TAKING UP THE BATON

GAYLENE MILLAR MOVES HER MUSIC MINISTRY TO THE US
Wo me N IN t OUCH September  2008       3

I

sharing with women I find so many who find prayer difficult.

same women who were in the room praying.

disciples from their own resources. It was probably some of the

travelled from town to town helping to support Jesus and his

in life. In the first three verses of Luke 8, we read that women

despair and shame, forgave them and gave them real purpose

Jesus and listening to his teaching because he elevated them from

women were especially mentioned as attending the prayer

in unity of heart and purpose, God comes in power.

This, I believe, enforces the fact that when we are together as one,

number of things. But they gathered together constantly to pray.

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own experience that when we scheduled extended times of prayer

in our corps God came in tremendous power.

While the disciples and women and others were waiting for the

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I recall teaching about prayer at a women's retreat weekend

some years ago. I had read a book on personality and prayer and

I said something along the lines that we don't need to sit in the

same chair and pray every day. I noticed a woman in the group

who suddenly came to life and she shared with me later that

she experienced a real release upon hearing that. She had been

brought up to believe that unless she sat in the same chair in the

same corner of the room each morning and said her prayers that

she was no good. For years she had tried to stick to this routine

but often was not able to do so and she had carried so much guilt.

Prayer is a privilege for all of us. Not everyone has the gift of

intercession but we can still be among those who pray constantly,

or as Thessalonians says, “pray without ceasing”.

I was reading about a man who said that the Bible tells us to

“pray without ceasing”, but he went on to say so often he would

“cease without praying”. What a privilege we all have to come

before God in prayer. I believe we all need to find the most

meaningful way for us to meet with God.

I encourage women to experiment with times, venues and

means of praying as this is a valuable source of power for your

own spiritual life and development. You can be the power house

for your family through your constant prayers for them.

Captive (the new name for our Bible Convention) in

2009 will focus on prayer and shortly registration forms will be

distributed. Sign up and join with women to pray. There is great

power in prayer and this is true when people gather together
to pray.

Let’s be known as people of prayer — and an Army of prayer!

Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Condon
Territorial Secretary of Women’s Ministries
Music and ministry go hand-in-hand for Gaylene Millar. It’s a passion the former Hurstville Songster Brigade leader is keen to develop further as she heads off to the United States to start a new chapter in her life. By Brittney Kleyn

We live in an age where good leaders can be hard to come by let alone finding someone who will remain faithful to their task for more than 20 years. Gaylene Millar is such a person. She has not only given her heart and soul to music ministry over two decades, but has also found the time to be a mother of two, full-time school teacher and a devoted wife.

A New Zealander by birth, Gaylene’s dual commitment to ministry and her family has led her from her home country to Australia, and has now presented an opportunity for an exciting new venture — relocating to the United States.

Her husband, Stephen, has been offered a job in Wisconsin and the family has decided to make the move across the Pacific to start a new life. They’ve already found a Salvation Army Church to attend — Oak Creek Centennial Church — which, given Gaylene’s deep
love for serving God through music, and in particular Salvation Army music, is just as well. Judging by the way Gaylene’s face lights up when she talks about the roles she’s held with so many Salvation Army songster brigades, it’s obvious she’s deeply passionate about her music ministry.

“It all started back in 1986 when I first took on the Wellington City songsters. That was my first official role,” says Gaylene. “It was to be the first of many.

Natural leader

Gaylene is a Salvo through and through. “My family has been attending The Salvation Army since before I was born,” she adds. “Dedicated back to God as a baby at Wellington City Corps, it was here, more than 20 years later, that Gaylene took on the leadership of the songster brigade. This position not only sparked her love for music but it was confirmation to many that she was a natural leader.

In the early 1990s, and with two young sons, Adam and Josh, in tow, the family moved to Adelaide. Not surprisingly, it wasn’t long before Gaylene had taken up the songster leader’s baton at Adelaide Congress Hall.

The family’s next move took them to Hurstville Salvation Army in Sydney. Once again, Gaylene’s musical abilities were recognised and she was handed leadership of the songster brigade there.

“It is through songsters I have a ministry and a passion,” she says.

