental Health Hon Matt Doocey was also in attendance for the event, and for him the occasion was especially meaningful as it connected the site's proud history with its future.

'There's a real sense of pride in being involved in a development that has been serving Christchurch for 130 years.



Generations of Salvation Army staff have supported people through some of the hardest periods of their lives, and that legacy will likely continue for another 130 years into the future.'

Matt said the new wing would provide residents with modern, welcoming accommodation while supporting the sense of community that makes Addington special.

A story of transformation

Perhaps no one embodied that mission better than one of Addington's own support staff members, Daniel Young, who spent part of the day sharing his personal story with guests and media.

Years ago, Daniel arrived at Addington as a resident seeking stability and support. Like many residents before him, he needed a safe place to live and people willing to walk alongside him as he rebuilt his life.

Over time he accessed support, made positive changes and developed the confidence to pursue new opportunities. Today he works for The Salvation Army, helping others who are facing challenges similar to those he once experienced himself.

For current residents, seeing someone who has walked a similar path now supporting others was a powerful source of encouragement.

The new wing is not simply a Salvation Army achievement. It is the result of many people choosing to invest in the wellbeing of others.

More than a building

As guests enjoyed refreshments, connected with old friends and toured the completed facility, conversations frequently turned to the future.

What stories would these rooms hold in the years ahead? How many lives would be changed within these walls? How many people would take important first steps towards stability and independence here?

The mission that began in 1896 continues today: walking alongside people in times of need, offering support, restoring dignity and helping build brighter futures.

In Christchurch's Addington community, that mission now has a beautiful new home from which to continue its work for generations to come.



Above: A haka on the lawn of Addington Supportive Accommodation by current and ex residents and Salvation Army affiliates in the community.
Right: Territorial Commander Commissioner Janine Donaldson speaking at the opening of the new Addington Supportive Accommodation facility.

Precious Packages Continue to Bring Hope to Samoan Families

After arriving in Samoa at the start of the year, we heard that triplets had been born in Apia at the local hospital—how exciting! While the birth of three babies is a tremendous blessing, it also brings unique challenges for parents as they navigate the demands of caring for multiple newborns at once.

Through Precious Packages, the family received essential items and support designed to help ease some of the pressures that come with welcoming new children into the world. More importantly, the visit served as a reminder that families are not alone and that their community stands alongside them during both the joys and challenges of raising young children. The family also have two other children.

The Precious Packages programme reflects The Salvation Army's commitment to demonstrating God's love in practical ways. By providing resources, encouragement and compassionate support, the initiative continues to strengthen families and give newborn babies the best possible start in life.

For The Salvation Army in Samoa, stories like this are a powerful testament to the enduring value of the programme. The recent visit with this family and their beautiful triplets is a heartwarming example of how a simple act of care can bring hope, reassurance, and lasting encouragement to those who need it most. We have built a wonderful relationship with the triplets' family and visit them often for pastoral care.

Major Michelle Lee, Samoa regional leader



To Love and Serve Him Supremely All My Days: Honouring Harold Hill

Friends, family and Salvationists gathered in The Salvation Army Cuba Street auditorium on September 28 to celebrate the launch of *To Love and Serve Him Supremely All My Days*, a new e-book bringing together the writings, talks and reflections of the late Harold Hill. Harold, a respected Salvation Army officer, historian and theologian, was remembered as a thoughtful and often provocative voice who challenged the Church to think deeply about its mission and place in society. Warm tributes from his widow, Major Dr Pat Hill, and long-time friends Colonel Margaret Hay and Major Kingsley Sampson painted a picture of a generous, witty and deeply committed Christian whose ideas and writings continue to inspire.

You can download the e-book here:
tinyurl.com/SupremelyHill



Photos from the launch event for *To Love and Serve Him Supremely All My Days*, Salvation Army Cuba Street Auditorium, Wellington. Top: Major Kingsley Sampson, Major Dr Pat Hill and Commissioner Robert Donaldson. Bottom left: Major Dr Pat Hill. Bottom right: Major Kingsley Sampson.