Moving to Sydney also afforded Gaylene the opportunity to join the Sydney Staff Songsters under the leadership of Graeme Press.

During her time with the Staff Songsters she assisted Graeme as the deputy leader. While passionate about music, Gaylene also has a deep love for children and watching them develop, which has led her to a career in teaching.

She began in 1983, teaching primary school-aged children subjects across the academic spectrum. It wasn’t until her eldest son, Adam, was born that Gaylene started to share her musical expertise with her students, teaching in schools throughout Wellington.

Not only has Gaylene since gone on to reach in many schools throughout New Zealand and Australia, she can also add leading choirs, bands and even a guitar group to her resume.

She has since been able to combine her passion for music and teaching children by working as musical director on several Salvation Army music camps around Australia. “(Gaylene) made the week fun but challenging for those who were serious about their music,” said Adele Steppard, who has attended several of the camps that Gaylene has been involved in.

Surprise move

For Gaylene, the next step in her life is a daunting one. It means packing up her whole life and once again relocating it overseas, with the family, minus Adam, starting a new life in the US. It’s a move which has taken those closest to the Millars by surprise, and even came as a bit of a shock to Gaylene.

“The move happened very, very quickly... I mean, we talked about it but decided it was too good of an opportunity to pass up,” she said.

“We thought we’d give it a go, otherwise we’d always be wondering what could have been and what it would have been like.”

While Gaylene remains eager to start this new chapter in her journey, she is reluctant to leave Adam behind. Her eldest son will be remaining in Australia to finish a Medical Science degree.

“That will be the hardest thing about leaving Australia, having to leave Adam behind.”

Perhaps her apprehension about the move can be summed up in the words the Hurstville Songsters sang to Gaylene as a departing message:

“It’s hard to take the first step, When I don’t know the way.
Each turn is so uncertain,
I have to walk by faith.
Gaylene admires the words of this song, Load Me Lord, by Tom Fettke, not only sum up some of her uncertainty about the future but also reflect the attitude she has adopted throughout her life.

“I have to believe all these moves and even the move to America is all in God’s plan. There are some things that you wonder why he has done it in that particular way but he always comes through,” Gaylene said.

“And I know that God will look after Adam back here in Australia.”

For many, 20 years is a long haul but Gaylene admits that her ministry is not only a pleasure, but a way of giving back to the Lord who she feels has given her so much.

“Today, it’s just something I love doing,” she says.

Lasting impression

A testament to Gaylene’s dedication to both music and ministry is not only the more than 20 years of service she has given nor the many songster brigades she has led, but perhaps more so the lasting impression she has left in each corps.

Diane Hill, of Hurstville Corps, says it’s been a great pleasure to have been involved in a songster brigade under Gaylene’s leadership for the past 10 years.

“I have been in the songsters for 48 years and Gaylene is one the best leaders I have ever had,” Diane said.

“She would never ask us to do anything she wouldn’t do herself and it wasn’t just her fun attitude but the extra measure and love for each member that made her so special.”

Hurstville Corps, according to Diane, is grieving a little, not only for the loss of a songster leader but also a special friend who had compassion for every member of the corps.

While she is excited about relocating to a new country, and with a new home and new church, Gaylene is uncertain what impact the move will have on her music ministry.

“We will certainly get involved within the corps and try to get to know as many people as we can, but what exactly we will do is just unknown,” says Gaylene.

It appears, however, that word of Gaylene’s musical abilities has already beaten her to Wisconsin.

“The songster leader (at Oak Creek Centennial Church) has already contacted me and said he wouldn’t mind a break,” she laughs.

“I wouldn’t mind a rest, but who knows?”

For Gaylene, this new venture marks the turning to a new chapter in her life. She hasn’t, though, ruled out returning to Australia at some time in the future.

“We don’t know how long the move is for... (our boys) are very Australian. They will always think of Australia as home,” Gaylene says.

The fruit of Gaylene’s ministry will endure in Australia for many years to come. For so many it has been hard to say goodbye but, adopting the attitude she has had for her entire life, Gaylene just smiles.

“The Lord leads me, I follow.”