Open Our Eyes

On Sunday 27 September, Salvation Army corps and centres across the territory acknowledged the International Day of Prayer for victims and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking with the theme 'Open our eyes'. General Lyndon Buckingham called The Salvation Army to join together and pray intentionally and specifically for all victims who are trapped in the most dreadful clutches of modern slavery and human trafficking. Resources were provided to support corps and centres participating including recorded sermons, prayer prompts, prayer station ideas, and Bible studies for adults, youth and children. Over 30 corps across the territory participated. Modern Slavery Response Coordinator, Major Sammy Millar said, 'It's encouraging to see momentum build for the day of prayer. My hope is that praying for justice becomes a part of our daily rhythms as disciples of Jesus.'

Kids Camp in the Light

Did you know Jesus is the light of the world? That's the message that 378 tamariki and their leaders from across The Salvation Army gathered to celebrate at our Aotearoa New Zealand Kids Camp in late September. Held across three locations, we connected with God and each other through praise, kai, small groups, Bible stories, prayer, adventure, games, glow parties and more!

Here's what some children had to say:

'Camp was fun; my favourite part was archery tag. And Kenneth made us all row a pretend boat and told us about Jesus calming the storm.'—Kane

'I enjoyed making new friends and learning that Jesus is God's son.'—Miziyah

'I enjoyed making and giving cards to the cooks, Aimee and Ben. The weather was wet and sunny. I enjoyed making new friends.'—Everleigh

'I liked seeing four dogs and going swimming in my free time activity.'—Riki

'My last year of kids camp was really fun. The waterslide was low-key amazing. God is good.'—Ayla

'It was great fun, we loved bridge building, archery tag and rock climbing.'—Israel and Toby



City of Christians Breaks Bread with Candidates

In Porirua, the people care deeply about two things—God and enough food to nourish His people.

While God is plentiful in the city where one in two people identify as being Christian (the national average is one in three), food is not.

So, it was no surprise to see a packed-out room at Porirua Corps on Monday 12 October as residents came to see what kai each candidate will have to offer if they win the Kenepuru or Te Tai Hauāuru seat at the November 7 general election.

There was a lot of public engagement from the room, as candidates outlined a range of approaches to balancing economic priorities with the wellbeing of individuals and communities. With the cost of living top of mind for many, the discussion focused on policies intended to strengthen community wellbeing and support people facing economic challenges.

'There's just not enough food to go around. But we have hope and faith to keep soldiering on,' said Major Nicki Dutton from Porirua Corps.

The candidates who attended were:

- Barbara Edmonds, Labour Party
- Te Pūoho Katene, Labour Party, Te Tai Hauāuru
- Lan Pham, Green Party
- Matthew Evetts, National Party
- Jon Blackshaw, New Zealand First Party
- Robert Mason, Opportunity Party
- Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, Te Pāti Māori, Te Tai Hauāuru (sent her answers in via email)

Official Engagements

Commissioner Janine Donaldson (Territorial Commander)

3 November: Family Store Area Managers' Conference, Booth College of Mission (afternoon)

7 November: Online Territorial Prayer Meeting

10 November: Gathering for Secretaries for Retired Officers, THQ (morning)

18 November: Spiritual Day for BCM & School for Officer Training (Fiji)

19-26 November: Furlough

29 November: Retirement Service for Major Steph Herring, Foxton

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Colonel Jennifer Groves (Chief Secretary)

7 November: Online Territorial Prayer Meeting

22 November: Sunday Service at Woodville Corps

29 November: Phoenix match with Cello and The Salvation Army Porirua clients, Hnry Stadium

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Gazette Summary

To read the full version of Gazette notices, visit **saltmagazine.org.nz/gazette**

Bereavement: *John Mawdsley* passed away on Tuesday 6 October 2026, from Auckland. John joined the Supporter Engagement and Fundraising team in June 2022 as the corporate partnerships manager and has made a valued contribution to the mission and ministry of the Army in this role here in New Zealand and in Fiji. Please uphold John's children, *Rachel* and *Jonathan*, his sister *Ruth Conder*, and family in prayer at this time of grief and loss.

Judy Clarke, younger sister of *Major Sue Hay*, passed away on 6 October at the age of 61, after a short time in hospital. We ask you to uphold Majors Sue and *Andrew Hay*, along with other family members in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.