Brittney Kiley is a freelance writer, based in Sydney.
Many who attended the Women's Bible Convention in Sydney and Brisbane earlier this year may remember Linda Colwell as the quiet lady who accompanied guest speaker Major Kathryn Trim. What they may not know is that they had a high-ranking Canadian armed forces officer in their presence. Debra Fieguth reports.

On a Sunday night at Gladstone Community Church in Ottawa, a volunteer named Linda is busy wiping down tables. The weekly service at The Salvation Army church draws the homeless, the mentally ill and others on the margins of society. Linda helps out faithfully each week — serving, chatting with visitors and cleaning up afterwards. But on a Monday morning, she trades in her Salvation Army uniform for a Canadian Forces one and goes to work as Brigadier-General Linda Colwell.

One of only three women out of 73 people with the rank of general in the Canadian Forces, Colwell commands a staff of 250 as director general of personnel generation policy. "Moving between the two armies as a servant and leader seems to come naturally to Colwell. "They both require commitment," she observes. "I'm not a stranger to commitment."

Indeed, her commitment to the church goes beyond serving soup and cleaning up. On Sunday mornings she attends the Ottawa Citadel, where she is the Corps Sergeant-Major.

"She donates hours and hours because her 'strategic plan' for following Christ: "Fear God, walk in His ways, love Him and serve Him with heart and soul. And her faith informs her approach to the job. "I think people have expected me to have integrity in what I do, and I try to live with that," she says. Since she joined 32 years ago, the Canadian Armed Forces (navy, army and air force) has made huge strides in accepting married or pregnant had to leave the forces. "Now there are 650 people on parental leave, but along with the no-nonsense, get-the-job-done approach there is an open heart and a readiness to listen. "If I need to talk about anything, she meets with me," says Major Johnson. "She's a huge support."

Mother figure Being single in a high-pressure environment can contribute to the sense of loneliness and alienation, but Colwell has learned to keep things in perspective. "Living the kind of life I love would be very difficult if I had to 'look after' a spouse as well. Children would create even more demands," she says.

Colwell has been posted to different parts of Canada as well as to the Middle East. Her second tour in Egypt and Israel with multinational forces was highly successful because both nations wanted peace, but it was also difficult personally. She was far from home in a different culture and it was lonely. "Frankly, there have been times when, if I had one hand tied, I don't know if I would have survived." Mother figure

Being single in a high-pressure environment can contribute to the sense of loneliness and alienation, but Colwell has learned to keep things in perspective. "Living the kind of life I love would be very difficult if I had to look after a spouse as well. Children would create even more demands," she says.

"On that occasion, she thought about the importance of having "just a room in the house where I can call it my own." Colwell has been posted to different parts of Canada as well as to the Middle East. Her second tour in Egypt and Israel with multinational forces was highly successful because both nations wanted peace, but it was also difficult personally. She was far from home in a different culture and it was lonely. "Frankly, there have been times when, if I had one hand tied, I don't know if I would have survived." Mother figure

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Colwell's commitment to Canada has always been surpassed by a commitment to Christ, though. She claims Deuteronomy 10:12 as her “strategic plan” for following Christ. "Frankly, there have been times when, if I had one hand tied, I don't know if I would have survived." Mother figure

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Being single in a high-pressure environment can contribute to the sense of loneliness and alienation, but Colwell has learned to keep things in perspective. "Living the kind of life I love would be very difficult if I had to look after a spouse as well. Children would create even more demands," she says. "I have the very best: my extended family, " If I need to talk about anything, she meets with me," says Major Johnson. "She's a huge support."

With the business of her life, dealing from one army to the other, does Colwell ever get her roles confused? "So far, I've never put on the wrong skirt!" she quips. Her loyalties are clear, however. In her office at the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, the tiny figures of a miniature Salvation Army band sit atop the television that gives her news updates when she needs them. And on the wall is a large portrait of Evangeline Booth, once a general of The Salvation Army worldwide. "I used to say, 'There's my hero, the general'," says Colwell.

"No doubt the brigadier-general who wipes down tables and mingles with the homeless has herself become a hero." Debra Fieguth is a freelance writer in Ontario, Canada.
Women’s Ministries
Project 2008
Karibu Centre Appeal
Kenya

The project is to build a community centre where The Salvation Army can love and support some of Kenya’s most vulnerable women and children.

Money raised will be used to transform a number of Salvation Army owned disused buildings in Thika, Kenya, into the Karibu Centre. Here, women and children will be able to access medical and government facilities in a safe and loving environment.

The renovation of the run-down buildings to be able to house 40 women and children is a big job and we need your help. Please support the Karibu Centre Appeal.

It happened again. I stood up to take part in the Sunday morning church service only to notice, as I walked towards the platform, that my uniform bore witness to the presence of my two small children.

Green crayon on my white blouse, half-chewed biscuit on my navy skirt and the damp stench of regurgitated milk on my collar. Oh the joys!

As many of you could testify, small children in a Sunday meeting can be a trial. The baby who thinks epaulettes are a teething ring, the two-year-old who thinks the appeal time requires some spontaneous timbrel playing, or the toilet-training toddler who believes that she absolutely must visit the bathroom eight times in an hour and must also announce the results to the entire congregation as you try to discreetly re-enter the hall.

I sometimes wonder why I bother attending Sunday worship meetings. I rarely hear the sermon, I can only pray with one eye closed and my prayers have less to do with worship and intercession and more to do with the fervent hope that I can reach the wayward squeaky toy before the lady in the row in front sits down!

Unless we become like little children...

But then I see my two-year-old clasp her hands and bow her head during a prayer. I watch her attempt to get her mouth around the words of Great is Thy Faithfulness, and I smile as she dances and performs the actions to One Way, Jesus. When I take the time to consider all this, I realise that I wouldn’t stay away from church for all the money in the world!

And so I will continue to bring my children to worship and other corps activities and I will proudly wear my biscuit-smeared, dribbled-on uniform.

God’s house is for all his children, regardless of age. So next time there are little people being less than angelic during worship at your corps, don’t frown, don’t even look in their direction, just say a quiet prayer for little lives that need to know their Saviour.

Captain Tracy Payne is Corps Officer at Shellharbour

Book Review
The Girl Who Invaded America
Ken Elliott

The Girl Who Invaded America is the story of Eliza Shirley, a remarkable woman who lived her life in total obedience and harmony with her Lord.

The book is also a gem of Salvation Army history, both in England and the United States. Eliza grew up in the English city of Coventry. She accepted Jesus as her Saviour at her father’s knee, after attending a meeting at the Christian Mission. She was 15 years old.

Even though Eliza had a reserved nature, she was confident, possessed commonsense, tenacity and a willingness to obey God. She would not let any obstacle stand in her way preventing her doing what the Lord asked of her.

In 1879, Eliza left England with her mother Annie and moved to the US. They set up home in Philadelphia, a city noted for its crime and particularly the addictions of its inhabitants.

They immediately began to prepare a place where they could hold Salvation Army meetings, working around the clock to restore an abandoned factory. After a slow start, and despite opposition from locals including city officials, their activities eventually thrived.

Eliza and her mother may not be credited with starting The Salvation Army in the US — that honour was given to George Scott Railton and the “Hallelujah Lassies” who arrived in New York seven months later under the authority of William Booth — but the Shirleys certainly were pioneers of the work in Philadelphia.

For those with an interest in reading about The Salvation Army’s beginnings, this is a great resource. However, it is more than that — it is a wonderful story of how our Lord works his will through his obedient servants.

-Captain Dawn Ford

The Girl Who Invaded America can be purchased from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney or online at www.salvosuppliesyd.com
Heartbreak and healing

It’s the kind of thing you see on the news, the kind of thing that happens to somebody else.” That’s the way Allison Holland describes losing her first-born son to a rare genetic illness. Lauren Martin reports on the family’s devastating loss and its fight to save a second son from the same fate.

Fears — 10-month-old Asher also suffers from the same condition. Tests confirmed their worst fears — 10-month-old Asher also suffers from MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome.

“After losing Elijah, [having Asher diagnosed with MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome] was our worst nightmare,” says Allison. “And it happened.”