Don Nelson, the father of *Major Jeannine Serevi*, was promoted to Glory from his home in Upper Hutt on Thursday 8 October 2026. Don, along with his wife *Gwen*, served as an envoy in The Salvation Army undertaking appointments at the Invercargill Emergency Lodge, Hodderville Boys Home, The Nest in Hamilton, Wellington Bridge, Norman Kirk Eventide Home in Upper Hutt, Ohinemuri Rest Home in Taupo and Community Ministries in Whangarei. We ask you to uphold in prayer Majors Jeannine and *Joe Serevi*, along with other family members in this time of grief and loss.

Jill Collings, the mother of *Major Chris Collings* and *Major Nicki Dutton*, was promoted to Glory on Friday 9 October 2026, from Stokeswood Care Home, Lower Hutt. Jill served as an envoy, auxiliary captain and then captain between 1982 and 1997, holding appointments at the Whangārei Family Care Centre, Rotorua Community and Family Services, Arawhata Treatment Centre in Upper Hutt, and Norman Kirk Eventide Home in Upper Hutt. We ask you to uphold Major Chris Collings and *Soora Lee*, Majors Nicki and *Steve Dutton*, along with extended family members, in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.

Joyce Clarke, the mother of *Major Val Tong*, passed away on Thursday 15 October 2026, from the Sunset Care Home in Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. We ask you to uphold Majors Val and *Bruce Tong*, along with extended family in New Zealand and Northern Ireland, in your prayers at this time of grief and loss.

Auxiliary Captains with Appointments: *Effective 14 January 2027, Robyn Gibson* has been accepted as auxiliary captain with the appointment of mission officer, Auckland Bridge programmes.

Effective 14 January 2027, Christopher Henderson has been accepted as auxiliary captain with the appointment of chaplain, SASH housing Hamilton.

SALT to become primarily digital, with new *Light* magazine

SALT will become a shorter, primarily digital, monthly publication for Salvation Army audiences, while a new quarterly print publication, *Light*, will be introduced for people outside the Army.



While *SALT* resonates with Army readers aged 50 and over, there is little evidence of how it is received by others. Feedback highlighted two needs: more Army-focused content for Army readers and a practical resource for evangelism.

The new-look *SALT* will be published monthly, with a stronger Army focus. Although primarily digital, it will be easy to print on an office or home printer. It will retain the content readers said they love, including testimonies, theological articles, Army news, a recipe and a children's page.

Light will provide an uplifting resource for people outside the Army, sharing Jesus and introducing Army services. The A5 print publication will be published quarterly and distributed through corps, centres, Family Stores and social housing. *Light* will launch in March 2027.

The final regular print issues of *SALT* are this November issue and the December 2026 one. From February 2027, the new *SALT* will be emailed to the territory.
To subscribe, go to **saltmagazine.org.nz/subscribe**.

Quiz Answers: 1. Fermentation, **2.** Paul, **3.** Gold, **4.** Metamorphosis, **5.** Bruce Banner/Hulk.

SALVATIONISTS IN HISTORY

The Salvation Army in the South Pacific

The Salvation Army has a presence in more than 130 countries, including the four countries in the Pacific which make up the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory. Yet, while we first began to help vulnerable communities in the late nineteenth century in Aotearoa New Zealand, establishing a presence in the Pacific has taken longer.

This year, we celebrate 40 years of The Salvation Army in Tonga, but our presence in the region goes back much further.

Representatives of The Salvation Army first visited **Fiji** in 1904, but it wasn't until 1972 that a plan was hatched to develop relationships with the Melanesian country. That year, a team from Aotearoa New Zealand spent 10 days exploring how The Salvation Army could start operations in Fiji and, by April 1973, the first corps was established. Initially called Bagasau Corps, it was later renamed Suva Central Corps.

Projects were soon up and running, with one of the first being a youth rehabilitation scheme on the main island Viti Levu, with Sunday meetings starting in March 1975. Over the next two decades, various initiatives were set up, including a social welfare centre in Suva, a Family Care Centre providing emergency accommodation for women and children, and a poverty-alleviation housing project.

The establishment of The Salvation Army in **Tonga** came much later, beginning in 1985 under Fijian officers, Captains Tifare and Rebecca Inia, which led to the Army officially opening in Nuku'alofa in January 1986. A fishing vessel was acquired for a fishing work scheme and a farming project with a focus on growing kumara and taro was initiated to provide cheap food.



Above: Opening of Fua'amotu Corps in Tonga, 1993.

By the mid-90s, alcohol and drug use had become significant concerns in Tonga, so the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Centre was set up in the capital in 1998. The centre also focused on health issues, including HIV/AIDS awareness and women's health.

The establishment of a presence in **Samoa** occurred in 2018 but was the result of longer-term work in the country. That work began in 1984, when contact was made with the Samoan authorities by the regional commander in Fiji. Further contact was made over the next few decades which led to seeking official registration and the appointment of officers.

The then Samoan Prime Minister, Tuila'epa Sa'illele Malielegaoi, was keen to have The Salvation Army carry out its work in preventing drug and alcohol dependency.

Plans were soon put in place to establish a corps and an addiction treatment centre. Work was developed under the auspices of Salvation Army leadership in Aotearoa New Zealand, and to reflect the new opening in Samoa, the name of the territory was updated to New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory.



Learning together

We may think that because it's been some years since we were in a classroom, we have nothing more to learn. But as our kids are practicing their spelling and their times tables, we can take inspiration from them to pick up a new skill.

While we know that kids have better brain plasticity for learning new things than adults do, it is really important to model being open to learning at any stage in our lives. Here are some new things you can learn as a family:

- **Pick up a new language together:** There are many resources available for language learning, including online and in your local library. In New Zealand, for example, there are three official languages (te reo Māori, New Zealand Sign Language and English) so if your family only speaks one or two of them, give another one a go!
- **Grow some vegetables from seed:** How rewarding is it to grow your own food?! Find some seeds for a veggie your kids like and spend some time together learning how to grow it. Many vegetables don't need much space and can be grown in pots.
- **Learn about your family history:** It could be a fun project to put together a family tree or to learn about where your ancestors lived. It's a nice opportunity for kids to talk with other members of the family and hear their stories too.
- **Pick up a craft:** Maybe it's time to start a family knitting club, or make a comic together. There are so many creative projects you could start as a family.
- **First aid:** Knowing something about how to look after yourself and others is important at any age. If your kids are a bit older you could do a CPR course together, or learn how to prevent someone from choking. Even if they are a bit younger, learning how to help if someone is hurt or feeling unwell is valuable. And no matter their age, making sure your kids know how to call and talk to an emergency operator is super important!





Thank a teacher

The end of the year is a great time to let our teachers know we are thankful for them! They work hard to make sure we are learning and growing at school, so it is good to take time to thank them for all their help. We've made some thank you cards on our website that you can print out, colour in and write a thank you message for you teacher. You could even include one of the jokes on this page in your card!

Download and print some thank you card templates at https://saltmagazine.org.nz/

You can also go to www.thank-a-teacher.warehousestationery.co.nz to make a card that helps The Salvation Army provide school essentials to kids who need them!



Wise Up!

'Do any of you need wisdom? Ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. So He will give you wisdom.' James 1:5 (Easy-to-Read Version)



Which school teachers spend the most time outside?

The kinder-garden teachers.



Why did the dog get all 'A's on its report card?

It was the teacher's pet.



Where do surfers go for an education?

Boarding school.

Who is the teacher's best friend at school?

The princi-pal.



Read: This part at the start of the Book of James talks about how God wants us to grow well. It tells us that God is generous with us, and will help us be wise if we ask Him.



Think: What is the difference between being wise and being smart? If you are smart you may know a lot of facts, but being wise means taking time to think about what we know and using it to make good decisions. Wisdom helps us look after ourselves and other people, by being careful about what we do and say.



Pray: Thank You God, that You give us wisdom when we ask. Please help us remember to slow down and think about what the right thing to do is. Help us also to be kind and patient with other people learning to be wise, just like how You are kind and patient with us while we are still learning. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Do: This week, have a chat with your family about what wisdom means and what it can look like. Try to practise being wise at school, at home or with your friends. Think about how you can make good decisions with your words and actions, in ways that show kindness to other people.





‘What we see depends
mainly on what
we look for.’

Sir John Lubbock