“we’ve both kind of felt … an incredible peace around the whole thing.”

“I’ve worked in child care and I just knew … you just know with your mother’s instinct that something’s not quite right,” she says quietly as she sits on her lounge next to husband, Liam.

By the age of 12 months, Elijah still wasn’t sitting up let alone crawling. He made limited eye contact with people and his arms and legs had started to jerk, or “twitch”. But apart from suggesting that he was probably autistic, doctors had no answers for Elijah’s developmental delays.

A few months later, the unthinkable happened. The Hollands put their little bundle of joy to bed and woke the next morning to find him not breathing. He had died, aged just 21 months.

At the age of 21 months, Elijah still wasn’t sitting up let alone crawling. He made limited eye contact with people and his arms and legs had started to jerk, or “twitch”. But apart from suggesting that he was probably autistic, doctors had no answers for Elijah’s developmental delays.

But the nightmare wasn’t over. Genetic testing after his death revealed that Elijah had an extremely rare condition called MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome which was the probable cause of his passing. There are less than 100 known cases of it in the world and because it was only discovered a few years ago, little is known about what causes it or how it affects sufferers.

“When we saw the paediatrician,” says Liam, “he pulled out a report that he’d printed off the internet and that was the only information he had.”

According to a website set up by families affected by the syndrome, MeCP2 Duplication occurs when a gene in the male X chromosome duplicates, causing a number of symptoms in sufferers including mental retardation, motor development delays, recurrent respiratory infections and autistic behaviour. All of these symptoms the Hollands had recognised in Elijah. To their horror, they also realised that their second son, Asher, was already starting to show signs of having the same condition. Tests confirmed their worst fears — 10-month-old Asher also suffers from MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome.

“After losing Elijah, [having Asher diagnosed with MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome] was our worst nightmare,” says Allison. “And it happened.”

Church support

“Curling up into a ball of grief and shutting off the whole world would have been a completely understandable reaction to the death of Elijah and the subsequent diagnosis of Asher. But the Hollands didn’t go down this road. Instead they organised a “celebration” funeral for Elijah and made the decision to speak out about their situation. Their strength, they say, comes from their saviour God and from the incredible support of their church family at Eastlakes Salvation Army.

“When Elijah first passed away,” says Allison, “we actually had people out the front of the house praying … within an hour, while the ambulance was still there. “Even though we weren’t up to speaking it was just so comforting to know that there were people there committing to uphold us when we couldn’t uphold ourselves.”

Of course, having faith in God doesn’t mean that the pain just goes away. Liam describes the many times when he’s had “words” with the “man upstairs”.

“I’ve had discussions, arguments [with God] I guess,” Liam admits, but he adds that “we’ve both kind of felt … an incredible peace around the whole thing”. Allison chimes in to say that “yes” there’s been anger, “yes” there’s been disbelief and of course the question “who?” is frequently on their minds. “But God’s a big God and he’s still God.”

And with that in mind the Hollands are focusing on the future. There’s Asher’s
physiotherapy sessions, immunologist appointments, keeping on top of his eczema and most importantly, making sure he doesn’t get sick.

“It’s really important,” explains Allison, “because infections can lead to fatality.”

Asher is already faring better than doctors expect, given his condition. Allison and Liam put that down to consistent prayer. “When Asher went into hospital for that week to have the tests done he wasn’t speaking and he wasn’t even making any attempts to sit,” Allison says.

“Our whole church rallied and prayed and by the time he was discharged his physiotherapist was in tears because she couldn’t believe how much he had just achieved in that short period.”

The cheerful little boy was sitting up and had learnt his first three words — all in a matter of days.

Raising awareness

By speaking out about their painful journey, Allison and Liam hope to raise awareness of the rare MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome and help other parents whose children are suffering.

They’ve read every piece of research about MeCP2 that they can get their hands on and are in touch with the handful of other families in the world that are going through the same thing. There’s even been contact from medical researchers keen to study the syndrome.

“The main thing is education about what MeCP2 Duplication is,” says Allison, “because there isn’t a lot out there for medical practitioners, for parents, for special needs workers.”

The Hollands are also advocating for a test to be developed to identify the syndrome in early pregnancy, as they fight for the life of Asher and to honour the memory of little Elijah.

“He was very happy,” says Liam about Elijah. “He would never get upset. Actually, he was a bit of a laugher. He loved playing with a colander or a strainer on his head, he thought that was very funny!”

Eastlakes Salvation Army has set up a fund to help Allison and Liam Holland with the extra expenses associated with having a child who suffers from MeCP2 Syndrome. If you would like to contribute you can call the church on: (02) 4945 1912. Donations can also be made towards MeCP2 research at www.mecp2duplication.com

Lauren Martin is a writer with The Salvation Army’s Communications team.

Liam and Allison Holland with their son, Asher who has been diagnosed with the rare condition MeCP2 Duplication Syndrome.

Photos: Lauren Martin

“Hearing from God”

Weekend 13th - 15th February, 2009
The Collaroy Centre
Day 21st February, 2009
Sydney Congress Hall
International Guest Speaker: Major Gwen Cox
The Salvation Army
Australian Eastern Territory
Going deeper with God

By Major Rosena Smith

This year in women’s ministries, the Sydney East and Illawarra Division are exploring the theme “More and More Deeper, Higher, Rich and Full.” The ladies joined the first event, held in June. It was a one-day conference in which women considered the topic “Going deeper with God.”

More than 130 delegates gathered at the Rockdale Corps for an enriching day full of special moments and some surprises along the way. The atmosphere was enhanced by glowing candles that had been placed around the rooms which were decorated in the theme colours of black, pink and white. Rose petals were scattered over tables and the carpet. From the beginning of the day as delegates began arriving, a sense of excitement could be felt among the women as they started to soak up all that had been prepared for them.

Special guests Olga and Eric Ossebaar, who had travelled from Chelmsford in Queensland, were well received by the women. “Everyone has a story,” Olga said, and then using her own life experiences and drawing on several stories from the New Testament, she challenged the women to have trust and not to allow obstacles to prevent them from having all that Jesus wants to give.

Following Olga’s message, her husband Eric shared his beautiful gift of song. An award-winning songwriter, he sang several of his own tunes and introduced to the Lord through the pub ministry and spoke of the transformation in her life after receiving Christ as her Saviour.

A group of 10 young ladies formed our hostess team under the direction of Captain Emma Moore and throughout the day they served the delegates in various ways, including giving hand massages in the late afternoon. It was so uplifting to see these young ladies very excited to be involved in this ministry of service.

Other special aspects of the day were the times of worship led by Captain Nicole Viles and based on the film clip, Sister Act. The ladies were treated to a foot massage by an employee of Helena’s Day Spa at Narwee who volunteered her time. The afternoon finished with a special catered supper which included coffee and dessert.

Major Miriam Gloyas, Divisional Commander, brought the message, encouraging us to use the power of one life to bring about positive change for those around us.

The ladies joined with the Sister Act ladies who had enjoyed the film and activities led by Captain Nicole Viles and based on the film clip, Sister Act. The experience included meeting basketball players from The Salvation Army in Cairns and the opportunity to have a behind-the-scenes look at the world of professional sport.

The experience was concluded with a presentation from Captain Melba Crisostomo, who is a member of the Narwee Women’s Program. She shared her story of growing up in the Philippines and her transformation in her life after receiving Christ as her Saviour.

Dream flight delight

Five-year-old Hayley was one of a number of people who enthusiastically flapped their hands and made cooing sounds to help the Qantas pilot Captain Lisa, take off on a 45-minute flight from Townsville to Cairns.

The youngsters, who are currently living at The Salvation Army Cairns Women’s Program, were part of a contingent of children, parents and carers invited to take part in a special day away from their struggles, organised by Rotary Cairns. The experience included meeting basketball players from the Cairns Taipans NBL team.

Hayley and her mum came to The Salvation Army after they had sold all their belongings to move overseas, but then had to return to Australia. One financial crisis after another had left them temporarily homeless.

Manager of the Cairns Women’s Program, Captain Melba Crisostomo, says: “Even as we queued up for our boarding passes, the children’s eyes were glowing. Our pilot, Captain Lisa, was a role model and inspiration to the girls. It gave these young people who have known so much hardship such a wonderful experience.”

Cairns Women’s Program provides emergency accommodation to 20 women, plus six women with children, at any one time. The service aims to move clients from homelessness and crisis towards independent living. During their stay, clients are helped to build living skills such as budgeting and cooking, and are encouraged to grow spiritually, emotionally and in their social and relational skills.

Pamper and praise at Menai

More than 40 women were indulged during a pampering night at Menai Corps at the end of May. Most of the women who attended have made contact with the corps through its playgroup, mini-mums, and craft activities.

The hall at Menai had been decorated to create a luxurious setting and the women were treated to facials and foot massages. There was also an opportunity for the ladies to make some jewellery.

The evening also featured the powerful testimony of Angela Christopher who shared how God had helped her through a traumatic time in her life which involved the break-up of her marriage to an alcoholic husband.

The night concluded with a special catered supper which included cappuccinos, hot chocolates and delicious slices. Meanwhile, Earlwood ladies helped raise $350 for the The Cancer Council when they held a Biggest Morning Tea at the corps.

The ladies were treated to a foot massage by an employee of Helena’s Day Spa at Narwee who volunteered her time. The afternoon finished with a special catered supper which included coffee and dessert.

Major Lyn Whittaker and Nathan Hodges, who both attend the Menai Corps at the end of May. Most of the women who attended have made contact with the corps through its playgroup, mini-mums, and craft activities.

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Some of the ladies who have enjoyed the activities provided by Narwee Women’s Fellowship Group this year.

Sisters get in on the act

On the evening of August 5, ladies from Thuringowa, Townsville Earlwood Corps, Ayr, Alberton and Cairns corps came together at Thuringowa for an evening of fun, teaching, coffee and dessert.

An excerpt from the Sister Act movie was followed by a quiz and activities led by Captain Nicole Viles and based on the film clip, including some amazing singing and dancing as the ladies emulated the nuns in the movie.

Major Miriam Gloyas, Divisional Commander, brought the message, encouraging us to use the power of one life to bring about positive change for those around us.

The ladies joined with the Sister Act ladies who had enjoyed the film and activities led by Captain Nicole Viles and based on the film clip, Sister Act. The experience included meeting basketball players from The Salvation Army in Cairns and the opportunity to have a behind-the-scenes look at the world of professional sport.

The experience was concluded with a presentation from Captain Melba Crisostomo, who is a member of the Narwee Women’s Program. She shared her story of growing up in the Philippines and her transformation in her life after receiving Christ as her Saviour.

Cairns Women’s Program provides emergency accommodation to 20 women, plus six women with children, at any one time. The service aims to move clients from homelessness and crisis towards independent living. During their stay, clients are helped to build living skills such as budgeting and cooking, and are encouraged to grow spiritually, emotionally and in their social and relational skills.

Ladies enjoy Narwee fellowship

Captain Chris Shadbolt, Corps Officer at Narwee, commenced Narwee Women’s Fellowship Group earlier this year.

The first event had the theme “Footprints” and 18 ladies enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and being waited on by Captain Shadbolt as he served refreshments and tasty treats.

He also prepared food spots for each lady making sure that the water temperature was just right.

The ladies were treated to a foot massage by an employee of Helena’s Day Spa at Narwee who volunteered her time. The afternoon finished with a time of reflection, praise and prayer.

Narwee Women’s Fellowship Group has enjoyed many pleasant Sunday afternoons since its launch.

The most recent focused on 2 Corinthians 3:18 which set the theme “Behold!”

The song If I Were a Butterfly was sung with great enthusiasm and

service aims to move clients from homelessness and crisis towards independent living. During their stay, clients are helped to build living skills such as budgeting and cooking, and are encouraged to grow spiritually, emotionally and in their social and relational skills.

Some of the ladies who have enjoyed the activities provided by Narwee Women’s Fellowship Group this year.

Another enjoyable afternoon of fellowship was had by all who attended.

Narwee Ladies Fellowship Group meets every second Sunday of the month.
Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired.

Mother Teresa